

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY OCTOBER 20, 1972 ● No 899 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Behind the TUC— Heath talks

TORY PAY— LAW THREAT

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In addition three other unions—Clive Jenkins' white-collar union, ASTMS, the train drivers' union, ASLEF, and the television union, ACTT—have stated their total opposition to any package worked out between Heath, the TUC and the CBI.

The most likely scenario now about to begin is this:

- A voluntary package will be agreed between the three parties at next Thursday's meeting at No 10 Downing Street.
- The Tories will stage a confrontation with one of the public sector unions.
- In the event of a mass wages struggle against the government the Tories will call a snap election asking for a tougher mandate to bash the unions.

Cold shoulder

COUNCIL workers are the latest group to be given the cold shoulder by employers because of government's bid to control wages.

Their leaders were told yesterday by local government employers that they would make no reply to their £4 claim until next Thursday's talks between the TUC, the Tories and the CBI.

After they met union chiefs yesterday the employers said that 'subject to the outcome of these talks' they would make an offer. An employers' spokesman said that the Department of Environ-

ment had informed them of government policy regarding the tripartite discussions. 'Naturally we take this into account,' he added. 'But the unions were told that their claim was far too high and could not be conceded. They estimate that the claim would mean a £288m rise in the local authority wage bill or 40 per cent on present costs.'

John Cousins, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said the unions would 'not be seduced' by the Chequers' talks. The employers and unions will meet again on October 30.

Writing in yesterday's 'Financial Times' John Bourne, the paper's lobby editor, said: 'If this confrontation led to a chaotic strike situation in which the country was held to be ungovernable, the government would probably be forced to call an election on the issue of seeking a "doctor's mandate" for a package of statutory measures to control inflation.'

Both 'The Times' and the business weekly, 'City Press', also say that Heath must eventually attempt statutory controls because although the TUC leaders might accept the voluntary deal, their members won't.

In the face of this reactionary trap, Victor Feather has been to the Commons to justify his manoeuvres with the Tories to a group of Labour MPs.

Using an extraordinary line of argument Feather told the Labourites that he had to co-operate with the Tories to 'set an example to the country, showing that the unions had a sense of responsibility'. If he did not, the Tories might call an election and use the unions as a scapegoat.

But the Tories could well be shaping up to do that anyway! Each day Feather, Jones and Scanlon continue their talks with the Tories they leave the working class open to the most violent Tory backlash.

They have no mandate whatsoever to continue these talks to help bale out the Tories at the expense of workers' wages and their standard of living. The cost of living is soaring. Only this week parliament was told that food prices had risen 22 per cent since 'at-a-stroke' Heath came to power. When Heath rushes Britain into the Common Market on January 1 prices will undergo another leap.

Wherever workers turn today they see the highly contrasting features of the period.

On one hand they feel the cruel brunt of Toryism: threat of the dole queue, soaring prices,



Thornycroft men who are occupying their plant jubilant after a union move to end their sit-in was rejected yesterday, see p. 12.

BRIGHT periods are expected in eastern districts with scattered showers over east Scotland and north-east England extending later to East Anglia.

Generally sunny conditions are likely in Wales, northern England. Western and south-west Scotland and Northern Ireland will be bright at first, but become rather cloudy.

It will be rather cold everywhere at first, but temperatures will rise to near normal later in north-west Scotland and Northern Ireland.

BY
ALEX
MITCHELL

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

SPECIAL TRAIN FROM EUSTON, LONDON, £1.50. COACHES FROM OTHER AREAS

Union.....
Branch.....
Names, addresses and No of delegates/observers.....

I enclose £..... as delegates fees Signature of secretary.....

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What we think

Stalinist lie-machine at work

THERE IS a recurring theme in every slander campaign which the capitalist Press and Communist Party start against the Trotskyist movement.

It is that our movement is mysteriously backed by millionaires, the CIA, or other treasure of one description or another.

Since the 1930s these lying innuendos have been peddled around by the apologists for Stalinism and the reactionaries in the Tory Party.

Now Ian Imrie of the 'Glasgow Herald' in his series of articles on 'The Insiders' has resurrected this lie.

He writes: 'Communists are not prepared to say who is behind the financing of ultra-left organizations . . . who appear to have small, working-class memberships yet have printing presses and produce newspapers.'

Imrie presents this snide little paragraph in an attempt to suggest that our finances come from foreign or 'dubious' sources.

Imrie takes this 'gospel' from the Stalinists he has been interviewing and covering up for—James Reid, James Airlie, Alex Murray and Mrs Betty Reid.

His articles are a crude bid to boost the Stalinists in Scotland at a time when they have committed the most monumental treachery on the Clyde.

- They broke promise after promise given to the UCS workers.

- They allowed the break up of the four-yard or nothing policy.

- They have let not only one man go down the road, but more than 2,500.

- They let all the completed ships leave the yards.

- They have signed an agreement with Marathon Manufacturing which includes a no-strike pledge—completely in line with the Industrial Relations Act—and breaks down the traditional pay differentials and bonus systems which operate in the shipbuilding industry.

It is no accident that at the hour of this major attack on Clyde workers, masterminded by the Stalinists, one of the most Tory and reactionary newspapers comes out of its hole to praise Reid and company . . . and to slander the Trotskyists.

We totally repudiate Imrie's innuendo. The Workers Press, the daily organ of the SLL Central Committee is financed by its sales and the monthly appeal fund which we conduct. Our supporters and readers unstintingly give to this fund to ensure that a revolutionary Marxist voice is heard in the workers' movement.

Significantly Imrie says in his article: 'Mr Murray [Scottish CP secretary] and others are not prepared to attack the ultra-left in print.'

No, they certainly aren't, Mr Imrie!

Since the sham of the Moscow Trials when the Bolshevik Old Guard were framed and executed by Stalin, the British Stalinists have been mortally afraid of political confrontation of any description with us.

From the Moscow Trials, to the Hitler-Stalin Pact, to Yalta and Potsdam, the Geneva Convention of the Indo-China war, the crushing of the Hungarian Revolution, May-June in Paris in 1968, the crushing of the 'Czech Spring' and the Nixon summit in Moscow—the Stalinists have been guilty of the most heinous counter-revolutionary activities.

No amount of capitalist newspaper can paper over these great historic treacheries.

'Most favoured nation' for counter-revolutionary link-up

Moscow helps out

Nixon

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE SOVIET Union and the United States have signed a huge trade deal which will triple trade between the two countries over the next three years.

The deal provides for the USSR to have 'most favoured nation' status in trade with the US and opens the way for big injections of American capital into the Soviet Union.

Very favourable terms have also been agreed for Soviet repayment of the wartime lend-lease debt to the United States. The deal was signed in Washington on Wednesday by Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Nikolai Patolichev and US Secretary of State William Rogers.

Patolichev said it would be difficult to exaggerate the importance of the agreement, while Rogers declared that it was a 'very significant step in the direction of better relations'.

The conclusion of the deal on the eve of the presidential election confirms that the Soviet leaders are actively working to give President Nixon a second term in the White House.

When Nixon visited Moscow in May they made it clear through the Soviet Press that they would be glad to see the President re-elected.

At the same time Nixon and the US capitalists have recognized the value of close ties with the Kremlin as an agency of counter-revolution.

From 1952 to 1960 Nixon served as vice-president in the Eisenhower administration, elected to fight the three evils 'Communism, Korea and corruption'.

Stringent embargos were imposed on trade with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and at home a massive witch-hunt against the Communist Party was waged by Nixon's protégé Senator Joseph McCarthy.

Nixon has not changed his spots. He is the butcher of Indo-China, the organizer of savage attacks on the American labour movement and the representative of the most reactionary sections of US big business.

He allies with the Stalinists against the revolutionary danger from the working class. The trade agreement sets the seal on this counter-revolutionary alliance.

It clears the way for the forthcoming European security conference designed to formalize the *status quo* in Europe and bring together Stalinist and capitalist regimes against the European workers.



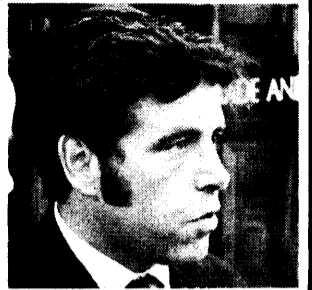
Angela Davis

ANGELA DAVIS and James Reid each in their own way are two symbols of the growing bonds between the Kremlin and international capitalism.

Miss Davis—on trial for murder and conspiracy in California—was acquitted only days after President Nixon's return from his visit to Moscow.

Her acquittal was the occasion for nauseating speeches on the fairness of the American legal system. She has since been fêted by the bureaucracy on an extensive tour of the USSR

The rising stars of Stalinism ease the dirty deals



James Reid

and Eastern Europe. When Czechoslovak victims of political frame-up appealed to Davis to intercede on their behalf her reply, given prominence by the Czechoslovak Stalinist Press, was 'a resounding "No"'. Reid was the leader of the work-in at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders which has led to the break-up of the yards, the loss of over 2,500 jobs and the acceptance of stringent 'no-strike' provisions (see What We Think).

Moscow Radio, the

'Morning Star' and the Tory 'Times' all combined to hail Reid as a hero for his leadership of the UCS work-in.

He himself praised the statesmanship of John Davies, the Tory Trade and Industry Minister.

Reid and Angela Davis are two of the up-and-coming Stalinists who are being pushed forward by the combined efforts of the bureaucrats and the employers in order to strangle the independent revolutionary development of the working class.

Under the deal existing tariffs against Soviet goods will be slashed to the bare minimum and the President has given special authorization for Export-Import Bank credits to be extended to the Soviet Union.

Credits for 'communist' countries are banned by statute unless the President personally certifies they are in the national interest.

According to the White House, credits are likely to be extended very soon to finance US contracts to the tune of some \$500m to provide equipment for the giant lorry factory on the Kama River.

Teams of US industrialists

have been commuting to Moscow since Nixon's visit in May, drawing up contracts to exploit nickel, oil, iron ore and natural gas fields.

The Soviet Union has already imported vast quantities of US grain this year to compensate for a bad harvest which has created a serious food shortage.

The Soviet leaders hope to exchange raw materials for finished consumer goods. They have admitted that current plans to expand the consumer-goods industries are seriously behind schedule.

American imports will, they

hope, enable them to overcome the results of their own bureaucratic mismanagement and the isolation and backwardness of the Soviet economy. They fear the growing demand from their own working class for a higher standard of living.

US Republican spokesmen have been unable to conceal their delight at the political gains they have won as a result of their turn towards the Soviet Stalinists.

They know better than anyone that the political price for this deal will be presented for payment to the international working class.

Big guns turn . . . on Thieu

DR HENRY KISSINGER, Nixon's special adviser, and South Vietnam's President Nguyen Van Thieu met for three and a half hours of talks in Saigon yesterday morning. A further 98 minutes of talks took place in the afternoon.

US army Commander-in-Chief General Creighton Abrams and US ambassador Ellsworth Bunker also took part. Kissinger came straight from Paris where he had secret talks with North Vietnamese officials.

A Saigon government spokesman confirmed that Thieu had rejected the proposed three-part government as a political solution to the war.

The talks come at a time when there has been speculation that the end of the war is near. The North Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam are demanding Thieu's resignation as a condition for any peace settlement.

The Hanoi delegation at the Paris peace talks held a special Press conference at which Nguyen Thanh Le accused the

United States of maintaining an intransigent position on both military and political questions. 'We must say', he went on, 'that the Nixon Administration refuses to put an end to its aggression and to abandon the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu.'

Speaking in a confident mood to French journalist Jean Lacouture of 'Nouvel Observateur', Pham Van Dong, successor to 'Uncle Ho', claimed victory, but said that the war is not yet over.

Pham Van Dong said that the unity and the vitality of the people of North Vietnam had been decisive. Although the Nixon escalation had caused more serious damage than that of Johnson, the North had been better prepared.

The worst trials were already behind, he said. Speaking of the peace negotiations he insisted that American bombing must end and the blockade be lifted.

'Our objective', he said, 'is not to establish communism in the south, but to ensure a return to peace, the end of foreign domination, independence and neutrality.'

This required a 'government of national concord' in which the so-called 'third force' of neutralists would play an essential part.

An NLF broadcast on Wednesday said: 'Peace will come immediately if Nixon abandons his policy of aggression, abandons the traitor Thieu and allows the Vietnamese to settle their affairs between themselves in national concord.'

There has been no let up in the fighting, especially around Saigon, where US planes bombed attacking forces only 15 miles from the capital.

Japanese shipbuilding rate scares Europe

A CRY of alarm has gone up from west European shipbuilders who are being driven to the wall by the Japanese drive to dominate the world shipbuilding industry.

A report issued by the Association of West European Shipbuilders says: 'The results of consistent Japanese shipbuilding policy, strongly supported by their government, has been a series of economic crises in the west European shipbuilding industry, and only support from governments has up to now prevented the closing of a large number of yards in west European countries.'

Depression and inflated costs have hit European shipbuilders leaving big gaps in the order books of many yards.

In the same period Japanese shipbuilding has continued to expand at a rate which would give it 80 per cent of the world's business by the end of the 1970s. Japan has increased its capacity and built yards to meet the growing demand for giant tankers.

Japanese builders have also offered highly-competitive prices

for medium-sized tankers, claims the report.

The Sanko organization had undertaken to charter upwards

THE GERMAN engineering industry is less profitable than its rivals in Europe, the US and Japan, according to a report put out by the employers' federation. The profit rate was below that in Britain for all sectors except vehicles and on a comparative basis was worst of all in general engineering.

of 50 tankers to west European shipowners at prices well below the current world price.

The report warns: 'The Japanese shipbuilding industry—backed up by the government with necessary support—is determined to win a monopoly position on world shipbuilding.'

It calls for European governments to take immediate steps to meet this challenge.

A EUROPEAN Economic Commission report makes the same point about ruthless Japanese competition and calls for urgent measures 'to maintain a sufficient level of activity in the ship yards of the Community on one hand, and to incite the Nippon leaders to give up their ambitions of hegemony on the other'.

It says that the Japanese Ministry of Transport is out to ensure that at least 50 per cent of the traffic to and from Japan shall be under the national flag.

The West German government is under strong pressure to give more state aid to the shipbuilding industry. Yards with foreign orders are to receive continued financial support, but the industry wants subsidies similar to those received by Japanese and other foreign competitors.

Italian yards, which are mostly state-owned, are to receive additional money to extend existing yards and build new ones.

The Japanese have no intention of letting up in their expansion programme and will see these reports only as a confirmation of their success and an invitation to do even better as the trade war steps up.

David Maude again refused entry by Industrial Correspondents' Group



THE ANTI-communist campaign being conducted by representatives of the establishment against the Workers Press is continuing.

This newspaper's industrial correspondent David Maude has once again been refused membership of the Labour and Industrial Correspondents' Group, the equivalent in industrial matters of the parliamentary lobby.

Membership of this closed shop is vital if a paper's representative is to

have adequate access to governmental Press conferences, early release of parliamentary reports and other state documents and entry to briefings by Ministers and civil servants.

The Workers Press has in the recent past been denied access to major political events like some of the post-Chequers Press conferences on the tripartite talks, and thus an important point of view in the labour movement has been partly silenced.

By continuing the ban on Maude's membership of the lobby, government Ministers can avoid a key area of hostile questioning on their actions and the capitalist Press can avoid unfavourable comparisons

between their frequently sycophantic coverage and that of an independent working-class voice.

The latest decision was taken by a 17 to 14 vote at a meeting of lobby members. Eight of the journalists voting to continue the ban were representatives of just two Tory papers, 'The Times' and the 'Daily Telegraph' group.

The proprietors of these Tory mouthpieces pay the lobby membership fees for these journalists, who only get membership because of the papers they work for, not because of any individual merits.

It is not unknown for journalists to be advised to vote to keep the repre-

sentative of the Workers Press out of the lobby for political reasons.

But this squalid anti-communism is beginning to look a bit threadbare. Two years ago, the right wing could rely on a majority of nearly 30 for keeping out the Workers Press. Now their majority is down to three.

One of the three abstentions which kept David Maude out was that of Mick Costello of the 'Morning Star', the group chairman.

In the earlier group committee meeting, Costello once again failed to propose that Maude be accepted for membership. And the recommendation

that the ban on the Workers Press should continue was adopted by the committee without a single vote against it.

Costello later defended the committee's recommendation at the full group meeting and justified the committee's recommendation on the grounds that a secret ballot held among members had ended in a 23-23 tie and had thus failed to show a majority in favour of Maude's entry.

Thus the Stalinist conspiracy against the workers' movement continues, only this time under conditions where the 'Morning Star' openly lines up with the most reactionary Tory newspapers.

Youth leave farms in droves

LOW WAGES, long hours and weekend working on the farm are bringing a sharp swing of young workers away from the land. They are the main reasons why nearly 17 per cent of farm workers under 25 intend to leave the industry by 1975, says a discussion paper published today by the National Economic Development Office.

The drift of young workers from the farm is most acute in East Anglia, where 26 per cent plan to leave. In the north west of England the figure is only 9 per cent.

About 40 per cent had gone into farm work out of interest in farming, and another 25 per cent because they were brought up on a farm, says the paper.

The difference between wages in farming and in other industries was the main reason for leaving.

'As a youth the farm worker's wage is only 15 per cent below that in road haulage and construction, but as an adult the wage difference could be as much as 56 per cent it says.

To slacken the rate of drift would require a 'package deal' on wages, hours and overtime. 'Improving only one grievance would have little effect.'

By 1980 the number working full-time on farms would decline by about 45 per cent to 264,000 workers, the paper says. The number of farmers will fall by 24 per cent to 132,000.

'Whether a workforce of this size is sufficient to achieve needed production in agriculture in 1980 depends on the ability of the industry to increase labour and productivity by the use of improved inputs to farming and other technological advances and improvements in managerial efficiency.

'Current evidence suggests that the industry will be able to meet production targets, but only if there is no further increase in the rate of decline in the work force.'



T&GWU members leave a mass meeting at the Llandarcy oil refinery, South Wales.

Refinery men wait to hear pay offer

MANAGEMENT at the BP refinery at Llandarcy, Swansea, have promised to make a cash offer next Tuesday in reply to their workers' pay claim.

About 700 of the 2,000 employed at the plant had threatened to strike after management refused to make an offer until after the Tory-TUC talks on pay.

But those involved, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, heard after walking out to a mass meeting that the management had reconsidered their position after talks with union officials.

They voted to defer strike action until after Tuesday's meeting.

T&GWU district secretary Arthur North, together with seven negotiating committee members, were given the following management statement:

'Consequent upon the interpretation placed by Mr North on that part of the document referring to productivity, this interpretation being different from that hitherto used by the company, we are prepared to re-examine our position in this context.'

John Thomas, national delegate for the T&GWU oil refinery workers' section, told Workers Press that what the negotiating committee was looking for was a wages offer in excess of the £2 proposed by Tory premier Heath.

● See prison officers' claim p. 10.

Sir Tufton Beamish to quit

COLONEL Sir Tufton Beamish, Tory MP for Lewes, Sussex, announced last night that he will not stand again at the next General Election.

Sir Tufton Beamish (55), chairman of the Conservative Group for Europe, said in a statement to his local executive that he wished to give more time to interests outside politics while he was 'still fit and comparatively young'. He is a director of several companies and an author. At the last election, he had a majority of 18,688 over Labour.

ADMIRAL Sir Michael Maynard Denny, former Commander-in-Chief Home Fleet and Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic (NATO) in 1954-1955, who died in April, aged 75, left £59,359 gross, £58,628 net (duty £10,180), in his will published yesterday. On retirement, Sir Michael, of Hampton Cottage, Down Ampney, Glos, became chairman of Cammell Laird until 1966. He left all his property to his wife Lady Sara Denny.

Teachers have a right to be consulted

TEACHERS have a right to be consulted by the headteacher about matters which affect them, the National Union of Teachers says today in a declaration.

Individual teachers should be consulted on matters which affect them or their work; the staff should be consulted on matters affecting the school in general.

The union welcomes the growing number of schools in which the staff share in the decision-making.

But it adds: 'A qualified teacher is a professional, and as a professional has rights as well as responsibilities.'

'These include the right to make a contribution not only in the shape of his own work in the classroom, but also to the general development of the work and policy of the school.'

Strike still hovers at Gestetner

MANAGEMENT at the Gestetner factory at Tottenham, north London, yesterday held urgent talks with a Department of Employment conciliator and a lapsed engineers' union member over employees' threat to strike if the man started work.

Union representatives refused to meet the conciliator.

Last week the lapsed member was suspended after a protest sit-in by members of his department. All 1,300 workers threaten to stop if the man starts work without paying up his back subscriptions.

Here's where to buy books by Leon Trotsky

In the heart of London's West End

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THE JAY LOVESTONE STORY

From Stalinism . . . to the CIA. By Charles Parkins. Part Thirteen

UNION LEADERS COLLABORATE

In 1950 the World Federation of Free Trade Unions was passing, among other things, resolutions against British colonial repression. So it was split, along Cold War lines.

The relationships inside the international trade union movement were decided by the relationships between the British and American ruling classes and the Soviet bureaucracy, not by working-class interests.

When the master is friendly to Moscow, the servile labour bureaucrats can follow—though in cases such as George Meany, they are sometimes a little slow to catch on.

In fact, even where differences have arisen between the TUC leadership and the AFL-CIO, they have sometimes tended to reflect conflicts between their ruling classes.

This was certainly the case in Africa.

On more than one occasion, the TUC found itself cast as the defender of the British Commonwealth against the 'anti-colonialist' American unions out to extend US influence!

The leaders of one particular British trade union seem to have managed particularly well at maintaining co-operation with the sort of American union international activity that Jay Lovestone has directed—the General and Municipal Workers' Union. (Recently it was in the news when Andrew Cunningham, a prominent union official in the north east, was named in the Poulson bankruptcy case.)

The GMWU bureaucracy appears to have not confined itself to activities in Britain. There was for example, Lord Cooper's trip to Africa in 1959, along with Arnold Zander, then leader of the American Federation of State County, and Municipal Employees, and a man who has admitted to acting for the CIA.

Furthermore, it is interesting to note that in the early 1960s, when the CIA was pouring money into Kenya to subsidize Tom Mboya, the G&MWU happened to station its 'overseas officer' in Kenya, to 'advise' the Kenya Federation of Labour on the organization of municipal employees and government workers.

This was James Johnson, whose industrial experience then was that he was an ex-schoolmaster. Since his job in Kenya, Johnson has been an adviser to the Liberation government (noted for its corruption and its ties with US business) on student affairs, and then became Labour MP for Hull West. He is a member of the Fabian Commonwealth Bureau.

In 1969, yet another committee appeared in which Jay Lovestone figures. This is the British North America Company. So far as can be gathered from its pronouncements, this committee is concerned, with relations between Britain and the USA, particularly as they might affect big business interests operating in both countries, and as they might be

affected by the Common Market, or by nationalization policies etc.

Actually, the BNAC is rather discreet about just what it is or does. Its policy statement, 'Purposes and Projects BN4', refers to the 'common interests' of Britain, the USA and Canada, and to 'issues which might cause friction'. It goes on to speak of achieving a consensus between groups that are supposed to be opposed, such as capital and labour, then goes on to say that its work is 'free from the glare of publicity and public pressure of political forces'.

Perhaps the most interesting of BNAC's documents is one entitled 'International Economic Questions facing Britain, the United States and Canada in the 1970s, BN 1'. This document refers extremely favourably to the growth of big international companies, then refers to the 'problem' of government interference, saying:

'Discussion of this problem in recent years has unfortunately tended far too much to accept the rights of government to interfere for its own frequently myopic and narrowly partisan purposes and to stress the obligations of the international corporation to enslave itself to the political sensitivities of the governments and politicians of the countries in which it operates . . .'

The author of this document is one Harry G. Johnson, a Professor at the London School of Economics and at the University of Chicago. He is one of the BNAC academics. Another is Charles F. Carter, vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, noted for his enthusiasm for business education and the business-like running of education, whose university was the scene of a long conflict earlier this year, over alleged victimization of left-wing staff.

Johnson's document has other interesting things to say. On the 'freedom' of the monopolies, for example, he observes: 'Friction is likely to be particularly important in Britain, where government has long been accustomed to treat private industry as a compliant tool of national and social policies.'

In view of Johnson's clarion call for the liberation of the big corporations, it is not surprising that you will find the representatives of a number of these companies in BNAC.

CO-WORKERS

Among them are Tom Killefer, a vice-President of Chrysler; Harold Sweatt, chairman of Honeywell; Joseph Flavin of Xerox; Sir David Barran of Shell; and such figures also as Sir Maurice Parsons of the Bank of London and South America; and CLS Cope, overseas director of the Confederation of British Industry.

What is interesting to note is that these capitalist gentlemen, and many others, are joined in BNAC by a number of people from the trade unions.

Lovestone is joined by his old co-worker, Arnold Zander, now no longer a trade union official (his members managed to get rid of him a few years ago), but a lecturer at the University of Wisconsin.

Arnold Zander's companion on that CIA-financed tour of Africa, Jack (now Lord) Cooper is also in BNAC. He's still running his union, of course.



Top: Lord Cooper of the General and Municipal Workers' Union. Above: George Meany of the AFL-CIO pictured in the early 1960s.

A founder member of BNAC was the late Les Cannon of the ETU—expert on 'ballot riggers' etc., who was posthumously knighted for his 'services to the nation' and whose will disclosed that he left £30,000.

Other figures include Lord Collison, former leader of the Agricultural Workers, who became head of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, G. F. Smith of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, now in UCATT, and James Conway, of the AUEW.

Quite a selection! Isn't it nice to think that Jim Conway has been working away to get

a consensus in BNAC along with such people as Lord Howick, director of Swan Hunter, who is BNAC chairman?

In fact, it would be interesting to know just how far the consensus has gone in BNAC. Particularly when one reads Professor Johnson saying things such as: 'There has been questioning of whether the functions that have been assumed by the state in respect of social security, medical care and so forth . . . continue to be appropriate in a more literate, professional and private wealthy society.'

On this and other questions, Johnson and BNAC seem to have anticipated the policies of the Tory government, while their idea of co-operation between trade union leaders and big capitalists is also being tried by Heath now—assisted by the collaborators in the labour movement.

INFLUENCES

The working class is entitled to know just how much of a consensus was reached—'free from the glare of publicity', of course—in BNAC. It is time that all the activities of these union leaders were subjected to the glare of publicity in the movement.

Right-wing union bureaucrats are often very fond of talking darkly about the threat of 'outside influences' in the trade union and labour movement. In describing the career and manifold connections of Jay Lovestone, we have shown what the real alien influences are—the interferences of big business, through the elements it subsidizes, and through the work of its state intelligence services in corrupting and besmirching workers' organizations.

We have also tried to show how, as in Lovestone's case, and in those who have helped him, it is the influence of bourgeois ideology, stepping into the vacuum when there is no development and struggle for Marxism, which opens the way to the other corruption.

Today the crisis of capitalism makes the betrayals of the right-wing leaders and their collaborators stand out more sharply than ever. The working class, both in the United States and in Britain, can make big, revolutionary advances. It must clear out from its own camp the ideological and actual agents of imperialism in order to go forward.

CONCLUDED



In 1964, the 'Trotskyist' Lanka Sama Samaja Party joined a 'United Left Front' government with Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's bourgeois Sri Lanka Freedom Party. SLL secretary G. Healy, who visited Ceylon during the coalition period, analysed the degeneration of the LSSP in the pamphlet 'Ceylon: The Great Betrayal'—still available from New Park Publications. This four-part series by JACK GALE examines some of the significant political events since then.

CEYLON: THE GREAT BETRAYAL CONTINUES

PART THREE

The minority, which walked out of the June 1964 conference of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) in opposition to the leadership's class-collaborationist decision to join Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's government, undoubtedly acted correctly.

The minority, in fact, had submitted a resolution to the Unified Secretariat almost a year earlier warning of the dangers of the 'United Left Front', but this was suppressed by the Unified Secretariat leaders for several months.

(By this time, the effective leadership in Paris was in the hands of Ernest Mandel and Pierre Frank, who were in the process of expelling Michel Pablo.)

The minority declared: 'The working class and the broader revolutionary masses of tomorrow must not be led to believe that their salvation lies in putting a so-called "Left Front" in office, but in organizing and uniting for direct mass action against [Mrs Bandaranaike's] Sri Lanka Freedom Party government and the other forces of capitalism in Ceylon on the road to a workers' and peasants' government.'

When they finally published this resolution, the Paris leaders did so without a word of comment. The minority broke from the LSSP leaders without assistance from Mandel, Frank or Joseph Hansen of the Socialist Workers Party of America which, because of the Voorhis Act, is not directly affiliated to the Unified Secretariat.

However, the break from Dr N. M. Perera only opened the possibility of reconstructing the revolutionary party in Ceylon. To carry that through required a complete break from the revisionists of the Unified Secretariat.

The Socialist Labour League warned at the time: 'One cannot separate the problems of

the LSSP revolutionary wing from this degeneration. These comrades are aware that a lot of discussion has to take place about what happened in the international movement since 1953.

'Apart from a few brief written words and odd notes about international work there has been no serious discussion in the LSSP on such problems for almost ten years. Many comrades who support the minority are only now beginning to realize the relations between the international and national degeneration of the Fourth International founded by Trotsky in 1938.

'The future of the revolutionary wing depends mainly now upon a serious study of this relationship.'

However, this essential step was not carried out by the LSSP(R). It refused to break from Pabloism and in 1964 was recognized as the official section of the Unified Secretariat in Ceylon.

The refusal to carry out a serious theoretical study of Pabloism and to break from it in practice led to the inevitable degeneration of the organization. The disastrous consequences have been seen clearly in the last two years.

By the end of 1970, the coalition government—consisting of the bourgeois SLFP, the pro-Moscow CP and the renegade Trotskyist LSSP—was in financial crisis. Ceylon had external debts of \$582m and couldn't even pay the service charges.

The World Bank was prepared to extend further loans, but only on condition that a savage austerity programme was imposed on the Ceylonese masses. To achieve this, the opposition of the workers, peasants and—above all—the youth, would have to be crushed.

On March 15, 1971, the government claimed that members of the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) Peoples' Liberation Front had attacked the American Embassy.

This attack was a government provocation. It enabled Bandaranaike to declare a state

of emergency, which included the death penalty for unlawful assembly. With military and financial aid from America, Russia, China, India, Pakistan and Yugoslavia, the government launched a full-scale war on the JVP.

Thousands of youth were killed as the army and police murdered, raped and pillaged. The 'New York Times' reported decapitated bodies floating down the rivers.

Throughout this period and since, the Pabloite Unified Secretariat put forward ludicrously exaggerated claims for the role of its Ceylon section—the LSSP(R)—and its secretary Bala Tampoe, who was also secretary of the 30,000-strong Ceylon Mercantile Union.

The Pabloite magazine 'Intercontinental Press' (edited by Joseph Hansen) actually claimed on May 3, 1971, that the state of emergency had been declared because of 'the emergence of a revolutionary United Front between the JVP and the LSSP(R).'

'At that time the JVP was holding mass rallies of 5,000 to 10,000 youth while the LSSP(R), on its own admission, had some 50 members.

On June 24, 1972, the 'Intercontinental Press' alleged that 'most opposition was intimidated into silence. There were some exceptions, such as the Ceylon Mercantile Union, led by Bala Tampoe.'

The British Pabloite paper 'Red Mole' made a similar boast on July 10, 1972: 'The LSSP(R), through the Ceylon Mercantile Union in which it has a solid base, has by contrast consistently criticized the government and demanded an end to the state of emergency regulations.'

But these very claims expose the Unified Secretariat. In the course of the state of emergency some 16,000 people were arrested. According to the 'Ceylon Daily News', the only charge against 4,000 of these was that they had attended JVP-organized classes.

Thousands more were jailed without charges of any kind, since the army and police had

powers of arbitrary arrest.

Rohan Wijera, leader of the JVP, was arrested on March 13. Within a week 350 JVP national and local leaders were behind bars.

According to Jack Baker, general secretary of the Australian Union of Postal Clerks and Telegraphists, who visited Ceylon, between 3,000 and 4,000 trade union officials disappeared. These included officials of unions which openly supported Bandaranaike.

Members of the pro-Moscow Communist Party and the LSSP were thrown into jail even though their parties were in the government. The top four leaders of the Ceylonese Federation of Trade Unions—dominated by the pro-Chinese Communist Party—were arrested.

Yet only one executive member of the Ceylon Mercantile Union (T. Premasiri) was imprisoned.

Bala Tampoe retained complete freedom of speech and movement throughout the emergency. This was not confined to Ceylon. In April-May 1971, he was allowed to travel to Australia to speak at a National Anti-War Conference.

It must be said that the LSSP(R)'s 'consistent criticism' of the government was extremely mild.

On May 14, 1971, the Ceylon Mercantile Union sent a gentle rebuke to Mrs Bandaranaike: 'We think it necessary to draw your attention to certain emergency regulations that have opened the door to police and military terrorism against the people.'

These renegade 'Trotskyists' continued: 'There is widespread belief that "excesses" and even atrocities have been committed by police officers and members of the armed forces.'

When Mrs Bandaranaike contemptuously rejected this, the CMU tried again:

'Does it serve any useful purpose to regard the rebels as criminals, who have intimidated and murdered innocent people, raped and looted and indulged in kidnappings and

Top: Bala Tampoe (foreground) leader of the Ceylon Mercantile Union, member of the LSSP(R) and the man who briefed World Bank president McNamara when he visited Ceylon this year.

arson, even if some of them may be proved to have committed such acts?

'Is the view that the young rebels should not be regarded as "terrorists" and that they are deserving of humane treatment, a view that cannot be taken seriously in a country where the teachings of the Buddha are revered?'

'Red Mole' also considered that the soft answer could turn away wrath. On January 24, 1972, a letter signed by, among others, Ernest Mandel, Alain Krivine, M. Rocard, Tariq Ali and Robin Blackburn, began:

'Without wanting to take a position with regard to the armed clashes which recently occurred in Ceylon . . . the undersigned are profoundly perturbed.'

But much more was involved than false boasts and an 'opposition' more in tune with ecclesiastical liberalism than with Marxism.

At the beginning of 1972 Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, visited Ceylon. His purpose was to ensure that the Ceylonese government had satisfactorily created the conditions for continued World Bank assistance.

Reporting this visit, Joseph Hansen's 'Intercontinental Press' of February 14, 1972, delivered itself of a comment breathtaking in its audacity:

'Mr Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, appeared to be very well briefed on the Ceylon situation.'

McNamara had indeed been well briefed—by one Bala Tampoe, secretary of the LSSP(R), secretary of the CMU and member of the International Executive Committee of the Unified Secretariat.

The evidence for this is contained in the transactions of the Unified Secretariat itself.

CONTINUED TOMORROW
 1 'Ceylon: The Great Betrayal'. G. Healy (1964).

POLICE ARM WITH WEAPONS OF SCIENCE

BY ALEX MITCHELL

The National Police Computer Bank being established at Hendon, north London, will store data on more than 2 million citizens.

What information is kept on the computer about each individual is not known. There will certainly be the obvious things—full name, date and place of birth, last known address and even physical description.

But will the police computerize ALL its records of private citizens? If so, the files will contain political information.

It will also include information of any political grouping to which a person belongs, his record of trade union militancy and the names of his associates.

If this information is not specifically included in the computer bank when it opens in 1974, then it soon will be. The Home Office cannot disguise the fact that it is now spending more money and appointing more personnel on Special Branch work.

The Special Branch is not a regional squad; it is the only national branch of the police force and the quick transmission of its information from one centre to the next is regarded as an essential technological requirement.

Plans for the police data bank were announced in 1969 by the late Lord Stonham, a junior Labour minister at the Home Office.

He couched the announcement in extravagant praise about the need for the police to keep pace with the modern criminal. He promised that the scheme would be inaugurated in 1971 as part of Labour's great drive against crime.

The scheme was nothing of the sort. It was the fulfilment of a long-cherished aim of the ruling class to establish a national public surveillance system along the lines developed by the FBI in America.

The police and the army had learnt through bitter experience in Ulster that the lack of basic intelligence information—names, addresses, fingerprints, photographs, and political associations—is a serious handicap when attempting to smash social unrest.

When the first officers of army intelligence arrived in Ulster they were astonished to find that the local Special Branch and army had so little information on the republican and civil rights organizations.

'We had to start from the beginning,' one army officer stated.

He said that the RUC operated on the basis that various senior officers had 'special knowledge' of leaders in one or two groups. But

nothing was kept on file. 'If one of the officers went on holiday we were left without any information. The situation was ludicrous,' he said.

LIFE HISTORIES

Professor Alan Westin, now conducting a series of academic investigations in Britain on the use of computers in local government, has written extensively on the 'Big Brother' techniques used in the US.

Westin says that the private lives of tens of millions of Americans are stored on computers, both private and governmental. The Retail Credit Company maintains dossiers on 42 million people. In the security files of the Pentagon are listed 14 million life histories and in those of the civil service 8 million.

The FBI refuses to disclose its figures, but its number of personal records is reckoned to be about 20 million. Of these, at least 100,000 are described as 'reds'.

Sensing the necessity of the state to increase its surveillance techniques, the larger computer corporations have been expanding their know-how by constructing even more sophisticated data banks. The Precision Instrument Company of Palo Alto, California, has demonstrated the model of a new laser process capable of putting 645 million bits of information on one square inch of tape.

A single unit containing one 4,800 foot reel of one-inch plastic tape, using the laser memory process, will be capable of storing in digital form up to 20 pages of data—that is, about 5,000 words of typing—for every man, woman and child in America.

Any information needed from an individual's dossier could be extracted in not more than four minutes, while the entire dossier could be printed out for despatch to an inquirer in a few more minutes. Ten such reels could provide 200-page dossiers on the entire population while 100 reels could record their life histories from birth to death!

Writing about these developments, journalist Nigel Calder has said: 'Government departments will presumably make wholesale use of the system, thereby increasing their efficiency and making better use of the information known severally to them. The authority and power of the state will be increased and, to the extent that various departments keep tabs on citizens, surveillance of the activities of citizens will intensify.'

Calder concluded by describing the emergence of these techniques as 'an infrastructure of tyranny'. The unit mastering the



police data bank in Britain was set up under the direction of the Labour Cabinet in 1964.

One of the leading lights in this little known outfit, the Police Scientific Development Branch, is Mr Geoffrey Philips, a physicist who three years ago transferred from an army research establishment to 'the science of internal security'.

Beginning with only a handful of personnel, this obscure branch now has an annual £750,000 budget. Only recently it opened new laboratories north of St Albans.

Commenting on the branch's rapid growth, the 'Financial Times' said recently: 'The scientists work closely with industry, usually with companies experienced in advanced techniques for national defence. A few weeks ago they began the experimental stage of a £500,000 scheme in Birmingham with Ferranti as their industrial partner in which an entire police force of 2,500 men and some hundreds of vehicles has been brought under the control of a central computer, complete with visual displays for the inspectors of the resources of each sub-



Hand in hand with the National Computer Intelligence system being established at Hendon goes the traditional police methods of physical force seen (top) against demonstrators at the 'OZ' trial in 1971. Above: control room Birmingham.

division. The computer is kept constantly informed of the whereabouts of each man and vehicle on the beat, through radio to his sub-divisional controller, who relays the information to the data bank. In this way the computer provides a visual display of police resources in any sub-division which has received a 999 call.'

The electronic control room at Birmingham police station which records the movement of all police vehicles in the area was built by Ferranti and financed by the Home Office.

This is only one of a number of joint enterprises between the government and private enterprise in Britain's growing police surveillance industry. Plessey worked with the Sussex police and Sussex County Council to build a special traffic watching device along a section of road in the constabulary.

Bernard Delfont's EMI is working on a laser sensor for revealing footprints in carpets.

The most important detection study is being handled by Ferranti. The company is experimenting with a system for computer matching of

fingerprints. It has been a difficult problem; the main obstacle is the subtle difference between prints left on the scene of a crime and those on the official record.

The opening of the computer centre based near the Hendon Police Training College has been postponed on several occasions.

The reasons for this are both complex and revealing. First of all the project has turned out to be much more formidable than first anticipated.

Files in the Criminal Records Office (CRO) at New Scotland Yard are gigantic and punching them on tape for storing in the computer's memory has turned into a monumental task.

Those working on the system were also faced with the problem of what information to store and what to delete. Would there be political repercussions if the police computerized an entire CRO including material which could be considered political?

And much of the information on police records is out of date. (Probably a lot more is downright inaccurate!)

Although most of the data is centralized at the Yard, this only covers the metropolitan area. How on earth would the files of Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle be quickly committed to code?

What sounded like a good idea to the police at the time rapidly turned into a bureaucratic nightmare with literally millions of pieces of information needing to be reduced to computer symbols.

POOLED DATA

Another unforeseen obstacle was the resistance of chief constables to share their intelligence systems with neighbouring constabularies.

As is known, Britain is divided into a number of constabularies each with a separate chief constable directly responsible to the local authority. These bodies are fiendishly jealous of their own patch and relations with other forces is often frosty.

When the suggestion was made that data should be pooled in a national computer,

many constabularies balked. In particular they were concerned about sending their files to London where the amount of police corruption is notoriously high.

It is interesting to recall that earlier this year a senior Lancashire officer, Harold Prescott, was brought to London to conduct an inquiry into a drugs scandal involving officers in the metropolitan force. It was common knowledge that during his inquiries—most of them conducted undercover—Prescott had great difficulty in gaining the co-operation of his London colleagues.

Rightly or wrongly the provincial forces thought that information they supplied to the national data bank might find its way into the wrong hands.

How this wrangling has resolved itself Workers Press has been unable to find out.

But the overriding consideration today is that the Tory government wants the bank opened and in operation . . . and as fast as possible.

No money or manpower is being spared to get the com-

puter complex in action. The Tories will ride completely over the petty jealousies of the various chief constables to establish the kind of national surveillance they want.

As the crisis of British capitalism worsens, as unemployment grows and prices soar, the Tories know that they will face civil unrest on a massive scale. To deal with this situation they need all the tools of repression at their disposal.

Already moves are afoot to set up a French-style CRS force which will operate at any flashpoints of disorder.

The specially-armed and trained 'heavy mob' will operate on a national basis. That is to say it will be free to move from one county to the next to deal with demonstrators and strikers.

Hand in hand with this physical force will be the computer intelligence system.

While the capitalist Press treats the computer project as a piece of modern wizardry, the working class will recognize what it really represents—another weapon of Tory repression.

F. I. ARKELL

'Parliamentary reform' and the working class, by Jane Brown

HOW THE WORKERS WON THE VOTE

PART EIGHT

In 1866 the Reform League was founded to campaign for universal suffrage and in the same year a more moderate Reform Union demanding household suffrage.

Yet these were not the days of Chartism. The fact that class antagonisms had been muted by prosperity is reflected in the fact that the League and the Union shared many of the same ideologist and platform speakers (e.g. Thomas Hughes and J. S. Mill), most of whom were middle-class radicals.

Both organizations were emphatic about their 'peaceful' aims and methods. Even the capitalist newspapers could find no ammunition for their campaign against trade unionism in the massive demonstrations of 1866-1867—except on one occasion, when an indignant crowd tore down railings round Hyde Park after the government prohibited the holding of meetings in this traditional public gathering place.

This 'Hyde Park Riot' occurred at a particularly crucial time in the Reform Bill's passage through parliament. Historians have taken great pains to prove that it did not influence the outcome of the debate (e.g. Maurice Cowling). They have not been able to prove, however, that MPs were deaf and blind to the strength of feeling and high degree of working class organization shown on demonstrations.

Unlike in 1832 Radicals such as John Bright who were present in the House of Commons commented 'Conservatism, be it Tory or be it Whig, is the true national peril which we have to face. They may dam the stream, they may keep back the waters, but the volume is ever-increasing and it descends with accelerated force . . . if wisdom does not take the place of folly, the waters will burst their banks, and these men, who fancy they are stemming the imaginary apparition of democracy, will be swept away by the resolute will of a united and determined people'.

In fact, the 1867 Reform Bill did not arouse nearly as much hostility in parliament as the 1832 Bill had done. When the 'conservatives' in Gladstone's Liberal party threw out his 1866 Bill, Disraeli was able to step in and, as Tory second-in-command, engineer the passage of a far more extensive measure.

Many MPs recognized the 'inevitability' of reform, as outlined by Bright. But many others, under the influence of Free Trade euphoria, believed that parliamentary reform would cement 'social solidarity', thus contributing to national wealth and power.

The working class (or at

least the upper working class) had showed themselves to be 'morally entitled', in Gladstone's words, to a measure of political responsibility by the sober spirit in which they conducted their own affairs. They appeared to have abandoned the outdated rhetoric of violence and revolution, and could be trusted to support the existing economic and social system in all its essentials.

Opponents of the Bill, such as Robert Lowe, attempted to conceal their class prejudices with talk of 'individual liberty'. This would be threatened if the working class urged the government on to extensive social reforms.

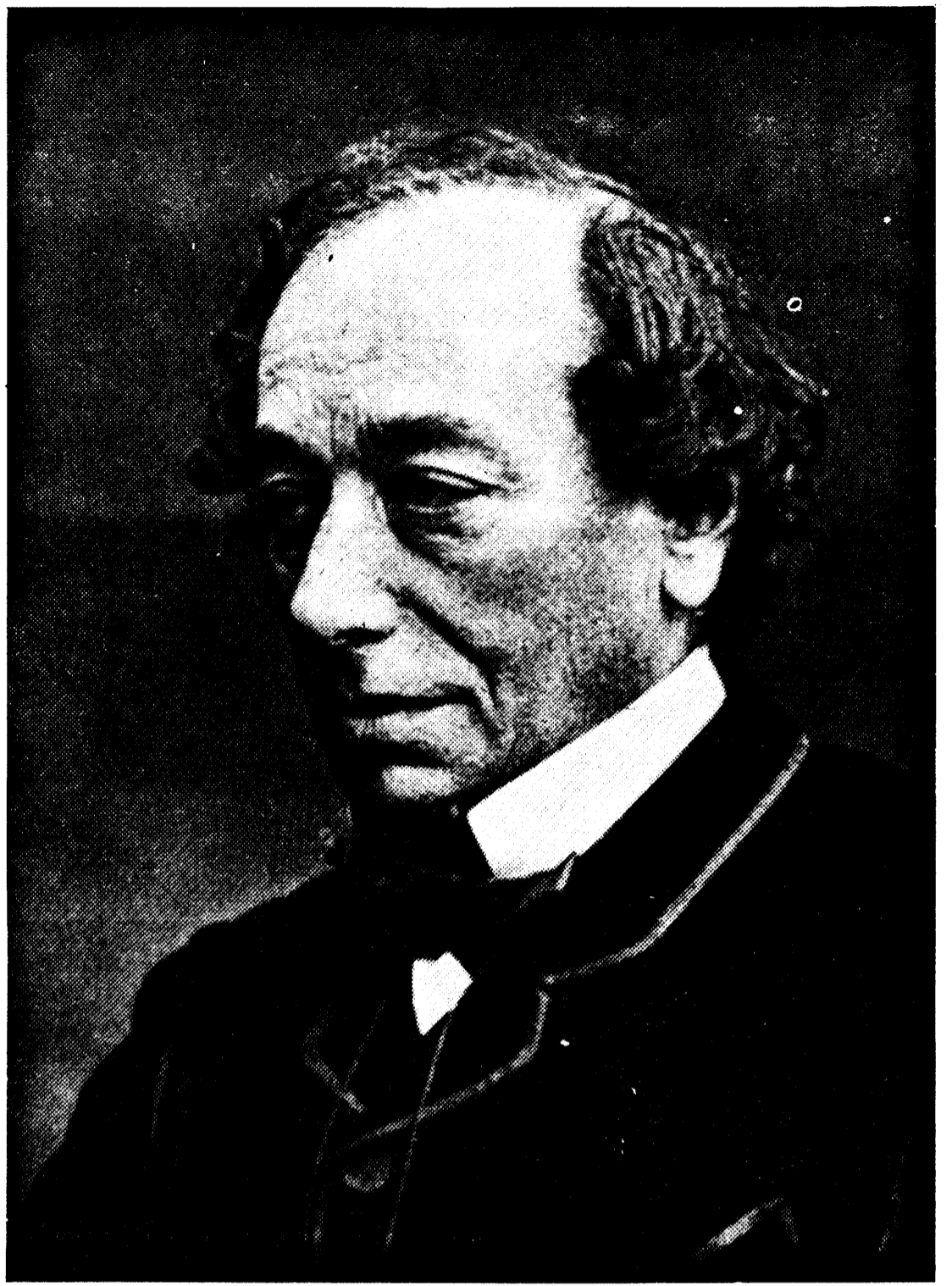
'A violation of sound principles would avenge itself on the very classes in whose supposed interests they were violated'. Such sanctimonious general arguments are commonplace among bourgeois politicians disguising their true position. Elsewhere, Lowe claimed that the evils the working class endure 'are remediable by themselves—by their own thrift and self-denial'. When he lost his temper he once described workers as 'venial, ignorant, drunken, impulsive, indecent, immoral and violent'!

MAJORITY VOICE

Ultimately, the 1867 Bill was accepted by both Houses. It enfranchised all borough householders and £10 lodgers, and extended the vote in the counties to £12 householders and some leaseholders. About 2 million new voters increased the voting percentage of all adults from 7 per cent (in 1832) to 16 per cent. A mere 45 seats were redistributed. This was a precautionary measure which left the counties, and especially southern England, over-represented in comparison with the industrial north. 'Universal suffrage' and 'equal electoral districts' were still a long way off. But the new borough franchise (coupled with the Ballot Act of 1872) did give the workers a majority voice in a number of constituencies.

Engels described the changed status of workers after the 1867 Act: 'The chairmen and secretaries of trade unions and political working men's societies, as well as other well-known labour spokesmen who might be expected to be influential in their class, had overnight become important people. They were visited by MPs, by Lords and other well-born rabble, and sympathetic enquiry was suddenly made into the wishes and needs of the working classes. Questions were discussed with these "labour leaders" which formerly evoked a supercilious smile.' He calculated that the Reform Act had made possible the election of 'at least 60 working class candidates'.

But dangers accompanied this 'peaceful' victory, especi-



Top: Disraeli, Tory second-in-command who engineered the passage of the 1867 Reform Bill. Above: Frederick Engels who described the changed status of the 'labour leaders' after the Act was passed.

ally after the Trade Union Commission reported favourably and the existence of unions, the protection of funds, and even picketing were made legal in the 1871 and 1875 Acts. The trade unions showed a strong desire to retreat out of politics back to 'economic' questions. It was only after much argument that the TUC (which first met in 1868) decided to retain its parliamentary committee as a permanent body.

Another side to this complacency was the desire of some 'labour leaders' to enter parliament. As Engels pointed out in 1874: 'The shortest way would have been to proceed at once to form anew a strong workers' party with a definite programme.'

But instead of carrying forward the Chartist tradition, 'The "labour leaders" preferred to deal with their aristocratic friends and be "respectable", which in England means acting like a bourgeois'. It also meant tying the votes of newly-enfranchised workers to the existing capitalist parties.

The Liberals gave 'prospective working class candidates' every assistance. They assigned to the London millionaire, Morley, the task of working out 'a labour programme to which any bourgeois could subscribe, and which was to form the foundation of a mighty movement to chain the workers still more firmly to the bourgeoisie . . .'

It was 30 years before an independent Labour Party was formed with trade union support. Into that party was to be carried the ill-founded faith in class collaboration of these early labour bureaucrats, who hoped in 1867 to become 'well-paid itinerant preachers of the cause of the "great Liberal party" . . .'

CONTINUED TOMORROW



PADDLING DOWN A RIVER OF TEARS

'Deliverance'. With Burt Reynolds and Jon Voight. Directed by John Boorman.

This is undoubtedly one of the most reactionary films to be made by Hollywood since 'Straw Dogs'. In that film a pacifist, radical, American physics lecturer is forced to resort to brute strength by the attacks of a local gang of brutally-debased Cornish people.

This film portrays four city men running into the same difficulties while attempting to canoe down the wild tempestuous Chatooga river in the Appalachians. Like a number of recent Hollywood films this is little more than a crude, ham-fisted attempt to put over the ruling class's increasingly malignant and poisonous view of the class struggle in an allegorical form.

'Straw Dogs' diabolically misplaced characterization (and portrayal) of the American lecturer and the locals who were replacing a damaged roof for him, was matched by its philistine arrogant disregard for the harsh beauties of the Cornish landscape.

'Deliverance' is not quite such a catastrophe. The Americanized John Boorman films the novel of James Dickey (who plays the part of the sheriff at the end) in a setting they know better.

The four men apparently represent a cross-section of the middle class.

Lewis (Burt Reynolds) is an arrogant virile loner, who believes in a brutal return to nature as the engulfing waves of pollution and automation destroy 'civilization'.

Ironically he explains 'Machines are going to fail and then the system's going to fail. Then: survival', to the easy-going Ed while hunting with his expensive steel bow from a tough looking aluminium canoe.

Drew (Ronnie Cox) is his opposite, a soft-hearted guitar-picking liberal who believes in the rule of law, even out in these wilds.

The other two in a way represent the silent majority, although they too are opposed; Ed (Jon Voight) admires Lewis

in a way but values the creature comforts of his middle-class city life, and Bobby (Ned Beatty) is a soft, flabby, salesman.

The film begins with shots of a massive dam-building operation at the mouth of the river. Off-screen a conversation by the four, dominated by Lewis, discusses their own vision of the vanishing opportunities for proving their manhood and thus finding their sort of values, in terms of a prospective journey.

They are thus individuals testing themselves in a double sense, fighting the unknown and sailing what is rapidly ceasing to be. They arrive at a mountain shack near the head of the river and meet (what the film portrays as) the ignorant, inbred, stupid hillbillies.

The arrogant Lewis treats them contemptuously imitated by the dog-like Bobby, while arranging to get their cars transported down stream. The locals return the contempt, mocking them for attempting such a pointless venture.

Ed gazes in horror through a window at the appalling living standards and the human results of this poverty-stricken way of life, and quickly glances away.

Drew, while picking out a tune, is challenged to a musical duel/duel by a mongoloid boy playing a banjo which swiftly gains in tempo, and elicits the first real response from the locals.

However Drew is soon lost by the rippling complexities of the 'mountain-music' and their real bond—one of musical style only—is broken and the boy ignores him when he tries to shake hands.

The thrills and excitement of the first stage of their journey soon turns sour. Shortly after setting off on the second day, Ed and Bobby draw ahead of the others, land, and are captured by the locals.

Ed is lashed to a tree with his own belt, whilst the flabby Bobby is sexually assaulted and degraded. Lewis arrives and shoots one of the attackers dead.

The real disunity among the four is then manifested. Lewis—the he-man—wants to bury the body. Drew wants to take it with them in order to explain everything to the

sheriff in order to comply with the law. Lewis wins—the victory of the irrational—and the group rapidly comes apart.

Drew dies mysteriously while Lewis's leg is torn open in an accident. The formerly compliant Ed is forced to assume the lead which means adopting some of Lewis's character, while constantly haunted by the fear of discovery.

The two extremes have proved to be unviable and the moderates take over. But it is rotten compromise.

When they reach the town where their cars are they are confronted by a suspicious sheriff.

Their primary concern is to cover up and substantiate their alibis. Ed bumbles fatuously about the trappings of every day surgery while receiving treatment for his injuries. Later he gazes at the outward normalcy of the locals at dinner, presumably wondering what sort of monsters are lurking behind their seemingly peaceful appearances.

I was reminded of the sloppy, liberal and sentimental Hollywood film 'Wild River', starring Montgomery Clift as a government agent during the New Deal sent to persuade recalcitrant 'hillbillies' to vacate their land in order to make way for the vast dam-irrigation HEP scheme of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Being made in 1959 it reflected the greater resilience of the ruling class then via Hollywood, and at least a section of the locals were endowed with a semblance of humanity and the hero eventually finishes up marrying one of the local girls.

That confidence is long since gone.

The dam is being built for no apparent reason.

There isn't the slightest ray of hope to be detected among the mountain inhabitants in 'Deliverance'.

The real social conflicts and tensions are resolved into these grossly-inflated characterizations whose irritating over-reactions in the main conflicts destroy the (admittedly meagre) possible artistic coherence.

Their deliberately inflated petty attitudes rise even above the image of their pretentious conflict with the tempestuous river and it leaves a very bad taste.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

VICARS DOLE

Hard times come to the vicarage: according to the 'Sunday Telegraph' Anglican clergymen are facing a growing threat of redundancies. 'Already some have found themselves out of work and forced to "sign on" at employment exchanges,' the paper says.

Worse still, 'a few have even been reduced to drawing Social Security benefit'. And the paper quotes a member of the Church of England General Synod who forecasts up to 1,000 more redundancies over the next few years as the number of parishes is slashed.

Given the lack of openings within the church, the employment exchanges are having difficulty finding suitable alternative work for the redundant vicars. One said the only job he had been offered in 18 months on the dole was as Imam, or Moslem religious leader, in Newcastle upon Tyne.

It looks like a clear case for some form of government re-training scheme.

STUDENTS V THE QUEEN

Following the hard time Her Majesty had at Stirling university last week, the 'Daily Telegraph' devoted a one paragraph editorial to the subject which went:

'Obscene outrages at Stirling university yesterday were directed, according to one of

the "students" responsible, not against the Queen personally, but against the "unnecessary expense" of her visit. Which does the ordinary citizen most begrudge: the cost of a Royal visit, or the cost of maintaining such ruffians at university?' Answers should be sent on a postcard to the 'Telegraph' editor.

PRESENTS

The privileges of the Soviet bureaucracy are well known to readers. But every now and then further details come to light which are worth recording.

We take you to the top of the Kremlin to meet Leonid Brezhnev, first secretary of the Soviet Union Communist Party. He gets about Moscow a bit, but apparently one car is insufficient for his needs.

In fact he has in his garage a Rolls-Royce, a Cadillac and a Citroën-Maserati, as well as several Soviet - manufactured limousines.

Many of the vehicles are 'presents' from such devotees to the struggle for socialism as Nixon and Pompidou.

As for the Soviet workers, the waiting time for delivery of home-produced cars is getting longer, while the prices take them out of the reach of most.

Below: Brezhnev waves from his Mercedes Benz to people who can't even afford home-produced cars.



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PUBLIC MEETING**

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Assassination
of Trotsky**

A reply to
Joseph Losey's
film

Tuesday October 24, 8 p.m.

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(SLL national secretary)
Admission 10p

Socialist Labour League

Leeds

**LECTURES
THE THEORY AND
PRACTICE OF MARXISM**

Given by
Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central
Committee member)

Historical materialism today
Monday October 23

Building the revolutionary party
Monday October 30

PEEL HOTEL
Boar Lane, 8 p.m.

**ALL TRADES UNIONS
ALLIANCE MEETINGS**

Report back from
ATUA conference

**SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday
October 26, 8 p.m.** Deptford
Engineers' Club, opposite New
Cross Station.

**ACTON: Monday October 30,
8 p.m.** Co-op Hall, High Road.

**CLAPHAM: Tuesday October 31,
8 p.m.** Clapham Manor Baths,
Clapham Manor Street, SW4.

**EAST LONDON: Tuesday October
31, 8 p.m.** 'Festival Inn', Chrisp
Street Market, E14.

**WEST LONDON: Tuesday October
31, 8 p.m.** 'Prince Albert', Wharfe-
dale Road, Kings Cross.

TV

BBC 1

9.38-11.45 Schools. 12.00 Let's
get going. 12.25 Dechrau canu.
12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble mill at
one. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 The crafts-
men. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Racing
from Newbury. 4.10 Play school.
4.35 Magic roundabout. 4.40
Jackanory. 4.55 Help! 5.15
Michael BenTine time. 5.45 News
and weather.

- 6.00 **NATIONWIDE.**
- 6.45 **BARNEY BEAR.** Wee Willie
Wild Cat.
- 6.55 **THE PINK PANTHER
SHOW.**
- 7.15 **THE VIRGINIAN.** The Best
Man.
- 8.30 **DAD'S ARMY.** A Soldier's
Farewell.
- 9.00 **NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.**
Weather.
- 9.25 **PLAY OF THE MONTH:**
'**HEDDA GABLER.** Janet
Suzman, Ian McKellen,
Tom Bell, Jane Asher.
Henrik Ibsen's work about
an unhappily married
woman.
- 11.15 **LATE NIGHT NEWS.**
- 11.20 **A MAN CALLED IRON-
SIDE.** Five Miles High.
- 12.10 **Weather.**

ITV

9.30 Schools. 12.05 Rainbow.
12.25 Happy house. 12.40 First
report. 1.00 Melody inn. 1.30
Crown court. 2.00 Genera' ..ospital.
2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00
Junkin. 3.25 Marcus Welby MD.
4.20 Adventures of Gulliver. 4.50
Magpie. 5.20 Nanny and the pro-
fessor. 5.50 News.

- 6.00 **TODAY.**
- 6.35 **CROSSROADS.**
- 7.00 **THE PROTECTORS.** King
Con.
- 7.30 **HAWAII FIVE-O.** Fools Die
Twice.
- 8.30 **DORA.** Get Me to the Pub
on Time.
- 9.00 **NEW SCOTLAND YARD.**
A Case of Prejudice.
- 10.00 **NEWS AT TEN.**
- 10.30 **POLICE FIVE.**
- 10.40 **FILM: 'CORRIDORS OF
BLOOD.'** Boris Karloff,
Betta St John, Christopher
Lee. A surgeon becomes
a narcotics addict by
experimenting with anaes-
thetics on himself.
- 12.10 **MISSIONARIES.**
- 12.15 **SPYFORCE.** Portuguese
Man O' War.



Tonight's Play of the Month on BBC 1, Henrik Ibsen's 'Hedda Gabler' has Ian McKellen (top) as Tesman, husband of Hedda, played by Janet Suzman (above). Miss Suzman is the niece of Helen Suzman, the anti-apartheid MP in South Africa's 'parliament'.

BBC 2

- 11.00-11.25 Play school.
- 6.05 **OPEN UNIVERSITY.**
- 6.35 **IRELAND.** God Save Ire-
land.
- 7.05 **OPEN UNIVERSITY.**
- 7.30 **NEWSROOM.** Weather.
- 8.00 **MONEY AT WORK.** Four
Sides of Dockland.
- 9.00 **GARDENERS' WORLD.**
- 9.25 **FILM: 'STOLEN KISSES.'**
Directed by Francois Truf-
faut. With Jean-Pierre
Leaud, Delphine Seyrig.
- 10.55 **FILM NIGHT.** The Unsung
Oscar. Yvonne Blake, co-
winner of this year's Oscar
for Costume Design.
- 11.25 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.05 London.
1.10 News. 1.30 London. 2.30
Let's face it. 3.00 Film: 'The
Young Lawyers'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25
Pebbles and bamm bamm. 4.50
London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 Lon-
don. 6.00 News and weather.
6.10 Report. 6.35 London. 7.30
FBI. 8.30 London. 10.35 Film:
'Brides of Dracula'. 12.00 News,
weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except:
12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00
London. 4.20 Gus Honeybun.
6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk.
10.32 News. 12.00 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 2.30
Women only. 3.00 Galloping
gourmet. 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Week-
end. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50
London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Cross-
roads. 6.00 Day by day. Scene
SE. 6.35 Out of town. 7.05 Sky's
the limit. 7.35 FBI. 8.30 London.
10.35 Film: 'A Rage to Live'.
12.30 News. 12.40 Weather.
Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30
Women only. 3.00 Junkin. 3.25
Marcus Welby. 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: 'Scandal
at Scourie'. 9.00 London. 10.30
Dora. 11.00 Now it's your say.
11.30 Flat two. 12.30 Weather.
**HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as
above except:** 4.25-4.50 Stesion
cantamil. 10.30-11.00 Outlook.
11.00-11.30 Sports arena. 11.30-
12.30 UFO.
HTV West as above except:
6.18-6.35 Report West.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 3.30 Jimmy
Stewart. 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: 'Two and Two Make Six'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London.
3.30 Danger man. 4.20 Forest
rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flint-
stones. 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 Film: 'Inherit
the Wind'. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32
News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper
room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Randall
and Hopkirk. 4.23 News. 4.25
Funky phantom. 4.50 London.
5.20 General hospital. 5.50 Lon-
don. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London.
7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 UFO.
8.30 London. 10.30 Food of love.
11.00 Film: 'The Large Rope'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.30
Danger man. 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 Film:
'The Spy Who Came In From
The Cold'. 12.35 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 3.25
I dream of Jeannie. 3.50 Cartoon.
4.00 Crossroads. 4.25 TV funnies.
4.50 London. 5.15 Elephant boy.
5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.20
Cartoon. 6.35 Kick off. 7.00 Rip-
tide. 8.00 Protectors. 8.30 Lon-
don. 10.30 Film: 'Hitler'.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 2.30
News. 2.31 Yoga. 3.00 London.
3.25 Danger man. 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 Film:
'Seconds'. 12.20 News. 12.35
Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30
Dateline. 3.00 London. 3.30
Quentin Durgens. 4.25 Shirley's
world. 4.50 London. 5.20 Cross-
roads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today.
6.30 A place of her own. 7.00
Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hawaii
Five-O. 8.30 London. 10.30 Friday
night. 11.00 Late call. 11.05
Film: 'The Mummy'.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38
Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.50 News.
3.00 Junkin. 3.25 Let's face it.
3.55 Katie Stewart cooks. 4.20
Funky phantom. 4.50 London.
5.20 General hospital. 5.50 Lon-
don. 6.00 News. 6.05 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 Partners. 11.00 Job
look. 11.10 Film: 'A Cold Wind
in August'. 12.25 Meditation.

**Prison officers will 'do
their damndest' to avoid
Heath's state pay plan**

PRISON Officers' Associa-
tion chairman, Mr S. T.
Powell yesterday told the
Special Hospitals' annual
meeting 'We will do our
damndest to ensure that
pay claims for our mem-
bers are treated strictly on
their merits.'

Speaking in Liverpool Mr
Powell added his voice to the
growing opposition to premier
Edward Heath's state pay plan.

He said it appeared that
Heath wanted to scrap the prin-
ciples for settling prison officers'
pay, but warned: 'We want no
part of that kind of philosophy.'
The government had denied
that it had a pay restraint
policy.

'Those who have suffered from
the "wurzle-wurzle" bird philo-
sophy in the recent past will
have found that pill a little diffi-
cult to swallow,' he said.

'But now there is no doubt
at all where Mr Heath's govern-

ment stands—£2 a week across
the board for everybody and to
hell with the consequences.

'Never mind that the civil ser-
vice was always at the end of
the pay queue, and that differen-
tials would disappear down the
drain of an across-the-board set-
tlement.'

'Never mind if assurances and
promises given in the past now
have to be dishonoured', he said.

Mr Powell said many civil ser-
vants remembered with bitterness
the interference with arbitration
arrangements under the Selwyn
Lloyd policy.

'The national staff side have
already expressed their views, at
the highest level, about the pos-
sibility of further interferences
with the arbitration agreement.'

He added: 'Mr Heath's record
in connection with the Civil Ser-
vice Arbitration Tribunal is not
altogether untarnished.' Many
would not lightly forget his
decision not to reappoint Prof
Hugh Clegg as chairman of the
tribunal.

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Hauliers raise red scare over 'political' Dock Labour Scheme

BY DAVID MAUDE

DOCKERS' RIGHTS yesterday came under heavy attack from the powerful Road Haulage Association, which declared that the National Dock Labour Scheme had become a political weapon and should be drastically amended.

The attack came in RHA evidence to the National Ports Council inquiry into small ports.

Set up as part of the Jones-Aldington proposals for ending the national docks strike, the inquiry is supposed to assess whether the small ports should be registered under the Scheme.

The RHA is vehemently opposed to the idea. It says the Scheme, which gives dockers a statutory job-guarantee, has 'outlived its usefulness'.

Adds the Association: 'The Scheme binds together a very substantial labour force within an industry that is vital to the economy of the country and so provides, in the shape of widespread dislocation to our overseas trade through industrial disputes, a weapon that has been, and will be, used for political purposes.'

The overtones of 'red scare' propaganda are unmistakable here.

DISPUTES

The RHA goes on: 'To extend the Scheme would be to expose ports with a history of good labour relations to labour disputes in which they are not concerned, and, conversely, any local problem resulting in a strike at what is now a non-scheme port would rapidly spread throughout the country.'

'Shippers have demonstrated that they will go to almost any lengths to avoid the handling of their cargo by registered dock workers.'

Non-Scheme ports could employ a suitable labour force at 'realistic' rates of pay.

The way the Scheme had been implemented, the Association claims, had put the registered dockworker in a uniquely privileged position—with virtually guaranteed employment for life or perhaps generous severance payments.

The Jones-Aldington proposals would increase costs here.

'The high costs are linked to



Lorries line up to enter Tilbury docks—a registered port

low productivity and they result in high charges to shippers and all who use registered ports', says the Association.

It adds that neither the extension of the Scheme to the non-Scheme ports nor subjecting them to the larger Scheme ports would secure full employment for all registered dock workers.

The RHA's direct onslaught on the Scheme follows up the more subtle attack of the Jones-Aldington report itself.

The operation of the report is now clearly undermining the Scheme in a number of ports, particularly through the creation of temporary labour shortages. These are being filled by the hiring of casual dockers who do not enjoy a job guarantee and are thus open to hire-and-fire discipline by their employer.

And with the port employers themselves, the road-hauliers

now constitute an influential lobby for legislated changes in or scrapping of the scheme.

Many port employers, such as the sprawling Hay's Wharf group, are, of course, themselves eligible for membership of the 17,000-member RHA through their transport subsidiaries.

The RHA evidence once again calls to mind the secret talks about scrapping the Dock Labour Scheme between docks union chiefs Jack Jones and Tim O'Leary in 1970.

One of those present at those talks was George Tonge, a director of Hay's Wharf.

Revaluation fever sweeps Tokyo

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

RUMOURS of a yen revaluation swept the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday and brought a wave of dollar selling.

Reports from Washington suggested that Secretary of State William Rogers had been pressing the visiting Japanese Foreign Minister to curb Japan's mammoth export surplus.

The Bank of Japan intervened to prop up the dollar, thus adding to its already swollen stocks of the unwanted currency. Over the past four months dollars have been rushing in as advance payments for Japanese shipping and other exports.

The Japanese government is waiting to see whether the European summit will force Britain to end the float of the pound and what will be the outcome of the US presidential election. As

the forward dollar now stands the revaluation would be of the order of 10 per cent.

Banking circles want an early decision, but the government is moving slowly in view of the immense repercussions which another revaluation will have on Japan's export-based economy and the crisis-wracked international monetary system.

Chemical loss

PROFITS of the French chemical giant, Rhone-Poulenc, dropped by over 20 per cent in the first half of the year, despite an 8.5-per-cent increase in sales. Owing to the depression in the industry prices had remained relatively low while costs had risen. The firm had also had to invest heavily to meet increased competition.

37p.c. rise in cost of house since 1970

PRICES of new private houses have risen 37 per cent and those of second-hand houses by 45 per cent under the Tory government.

These increases were revealed in the House of Commons by Tory Housing Minister, Julian Amery. The figures compared house prices for the second quarter of this year as compared with the second quarter of 1970 when the Tory government came to power.

Amery also announced that 13 local authorities had refused to implement the Housing Finance Act and that Tory Environment Secretary Peter Walker had warned 11 of them that he was considering making an order declaring them to be in default.

Councils that Walker is considering making default orders against are: Barrow-in-Furness, Carlisle, Doncaster, Walsall, Camden, Eccles, Bedworth, Clay Cross, Halstead, Newton-le-Willows, Skelmersdale and Holland. He is still having discussions with two other authorities opposing the Act—West Bromwich and Conisbrough.

HMSO stopped

NEARLY 100 print workers—NATSOPA members—at Her Majesty's Stationery Office Press at Harrow, west London, remained out on strike yesterday in protest against the suspension of two of their members.

The men walked out on Tuesday after the two were suspended in a dispute over pay.

About 90 members of the National Graphical Association involved in a second dispute at the Press have now returned to work while negotiations are going on.

At the Press Association news service in Fleet Street yesterday, NATSOPA members struck over the dismissal of their branch secretary.

They later picketed the building.

Pound is under pressure as EEC Summit opens

THE POUND came under pressure on foreign exchange markets yesterday as the summit meeting of the nine-member Common Market began in Paris yesterday.

In London sterling fell below its old parity of \$2.40 for the first time since the Tory government floated it in June. Sterling holders clearly have no confidence that the British currency will be stabilized at its old level.

According to yesterday's 'Guardian' the French government has abandoned the idea of using the summit meeting to force the Tories to stabilize the pound by January 1. City sources have made it clear that if the pound is fixed at \$2.40, another devaluation will be necessary within a year or 18 months.

The Common Market countries

are cautious about forcing Britain to fix a new parity because once Britain joins the EEC the other eight central banks will be committed to support the new sterling parity.

They have already burned their fingers once by supporting the Italian lira. The Italian central bank refused to repay its EEC partners in gold as required by the Market regulations and instead forced the other banks to accept dollars in settlement of the debts.

Heath was not expected to make any rash guarantees at the summit about fixing the sterling rate—though if pressed he was expected to say the government intended to return to an appropriate fixed parity at an appropriate time.

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11th-hour moves to save cold store jobs

BY IAN YEATS

TOP-LEVEL talks between Edmund Vestey and T&GWU leader Jack Jones to end the five-month picketing of the Midland Cold Storage depot, Hackney, were thought to be imminent yesterday.

The news broke only 24 hours before half the 51-strong workforce was due to be sacked because of the effects of the picketing on the depot's trade.

Company spokesman Anthony Good revealed yesterday that they were on red alert for new moves in a last-minute attempt to set up peace talks between Jones and Vestey.

Tooley Street T&GWU official David Daniels is understood to be pressing for negotiations between the two sides to begin at once so that dockers' pickets can be called off and the depot's business returned to normal.

Mr Daniels, who is responsible for T&GWU members at the cold store, said yesterday he was 'too busy to discuss these matters', with Workers Press.

And a spokesman for Jack Jones said they could not divulge any information about talks although they agreed new initiatives might be taking place.

Dockers' pickets outside the cold store said no meeting of the men or their shop stewards at London's Royal group of docks was scheduled to discuss the situation.

Said one picket, 'I am not leaving this line until either the cold store closes or we get what we want.'

The dockers' mood appeared to be that even if talks took place these could only be about ways of persuading Vestey to employ registered labour.

Meanwhile cold store workers were sunk in gloom.

T&GWU steward Roy Russ told me there was nothing they could do to prevent the sacking of ten office staff and 17 men some time after 3 p.m. this afternoon.

He said: 'If we go on strike Vestey will sack all of us.'

Mr Russ added that the sacked men, many with families, could not afford to mount a picket with the dockers even if they wanted to and would be obliged to look for new jobs straight away.

All the men have written promises of reinstatement at the depot if picketing is called off and trade returns to normal.

Cheer goes up as officials are voted down

BY PHILIP WADE

ATTEMPTS by union officials to lift the ten-week occupation of the Thornycroft plant, Basingstoke, Hants were decisively thrown out by a mass meeting yesterday.

Bill John, executive council member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers was repeatedly heckled during the 90-minute meeting as he recommended acceptance of the proposals made at York last week.

Then the 500 men at the meeting voted two to one to reject his pleas. They also reaffirmed Sunday's decision to maintain their sit-in until British-Leyland 'unscrambles' the hiving-off deal with the Eaton Corporation of Ohio.

When the result was known a huge cheer went up from stewards guarding the gate to prevent a few non-trade unionists from gaining entry.

It was an overwhelming defeat for the AUEW national leadership which has been trying to end the sit-in in return for talks with Lord Stokes about Leyland's future plans.

The proposals brought from York amounted to nothing more than a short delay in the Eaton take-over and gave no guarantees of work.

AUEW steward Albert Robinson, was jubilant with the results of the meeting.

'This is a victory for the whole trade union movement. We haven't abandoned the cause, but the executive has,' he told me.

'The talks last week were exploratory. Yet they came down here with a recommendation.'

John Sims another AUEW steward said the 'guarantees' were hedged with so many ifs and buts.

'They talk in terms of "subject to market conditions". But we know Eaton's produce a cheaper gear box at their Bolton factory. So little work would come here.

Thornycroft workers reject end sit-in plea



John Sims: 'Too many ifs and buts about the proposals.'



Tom Lewis: 'I ope the lessons will be learned throughout Britain.'



Mike Barney: 'We won the day. Bill John had to admit he was defeated.'

'This meeting today should never have been held.'

A young T&GWU worker, Mike Barney, was overjoyed with the vote. 'We won the day,' he said. 'Bill John put his case and then had to admit he was defeated. The proposals are absolute rubbish with no guarantees whatsoever.'

The secretary of the occupation committee reaffirmed the Thornycroft workers' determination to continue the fight they began when they took over the factory on August 15.

'Quite definitely we still need combine support. British-Leyland workers have gained from our fight.'

CAV occupation: MPs not hopeful after seeing Tories

PROSPECTS of saving the CAV-Lucas factory at Fazakerley, Liverpool, from closure next April seemed no brighter yesterday after talks in London. Six Merseyside Labour MPs, led by Eric Heffer, saw Lucas chief Kenneth Corley and later Tory Minister for Industrial Development, Christopher Chataway.

They asked Corley to reprieve the plant, now occupied by its 1,000 workers.

But Heffer said: 'Mr Corley said he would consider our remarks and meet us again, but the implication was he did not hold out much hope.'

Chataway promised the MPs he would make another approach to the Lucas top management. The MPs felt he was prepared to consider government help and even financial aid to keep the plant open.

Corley, however, was firm yesterday in his insistence that the Fazakerley operation was uneconomical and would have to be closed. He claimed the factory was losing £9m a year because of lost orders caused by a past of bad industrial relations.

Another MP, Frank Marsden, challenged this.

'I think this figure is unbelievable', he said.

'If I owned a firm and was losing this enormous amount I would have been down a long time before Lucas was to sort it out.'

Eric Heffer told me that he had warned the Tory Minister there could be trouble if Fazakerley were not reprieved.

'We can't stand any more closures of this scale,' he said.

'We told Mr Chataway not to expect other factories in the area to be insulated from the struggle at CAV. They are bound to respond. The feeling is very high.'

More news of financial support and backing came from the shop stewards at Fazakerley yesterday.

The quarterly shop stewards' meeting of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers on Merseyside has agreed to raise funds at local factories.

'The next thing we want is industrial action,' convenor Dave Martin told me yesterday. 'We have to get this thing moving.'

SHOP STEWARDS at the Lucas combine's CAV Acton, west London, factory have decided to hold a factory collection in support of the Fazakerley, Liverpool, occupation.

Together with other stewards from the south-east CAV combine, they will be making a formal protest to the management about the threatened closure of the Fazakerley plant.



CAV Lucas stewards with their MPs yesterday: (l to r) Frank Marsden, MP for Liverpool (Scotland); John Howe; Bill Staples; Wally Fuchs; Eric Heffer, MP for Liverpool (Walton).

£497.79 - 12 DAYS LEFT

WE NEED approximately £104.35 each day between now and the end of the month to reach our £1,750 target in time. It is a tough challenge but we know if we make a huge effort now we will raise it in time.

As mass unemployment continues and prices skyrocket, even greater numbers of trade unionists are taking up the fight along the lines which can create the conditions which will make this government resign.

Power workers, miners, tenants—everywhere workers are moving into action to defend their standard of living. As entry into the Common Market looms closer, even harsher attacks will

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

be launched against the working class.

Workers Press is more vital than ever. Only our paper can provide the political leadership to prepare thousands of workers for these attacks.

We know that you, dear readers, are feeling these increases bite into your own pockets. But we also know that the only way to fight back is to build this revolutionary leadership to defeat the Tories and their plans. So—please give all you can. Post every donation immediately to:

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October Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High St
London SW4 7UG.

Briefly . . .

A TOTAL of 844,640 people are registered as unemployed in Britain and Northern Ireland at the time of the Department of Employment's monthly count on October 9.

Wage Law FROM PAGE ONE

the Industrial Relations Act and entry into the Common Market. And on the other hand they see their leaders collaborating in the most blatant fashion with the class enemy.

On the lips of tens of thousands of workers is the same question—what can be done about these traitors?

Sunday's national conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance in Birmingham becomes the most important step in constructing the revolutionary leadership to throw out the collaborators and do-nothings.

Of these 801,120, excluding school-leavers and adult students, were hard-core, wholly unemployed.

All this month's figures—except for wholly unemployed women workers in Britain, temporarily stopped workers in Northern Ireland and hard-core jobless in the south west—are down on those for September.

The per centage of people registered as unemployed in Britain is 3.6. In Northern Ireland it is 7.3.

POLICE were out in force yesterday as hundreds of production workers picketed the Square D electrical switchgear factory at Swindon, Wiltshire, on the second day of their strike for a substantial pay increase. 1,200 workers at one of the town's three Garrard record-player factories were also still out for a £6 increase.

PICKETS were out yesterday at the Fazakerley, Liverpool, factory of the Northgate tailoring group. The 200 women workers at the factory struck on Wednesday against the sacking of Mrs May Mulrooney.

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