

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 1972 ● No 900 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## TORY PRESS CALLS FOR:

# A CLASS WAR OVER WAGES

BY ALEX MITCHELL

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As the 'Times' was sounding battle stations, another group of public sector workers—the teachers—were being refused a pay offer (see p.12). Teachers belonging to the London branch of the National Association of Schoolmasters walked out of classrooms when they heard the news that the government was deferring payment of a promised London allowance. About 200 of them gathered in Whitehall to demonstrate against the state pay plan.

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On Monday the Tory-owned 'Telegraph' stated: 'The Chequers talks must be wished every success. The hope, if not the expectation, must be that by buying a little time with some sort of incomes policy—whether ostensibly voluntary or compulsory makes little odds—they will then evolve the radical measures which are ever more necessary to this country's salvation.'

'The Times' says the government should keep its statutory incomes policy 'in reserve'.

'To make a compulsory policy effective it might be necessary to have an election first, and such an election might leave scars.'

Having described the General Election tempo which is building up, the paper goes on to encourage the Tories to take on the unions backed by 'public opinion'.

These important editorial statements are a grim reminder to the working class of the period in which we are living.

The tripartite talks with Heath, the TUC and the CBI are a dangerous time-wasting device. The Tories know that workers won't wear a voluntary state wage plan.

They know that despite all of Feather's efforts to collaborate, he can't

deliver the working class in their present undefeated and militant mood.

Heath has engineered this phoney package with the TUC in order to put on a bold face with his Common Market chums.

He knows that the main task of settling with the working class is still the main item on his political agenda. But he desperately needs the time to steer Britain into the EEC on January 1.

Heath believes that his link with the European reactionaries will strengthen his position to carry out this onslaught.

But in the struggles of the miners, dockers, building workers, railwaymen and tenants, the British working class has shown that it will not submit to Toryism—and it has the strength to smash it.

When the national conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance opens in Birmingham tomorrow it will be the conquest of state power and the necessity to build revolutionary leadership which will dominate the discussion.

If you haven't made arrangements to attend this truly crucial conference of trade unionists from all over Britain, do so immediately.

## No cost-of-living guarantee for actors



Actors leaving yesterday's meeting include (l. to r.) Robert Powell, George Benson and Terence Alexander.

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

WEST END actors have been tied down to a five-year pay deal which gives them no guarantees over rises in the cost of living.

The deal was steamrolled through a special meeting in London yesterday. After the meeting militants angrily condemned the settlement as a big retreat from the original 'no-strings' demand for a £30 weekly minimum for performances and rehearsals.

The £30 was supposed to be 'non-negotiable', but leaders of Actors Equity have accepted instead an immediate £25 minimum and £30 in January. But they have also agreed to fixed increases of £3 a year until 1977.

The deal was approved by 318 votes to 76 at a special meeting of West End actors. Equity leader Gerald Croasdell warned that a rejection of the deal would mean a strike in the West End and this

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Socialist Labour League  
PUBLIC MEETING

Behind the  
Assassination  
of Trotsky

A reply to  
Joseph Losey's  
film

Tuesday October 24, 8 p.m.

FOR FULL DETAILS  
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## ATUA CONFERENCE

The  
way  
forward  
for all  
trade unionists

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

BE THERE THIS SUNDAY



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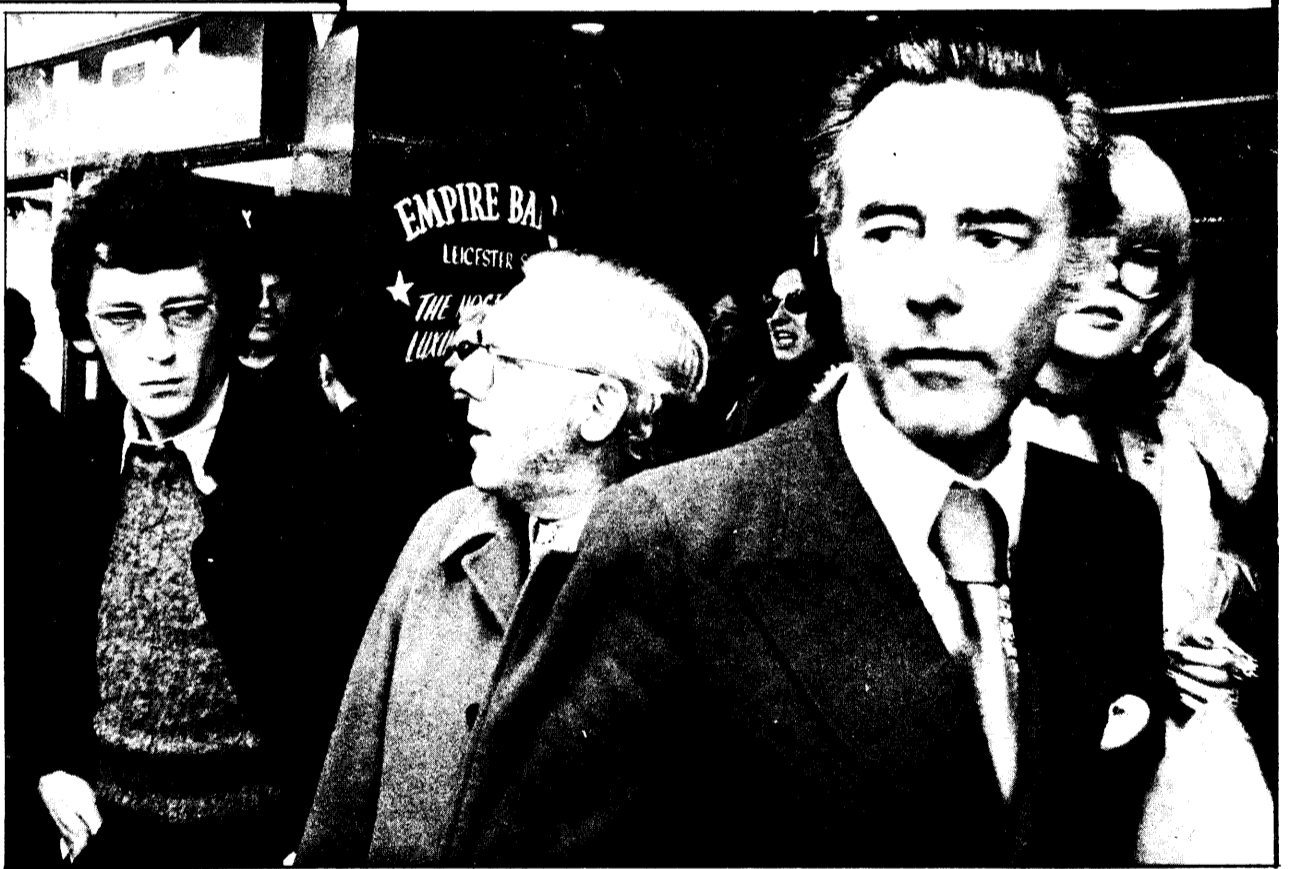
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# Thieu turns down the Kissinger package

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN presidential adviser Dr Henry Kissinger was apparently awaiting fresh instruction from the White House yesterday after his talks with South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon.

Thieu made it clear he will not accept the political terms demanded by North Vietnam for ending the war and insisted that any change in the government would have to be put to elections under conditions where he would have control.

Kissinger is believed to have brought a package of proposals to Saigon following his secret discussions with North Vietnamese representatives in Paris. But it is not clear how close the American and North Vietnamese positions really are.

Hanoi spokesmen have repeatedly denied rumours that they are on the verge of agreement with the United States. These rumours may well be set in motion in order to boost President Nixon on the eve of the US elections.

Thieu's statements after his meeting with Kissinger make it clear that the Saigon administration fears it may be sacrificed by the Americans, on whom Thieu is totally dependent.

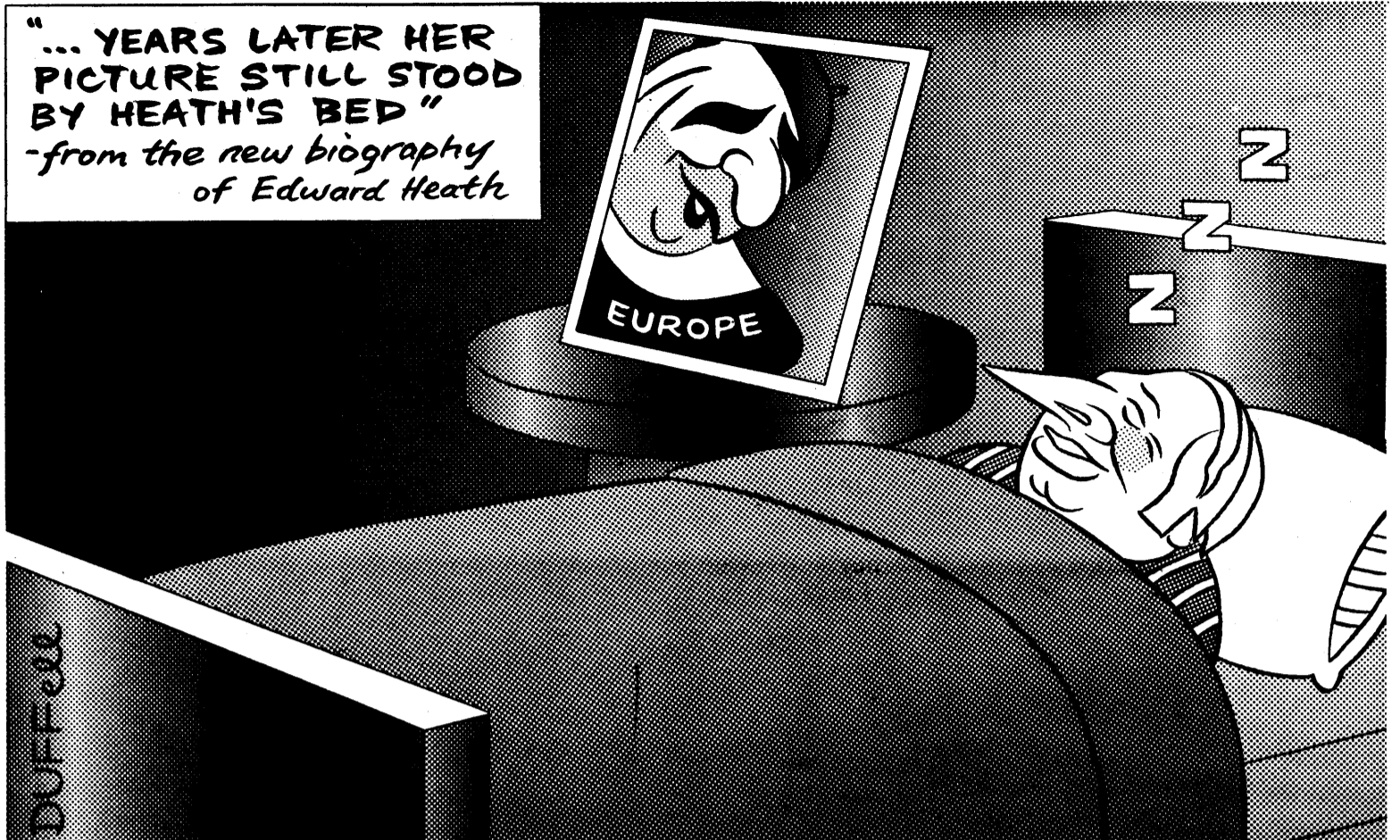
He has been stomping the country denouncing any form of compromise with the liberation forces and calling for the extermination of all communists.

After his meeting with Kissinger, Thieu attended a dinner party where he is reported to have told guests that Nixon is feeling pressure from Congress to end the war and 'this pressure has been transferred to us'.

But he was also quoted as saying there was 'no critical danger' and is said to have been relaxed and smiling at the dinner.

It seems that for the moment at any rate the US is going to keep supporting its puppet in Saigon and that talk of an imminent deal with Hanoi has been exaggerated.

"... YEARS LATER HER PICTURE STILL STOOD BY HEATH'S BED"  
-from the new biography of Edward Heath



# Summit 'partners' united by their weaknesses Sterling moves create EEC tensions

PLANS for monetary union within the Common Market have been set in motion again by the summit meeting of the nine heads of government in Paris. The plans are a sign of the European employers' need to come together for mutual support in the trade war with the US and Japan.

BY JOHN SPENCER

The plan envisages the establishment of a common fund by pooling the foreign exchange resources of members' central banks. The fund is to be set up by April 1, 1973, and will be used to support EEC countries' currencies within narrow parity limits.

Similar arrangements were made earlier this year, but the agreement on parities was broken within weeks by the British government which floated the pound.

Beyond vague guarantees that sterling will eventually be pegged, Tory premier Heath gave no indication on Thursday when this will take place or what the new parity will be.

The pound has been falling rapidly on foreign exchange

markets and is now below its old parity of \$2.40. There is considerable speculation that it will be fixed at a lower level to allow the Tories to give their exports a slight edge over their EEC 'partners' on formal entry into the Market.

City spokesmen freely admit that sterling cannot be maintained at \$2.40 for more than a few months. The manoeuvres over sterling indicate that great tension is just below the surface of the Paris meeting.

The European employers are driven together by the escalating struggle for markets with America and Japan. But the regimes represented in Paris are united only by their own weakness. The German and Dutch governments have already fallen and are due to go to the polls within the next few weeks, while the French government is facing spring elections and has internal divisions on economic questions.

Speakers at Thursday's session showed some concern about the EEC's 'image': French President Georges Pompidou said he was struck by the 'widely evident reticence and lack of enthusiasm' for the Market. In his own refer-

endum on British entry, only 37 per cent of the electorate voted 'yes'.

The Tory government, which hopes to play a big part in the EEC, has proved unable to settle accounts with the British working class and is forced to pool its problems with the European employers.

**ALL the Common Market leaders drove to the summit in sleek French black sedan cars except for British Prime Minister Edward Heath, who arrived in a Rolls-Royce, and the Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who drove up in a Fiat 130. The other Prime Ministers used Citroen DS 23 cars similar to that of French President Georges Pompidou.**

Under this guise of controlling 'inflation', the EEC heads of state are moving towards a common policy to fight the wages movement throughout Europe with the imposition of state controls.

Dominating the EEC talks, however, is the question of foreign competition. On the eve of the talks, European ship-

builders launched a campaign against their Japanese counterparts who are scheduled to take 80 per cent of the world market by 1980 if present trends continue.

The Japanese, themselves under pressure to revalue the yen for the second time in less than a year, are stalling until they see what sort of monetary package emerges from the Paris talks. If there is no agreement to peg the pound parity, then they are likely to try by every possible means to avoid a new revaluation.

The Common Market countries are in no position to discuss expansion of their overseas trade. They are fighting to hold their own against powerful competition from the US and Japan.

This sharpens the contradictions within the EEC itself, where the different national groups of employers are jockeying for positions.

The purpose of the Paris meeting is to fix the battle lines for the trade war struggle and to agree measures to hit out at the working class in Europe.

It reveals the EEC for what it is—a reactionary conspiracy of monopoly capital directed at the preservation of private property and the subjection of the European workers.

## Maoists say it's 'a step forward'

CHINA said yesterday the European Common Market summit in Paris signified a new step taken by West European countries against the two 'super-powers'. Reporting from Paris the official

New China News Agency noted that the conference, with so many countries taking part, was rare in the history of Europe. 'The holding of the summit signifies a new step forward taken by the West European countries in their joint struggle

against the two super-powers,' it said.

So now the Maoists display their sympathy with the representatives of the European monopoly capitalists who are plotting in Paris to strangle the workers' movement throughout Europe.

## Amin thanks the USSR

UGANDA President General Idi Amin has expressed his gratitude to the Soviet leaders for their moral support and assistance.

He told the Russian Ambassador, Zakharov, that Soviet support showed they knew what the Uganda government was doing for its people.

Amin has ordered more than 50,000 Asians who do not hold Ugandan citizenship to leave the country by November 8.

On Thursday, the day following his meeting with Zakharov, he ordered all Kenyan and Tanzanian Asians to leave the country as well.

The Soviet ambassador brought a number of gifts for the Uganda dictator, including two albums with photographs of Ugandan army officers who recently visited the USSR.

Amin thanked the Soviet government for sending a high-powered delegation to the recent 10th anniversary

celebrations of Uganda's independence.

He said it was a sign of the Soviet people's love for Uganda.

Amin promised to do his best to strengthen relations with the Soviet Union and provisionally accepted an invitation from the USSR 'if time permits'.

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# Thornycroft leaders reject press rumours Concerted Leyland campaign to discredit occupation

BY PHILIP WADE

**LEADERS** of the ten-week sit-in at the Thornycroft plant in Basingstoke, Hants, yesterday rejected Press rumours that they have abandoned their main demand for the 'unscrambling' of the deal with the Eaton Corporation.

Twice this week the engineers at the gearbox factory have thrown out British-Leyland proposals aimed at ending their occupation. Even the intervention of national union officials made no difference.

Undoubtedly the determination and principled stand taken by the Thornycroft men against the threat of unemployment and probable closure has shaken British-Leyland. So much so that there appears now to be a concerted campaign in the Press to discredit what the men are fighting for.

It suggests that the occupiers have now abandoned their main demand for the 'unscrambling' of the 'hiving-off' operation with the Eaton Corporation of Ohio.

In yesterday's 'Financial Times', for example, there was a report that 'workers at the Thornycroft plant have modified their opposition to the deal and now seek better compensation for transferring to the American company and more sweeping guarantees of orders from British-Leyland'.

As the occupation committee pointed out yesterday, this statement is, in fact, completely untrue. The engineers who began their sit-in on August 15 remain firm. The £2½m deal with Eaton must be called off and permanent work guaranteed with Leylands.

Tom Lewis, committee secretary, yesterday told me who he thought was behind the campaign to undermine the sit-in.

'No doubt it is Leyland. They're trying to discourage support for us among the rest of the combine. These reports have already sown seeds of doubt among other Leyland workers, so much that they even ask what we are fighting for.'

Tom Lewis said it seemed that Leyland was worried about the whole sit-in. The company, he added, was making a better job of countering the Basingstoke men's fight than with the sale of the factory to Eaton.

The occupation committee was yesterday considering whether to hold a Press conference next week to put the record straight.

At the Motor Show, British-Leyland threw a champagne party for journalists which must have cost hundreds of pounds. The Basingstoke men are not so sure they can lay on that sort of reception. 'Who is going to come to Basingstoke for a fish-and-chip supper?' queried Tom.

## Textile picket over woman's sacking

**TWO HUNDRED** women and girl workers are picketing the Northgate clothing factory at Fazakerley, Liverpool, over the sacking of Mrs Marie Mulrooney. They walked out on Wednesday.

Mrs Mulrooney was sacked when management accused her of 'basic dishonesty'—she had taken a three-year-old piece of waste material with the permission of the foreman who signed a receipt for it. On the way out management had a search in which the material was discovered.

She was told to report to the office the following morning and was sacked.

Mrs Lily Morgan and Jean Howard took up the fight for her reinstatement and were supported by 95 per cent of the women and girls.

Wages at the factory, like those throughout the textile industry, are extremely low. Most of the women earn only £12 a week and some of the girls take away as little as £7.

National pay negotiations are going ahead, but the women claim that management at the factory has refused to see the union—the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers.

Last Thursday, the women say, police protection was given to 25 scabs and one girl was almost knocked down by a car entering the plant.

Shop stewards from the factory are now touring other factories in the Courtauld group for support. At Fazakerley workers occupying the CAV plant have opened their canteen for the women's use.



## 'Shoot-to-kill' Craig: I was not drunk

**ULSTER VANGUARD** leader William Craig yesterday defended his 'shoot-to-kill' speech made at a right-wing Monday Club meeting in London on Thursday night.

In a television interview in Northern Ireland Craig insisted: 'When I spoke last night I spoke for the official viewpoint of the Ulster Vanguard.'

Craig dismissed as 'absolute nonsense' the theory of his Vanguard second-in-command, Captain Austin Ardill, that a recurrence of his thyroid trouble could have caused him to speak with an unclear mind. Drink was not the reason either, he said.

And he went on: 'Last night's speech has, in fact, already achieved what I set out to do—shake people out of their complacency to make them realize that when we in Ulster talk about fighting for our rights, the word fight does mean killing.'

In his speech on Monday

Club members in the House of Commons, Craig said that he could mobilize 80,000 men in Ulster and added:

'I am prepared to kill and those behind me will have my full support for we shall not surrender.'

He said yesterday: 'I hope it never comes to this but I want people to understand the horror of the

situation and what we're drifting towards.'

He repeated his warning over Loyalist action:

'We're prepared to take whatever action necessary to ensure there is strong and stable government in Northern Ireland.'

'Bombs and bullets aren't words with us—they are experiences. Our people are frustrated and angry.'

## Bakers go back with only half claim

**BAKERS** in Glasgow will return to work on Sunday after their nine-day strike in support of a £5 pay claim. They go back however with only the £2.50 rise negotiated by their officials in the Scottish Bakers' and Allied Workers Union.

Only 24 hours after a mass meeting of bakery workers in Glasgow voted overwhelmingly to continue with their unofficial action—in defiance of

their officials' settlement—300 workers at Beattie's Bakery, Dennistoun, decided to accept the offer and go back to work.

Mr John Glass, a member of the unofficial strike committee, said afterwards that shop stewards were recommending a return to work at all bakeries. After the Beattie's men had decided to go back, he said, they had no option but to recommend acceptance.

## PA strikers seek Fleet St sympathy action

**A STRIKE** over pay and victimization slashed services from Britain's biggest Press agency yesterday. Over 200 copytakers and staff at Press Association withdrew their labour on Tuesday after management had replied with an offer of £1.50 to their demand for a pay increase.

The action spread to other workers at PA yesterday after the strikers' leader, John Lawrence, was fired.

Now the strikers are appealing for sympathetic action from other Fleet Street workers.

Journalists at PA have agreed not to cross picket lines and most honoured their pledge yesterday. But some are inside the building doing work normally carried out by copytakers and staff.

Machine workers in the National Graphical Association have taken action and are out in sympathy. PA electricians say they will strike on Monday if management do not reinstate Lawrence.

These actions are threat-

ening Britain's busiest wire news service on which national and provincial papers throughout the country depend. Yesterday the service was severely reduced and if sympathetic action spreads it could stop altogether.

To justify their claim the strikers point to improved rates for PA journalists. They have won a minimum increase of £4.

The strikers claim they have received no backing from their union NATSOPA. They say branch official John Lewis has instructed them to return to work and warned that further action will mean they will 'dismiss themselves from the employ of PA'.

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# SEAMEN PROTEST AT SLAVE PAY

BY DAVID MAUDE

The protest of 20 African seamen against pay and conditions aboard two Greek freighters this week again focused attention on the multiple hazards facing this section of workers.

It also brought to light the way the Tory government has worked both to hamstring international trade union action on any foreign seaman's behalf and to deny him any hope he may previously have had of redress in the British courts.

About three weeks ago the 'Aegis Power', 9,442 tons, docked at Avonmouth, Bristol. As soon as it did so, ten crew members went to the local office of the National Union of Seamen and saw full-time official Derek Tedder.

The men's complaint was that they were earning about a quarter of what they should have been, that they were owed a great deal of back pay and that they had been forced to give up important rights.

## IDENTICAL

But the British agents for the company owning the ship, Aegis Shipping, would have none of it. They insisted that there was no basis for the complaints and that these were the work of 'troublemakers'.

Eventually the agents offered in negotiations with the NUS to repatriate the ten on another of their ships, the 9,439-ton 'Aegis Honour', which docked about a week later.

The moment the ship berthed, however, about eight members of its crew turned up at Tedder's office with almost identical complaints.

They too demanded repatriation. But, like the men

from the 'Aegis Power', they would not accept the company offer. They said they believed they would be 'in very serious trouble' on an Aegis ship once it left British waters.

London shipping agent T. Niotis, who handles the British end of the Aegis operation, said he could not understand this. 'Conditions on all our ships are good and fair', he said, 'and the pay is certainly not "slave" rate.'

He added: 'We are as concerned as anyone, more so, to sort out this trouble and we shall keep doing our best to settle the men's worries and convince them to allow us to take them home. But I also think we are dealing with troublemakers here, ring-leaders of groups of men who would never be satisfied.'

But Derek Tedder, who has seen the men's contracts, tells a different story.

'The men on the "Aegis Power" were earning between £20 and £30 a month', he said. 'On the "Aegis Honour" rates started as low as £10 and went up to £40. They had all signed contracts giving away all their rights.'

'On top of the slave rates of pay, they had 25 per cent of their wages for the first eight months of their employment held back from them. This, according to the contracts, was to provide for any fines that might be levied against them by the master.'

'In fact, a great many of the men said they were owed a great deal of back pay. Some men who had been to sea for 13 years were getting only about £40 a month.'

John Prescott, the NUS-sponsored MP for Hull East, told Workers Press earlier this week that the men should have been earning at least £85 a month. He said this was four times as much as most of them were getting.

He added: 'Last year the

Top: John Prescott, NUS-sponsored MP for Hull East, points out the seamen should be getting at least £85 a month.

Tory government changed the law so that disputes over seamen's wages from a number of countries—five in all, I think—could no longer be taken before the British courts.

'Among the countries affected in this way were Greece and Spain, but when Albert Booth MP and myself opposed this on the grounds of what chance of justice had seamen in these countries we were slapped down.'

'I was continually told by the Speaker, Harvey Anderson it was, that "You can't pass judgement here on the affairs of another country".'

## SOLIDARITY

The dispute at Avonmouth also brings up another point.

Section 96 of the Tories' Industrial Relations Act declares that it is an unfair industrial practice, punishable by the National Industrial Relations Court, for anyone not acting with the authority of a registered trade union to induce a breach of contract in furtherance of a trade dispute.'

As a spokesman for the International Transport Workers' Federation in London pointed out to Workers Press, in the past its only industrial weapon in cases such as that at Avonmouth has been solidarity action from dockers and other sections of workers. Were such a weapon used now the federation would fall prey to Section 96.

Meanwhile the world shipping slump forces more and more owners into more and more vicious attempts to extract extra profit from already cruelly-exploited seamen.

But as Avonmouth shows, seamen are fighting back.

# BANK ON THE BANK

The recent outcry against secrecy in planning is almost certain to provoke a major row at the Greater London Council over a proposed development scheme in the Bankside area between Blackfriars Bridge and Southwark Bridge.

The GLC is currently considering plans for the building of a mammoth office and computer centre for Lloyds on the South Bank of the Thames opposite St Paul's.

Yet drawings or models of the £10m scheme by Edger Investments have not yet been shown to the public—although the plans are reported to have been known for at least a year.

The scheme is for a block 125 ft high, 160 ft wide and 500 ft deep between Blackfriars railway viaduct and the Bankside power station. When completed it would house a computer centre for Lloyds Bank and contain 500,000 sq ft of offices.

The local council and community groups fear that the scheme may receive GLC

approval without their views having even been asked.

Southwark Council and the community groups complain that the probable appearance of the development has been kept a 'deadly secret'.

Said a spokesman for the North Southwark Community Development Group: 'We only knew this week the plans were going through. I think there has been a deliberate conspiracy of silence on this issue.'

And though the scheme is in the Southwark borough, the council cannot block the plans—if it wanted to—since the area falls within the development area controlled by the GLC. According to a council spokesman officials can only make 'observations'.

A spokesman for Edger Investments has said a model of the scheme does exist, but it is in the hands of the GLC or Southwark Council.

He added that to publish details 'at this stage' would be 'premature' and offend the planners. He denied that the block would appear bulky since it was set 70 ft from the river and flanked the railway viaduct.

# RUBBER MONOPOLY KILLS 700 ESSEX JOBS

Two factories in Essex belonging to the London Rubber group will be closed early in the New Year putting almost 700 men out of work.

The company is to shut down and sell off its Chingford plant employing 230 and its Hall Lane works which employs 566 workers. Production director, Robert Larkin said the closures were part of a 'production shake-up'.

He said: 'Reorganization has been due to the continual rise in total manufacturing costs particularly in terms of inter-site transportation and the final distribution of products.'

'The company has tried as far as possible to mitigate the effect of the reorganization on employment. In particular there is complete job security for at least the next 12 months at Hall Lane.'

London Rubber has been at

the Hall Lane site since 1941 and at Chingford since 1949.

The company has said the reorganization will not affect the 1,850 workers at the manufacturing site on the North Circular Road.

The Monopolies Commission is currently investigating the contraceptive industry for alleged monopolistic practices.

This follows an attack on the London Rubber Company by Leo Abse, Labour MP. 'This monopolistic company, which manufactures 95 per cent of the rubber sheaths used in Britain, has a long history of social irresponsibility.'

'It has protected its inordinate profits in the past and present by the most ruthless methods. To ensure no competition would emerge it has taken over or crushed almost all who have entered this field.'

Chairman of the group is Sir Edward Howard, the Lord Mayor of London.

# STEEL JOBS TO GO

The steel foundry and engineering group F. H. Lloyd Holdings is to shut its Grazebrook Foundry at Dudley, Worcestershire, and axe 70 jobs.

It says the move is unavoidable 'because of the declining trend in the foundry's special market outlets'. As far as could be foreseen, this tendency would continue.

The depressed state of the heavy engineering industry made it impossible to forecast a viable future for the company, a statement said.

News of the closure comes just a year after the group, which has a total labour force of around 7,000 made 122 foundry workers redundant.

For some time Grazebrook Foundry has been failing to make a profit.

The group's last annual report, when overall pre-tax profits of £1.47m on sales of £33.24m were disclosed for the year to April 1, 1972 (against £1.87m and £34.86m in the preceding 12 months) said that it had been hit by reduced sales causing it to turn in a small loss.



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 FOUR

In 1968 a group led by Edmund Samarakkody, a member of the International Executive Committee of the Pabloite Unified Secretariat broke away from the LSSP (R) and a year later levelled serious charges at its secretary Bala Tampoe, and at the rest of the party's leadership, many of whom also held leading positions in the Ceylon Mercantile Union.

Samarakkody accused Tampoe of being an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency.

A 'Ceylon Commission' then established by the Unified Secretariat found that:

(1) Tampoe accepted a trip to the United States in 1967, financed by the Asia Foundation—a well-known recipient of CIA funds.

(2) He attended a private luncheon party at the residence of the British High Commissioner during the 1966 plantation workers' strike—which was also attended by Thondaman, a trade union leader who was playing an open strike-breaking role against the plantation workers. (3) He attended a dinner party at the West German Embassy in honour of ex-Nazi Kiesinger. (4) He wrote to Mrs Bandaranaike in January 1966 in his capacity as CMU general secretary implying support for the imposition of a curfew in response to 'violence' in Colombo. (5) His union refused to support the strikes that followed

devaluation of the rupee in 1967.

(6) While in Washington he held a meeting with Defence Secretary McNamara, shortly to become President of the World Bank.

Despite these findings, the Unified Secretariat, at its Third World Congress since its 'reunification', not only voted to retain the LSSP (R) as its Ceylonese section, but also unanimously elected Tampoe to its International Executive Committee.

The Commission had concluded, mildly, that 'in none of these instances is there any evidence that the party took what the Commission considered a policy consistent with revolutionary Marxism', but went on to say that 'some comrades felt they might be explained in the context of Ceylonese political and trade union life'.

Despite the minority report of its Indian members—who argued that the LSSP(R) had placed itself 'in the camp of the enemy as opposed to workers in action'—the Commission's only ruling was that Tampoe should cease to be the secretary of both the LSSP(R) and CMU.

This ruling was placidly ignored and no one did anything about it.

On the contrary, exactly the same relations have been maintained with Bala Tampoe and the LSSP(R) as had previously been maintained with Goonewardene and Perera of the LSSP. That is, completely unprincipled relations with no discussion of the real political issues involved covering up serious degeneration.

Supporters of the Unified Secretariat are kept ignorant of what its Ceylonese section

is doing. Its praises are loudly sung in public while, in private, it is admitted that the LSSP(R) has acted and is still acting, in a way 'inconsistent with revolutionary Marxism'.

No fight is taken up with Tampoe because to do that would reveal the profoundly anti-Trotskyist nature of the whole of the Unified Secretariat.

Instead, the October 9, 1972, issue of Hansen's 'Intercontinental Press' reprints without comment a resolution of the Ceylon Mercantile Union on the Bandaranaike repressions 'signed by Bala Tampoe, general secretary of the CMU'.

This resolution declares that 'the union should devote special attention in the period ahead to the regroupment of mass forces under the independent leadership of the working class in accordance with socialist principles'.

It proposes to do this, however, without mentioning Trotskyism or the Fourth International. Instead it calls upon 'all those who value human or democratic rights' to join in a nationwide one-day hunger strike'.

But 'Intercontinental Press' is not the only Pabloite journal to cover up for Bala Tampoe.

The October 2, 1972, issue of 'Red Mole', for instance, refers to the resolutions of support for striking bank workers from 'the CMU whose secretary, Bala Tampoe, is a leading member of the LSSP(R), Ceylonese section of the Fourth International'.

No mention has been made, at any time, in 'Intercontinental Press', 'Red Mole' or any other Pabloite publication of the investigation the Unified Secretariat was forced to make

into the activities of Tampoe and the LSSP(R).

Instead, the Pabloites cover up for Tampoe as they previously covered up for Perera.

The same issue (October 2) of 'Red Mole' which shields Tampoe — although leading members of the International Marxist Group must know of the charges proved against him—launches a fierce attack on Frederick Engels.

Marx's closest collaborator is accused of parliamentary illusions, revisionism, fatalism, and 'passivity in the face of the class struggle'. We quote from 'Red Mole':

'... the profoundly ambiguous legacy of Engels ... is shown both in his great illusions in parliamentarism and his revisionist views on the question of philosophy. These two ideas, which in Engels always remained eclectically combined with revolutionary and Marxist views, were built upon by Engels' literary inheritors Bernstein and Kautsky.

'They lead to a complete fatalism and consequent passivity in the face of the class struggle ... The philosophical origins of this fatalism, of course, lie in those revisions of Marxism introduced by Engels in his later works. Here Engels reverted to the Hegelian idea of a "Dialectic of Nature".'

'It is true that there are certain important passages in the "Dialectics of Nature" which go against this concept, but the general effect was to bring about a reconciliation between Marxism and classical materialism ... once this road has been taken, the way is open for every possible crude brand of determinism, fatalism and any theory which justifies passivity.'

Top left: Bala Tampoe, secretary of the Pabloite LSSP(R), a man who is known to have associated with the CIA and who during the April 1971 revolt was allowed complete freedom while thousands of trade unionists and militants were jailed. Right: During the April revolt, a mother weeps for her son, executed by the army.

No clearer sign of the nauseating degeneration of Pabloite revisionism could be given than this incredible, arrogant attack on Engels in the same issue of a paper which deliberately conceals the treachery of a leading member of their international, known to have associated with the CIA.

The record is clear. This is the way Pabloism destroys Trotskyism, demoralizes supporters and betrays and deceives the working class.

That is why the International Committee of the Fourth International considers Pabloite revisionism a major obstacle on the road to revolution which must be destroyed. In 1966 we declared:

'The development and growth of the Socialist Labour League is directly related to the struggle against Pabloite revisionism and the degeneration of the SWP. There can be no compromise on these issues.

'The Socialist Labour League is out to destroy Pabloism and its SWP accomplices. There can be and, we repeat, there never will be a compromise on these questions—the fight will go on until we destroy the Pabloites and the revisionist SWP.'

The case of Bala Tampoe has, if that were possible, only strengthened our determination to carry out this task.

<sup>†</sup> 'Problems of the Fourth International'. G. Healy (1966).



# MANCHESTER: TENANTS FIGHT THE TORIES

BY STEPHEN JOHNS PHOTOGRAPHS BY P. J. ARKELL

Last week Mrs Chadwick came out of Manchester town hall and started to cry. Her purse was empty and she had to get back home to Moston on the northern edge of the city. At 71 she is too old to walk.

The sudden and desperate shortage of cash was caused by the new Tory rent increases.

Mrs Chadwick is one of the many Manchester old-aged pensioners penalized because of delays in the benefit which are meant to make up for the rent increase.

She had to pay the increase. And that took her money for fares and food. Many old people in Manchester live on a boiled egg a day and the line between survival and starvation is wafer thin.

Mrs Chadwick is a victim. There are many more, living in the 93,000 dwellings owned by the corporation, fortunately not half so helpless as her.

The Manchester working class has begun to fight back. The city has become the centre of the rents revolt and the estates echo with the now familiar call: 'Hey, Hey we won't pay!' The windows display the little yellow sign 'No Rent Increase Here' and many a frustrated collector has left his beat after meeting the tenants' commando squad, there to make sure no one is harassed into paying the increase.

The resistance spreads from the forboding barrack-like schemes in the centre, to the sprawling overspill estates built where greater Manchester meets the flat Cheshire countryside.

Everywhere tenants are united by a sense of outrage at a government that has pushed them beyond the limits of patience.

But the rents are not an issue in themselves. They have become a focus for the general hatred working-class people in Manchester feel for the Tory government. Even the title 'tenant' is misleading. The tenant, after all, is the young housewife faced with rising prices, the worker whose wages are continually under attack, the low paid who must subject themselves to a humiliating means test before they escape the £1 increase and, of course, the old who have been discarded by the employers as useless after a life of exploitation.

The size of the revolt is subject to much speculation. Joe Dean, Labour chairman of Manchester's housing committee, told me on the sixth day

of the increase that 3 per cent to 3½ per cent of tenants were withholding the increase imposed by his council.

I would certainly dispute these figures on the basis of personal experience on many estates in greater Manchester.

In Ardwick, Beswick, Collyhurst, Miles Platting and Hulme, the figure I would estimate is nearer 50 per cent. In many outlying districts it may drop—but not in all. One of the fiercest battles is being fought on the estates around Altrincham, in Cheshire.

Here, save for the rather standardized buildings, one could be in the businessman's belt, but opposition to the increase has been put as high as 75 per cent—certainly in one street I investigated, two out of three people said they were not paying the £1.

Resistance and struggle brings with it political experience. One of the biggest eye-openers has been the behaviour of the controlling Labour groups throughout the Manchester area.

Once there was a solid wall of resistance, Salford, Stockport, Oldham, Ashton and Manchester corporation themselves all spat in defiance at the Tory legislation. But one by one they have crumbled to the rule of law—even if it is unjust Tory law.

Only Eccles stands unmoved, protecting the 5,600 council homes from the increase. The councillors have two weeks to fall into line. If they do not the Tory housing chief Peter Walker will put in his commissioner.

So far there are no cracks in the Eccles resistance and housing chairman David Lancaster says he is prepared to break the law.

The Housing Finance Act went through most councils because enough Labour renegades voted with the minority Conservative or Liberal group to ensure safe passage for the Tory legislation.

This has provoked a bitterness on the estates that the councillors find difficult, if not impossible, to comprehend. They generally dismiss the activists as irresponsible, subversive or politically motivated.

Their reasons for their betrayal are basically quite crude. They amount to defence of career, capital or political reputation, plus a fear of jail.

An incident on Salford council—which meekly climbed down last week and reversed its decision not to implement the Act—is characteristic:

Councillor Ivor Zott, chairman of the Labour-controlled housing committee is urging implementation (Mr Zott has been known to describe himself as a Marxist!).

"I am very anxious about this. You can bring this city to



Top: The tenants posse attacks Fort Ardwick, a forbidding group of flats in Manchester where resistance to the Tory rent increase is fierce. Above: The rent man—the Fort Ardwick collector appeals to the police as tenants demonstrate against the Tory Housing Finance Act. Unions like NALGO, which organize many collectors, have promised to back them if they were victimized for refusing to help implement the Act.

a halt and make yourself a bankrupt corporation.

"This council meeting is the Last Supper as far as the Labour Party is concerned. The question of rent and the council tenants does not apply now. You are really faced with self-preservation in the interests of socialism, and with making sure you are not barred from public office for five years for refusing to implement the Act.

"I think you should now be bold enough to say: 'We have had second thoughts about the Act and we will agree to implement it.' It is a pitiful situation."

"Cllr H. Williams asked if Cllr Zott was asking the council to change its mind. If so he should say so clearly.

"Cllr Zott: 'I do say so. I am trying to protect my career, among other things'." (Extracts from the 'Salford City Reporter', October 6, 1972.)

The cry among Manchester councillors is the same. The Manchester Trades Council met the controlling Labour Group on the corporation and promised them full backing if the government victimized councillors (the powerful Manchester AUEW district committee has also gone on record for industrial action if councillors are penalized).

But Joe Dean, the Labour chairman of the housing com-

mittee, was not impressed.

"I don't think the backing was there quite frankly," he told me. "When we met the Trades Council one councillor asked if the help they offered would cover in full any financial indemnity he would suffer. They said no. Now I don't want anyone cheering me into jail. I might lose my house and I don't want to—I want to know if they are going to make up that loss."

Mr Dean—a member of the AUEW and a shop floor worker at AEI's giant Trafford Park works, also doubts if a call to action would get any support from the rank and file in the unions.

Colin Davies, secretary of Manchester Trades Council, is vehemently opposed to these views. He says the councillors have cut themselves adrift from the feeling in the wider labour movement.

"The Labour councillors, I believe, are out of step with the tenants and even the rank and file in their own Party," he told me. "They simply don't realize the bitterness their back tracking has caused on this issue. It is really a historic collapse. They have shown no faith in the tenants or their supporters in the labour movement to resist this increase."

"We would not have the situation today where many tenants are left to take a stand

alone if they had put up a fight as they promised. It is really a serious question."

On this issue Mr Davies is undoubtedly correct. What fears Manchester tenants do have for resisting the Act are inspired by a feeling of isolation. The usual question is 'what happens when they come round to evict me?'

Labour councillors in every ward of the city were in a position to go out onto the estates (where people faithfully return them to office each year) and explain that their council was asking them to resist, that they had the whole strength of the Labour Party behind them and that they would not be alone in the struggle against the Tories.

In these circumstances the resistance would have been near 100 per cent—you don't come across any tenants who actually support the Act!

Instead Labour councillors have abandoned their resistance in order to keep their positions in local government. This, they say, is protecting socialism on local councils. Just how socialism can be defended by abandoning basic rights won by the working class—like council housing—they do not explain.

So the tenants are left alone to face any penalties imposed for resisting the 92p increase. Joe Dean doubts if the

Labour-controlled council would initiate any eviction proceedings. But he does point out that the public auditor can begin his own proceedings through the city treasurer independent of council instruction.

This would lead to an action in a civil court where the tenant—for what it is worth—would have the right to representation.

The struggle in Manchester so far has been largely confined to street action designed to encourage the biggest possible response to the rent increase strike. This has successfully spread the resistance, but in itself it is inadequate.

The Housing Finance Act is not just a rent increase. Its root aim is to destroy public housing. Already Manchester—perhaps the biggest housing authority in England and Wales—finds the cost of schemes border on the ceiling fixed by central government.

The government allows the cost of each project to exceed a set maximum by 10 per cent. But future projects in Manchester will run 20 per cent above the maximum because of land prices and interests charges.

With increase in rents, this cost escalation threatens the city's council dwelling programme—which stretches to

1976—with destruction.

Joe Dean does not think this will happen in Manchester. He believes the new Tory gimmick—of subsidies for areas of special need—will apply in the city. But almost every Labour housing chief thinks the same and the Tories have given no evidence of their love for massive council house building programmes.

What is at stake in Manchester, therefore, is not just another Tory attack on living standards, but a bid to deprive the whole working class of a basic right. As such the challenge can only be taken up by the whole working class.

Many tenant activists, particularly those influenced by the Communist Party and International Socialist factions in the Manchester fight, maintain that the struggle must be kept to rents only.

The logic of this position, of course, is that the Tory government can be 'persuaded' or 'forced' to abandon its plans to destroy council housing.

This is an illusion. The parallel with the Industrial Relations Act immediately springs to mind. The massive resistance against this legislation has not forced the Tories to abandon the court—on the contrary it is now recognized by the entire trade union leadership.

Within the resistance to rent increases and the Housing Finance Act there is a big political question. It is as well tenants recognize this. Either this government is forced from office by the united action of all sections of the working class, or the tenants will lose their basic right of cheap council housing.

The tenants must urgently pursue this perspective. It demands a unity in action with trade unions fighting similar struggles and a firm recognition that their struggle is political.

Tuesday: The tenants' struggle is discussed by their leader, Labour councillors and trade unionists.





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

# HOW THE WORKERS WON THE VOTE

## PART NINE

Engels predicted correctly that the working-class electorate would become a mere tool in the existing bourgeois parliamentary system unless their new strength was channelled into the creation of a Labour Party.

The TUC continued to put pressure on governments for further extension of the franchise and improvement in labour conditions. The Reform League of 1866 was perpetuated for a number of years in a Labour Representation League aimed at getting working men elected to parliament. But neither of these organizations fought for independent working-class politics.

A few workers won parliamentary seats (two in 1874, three in 1880). But these men stood as Liberals and faithfully 'tail-ended' Liberal Party policies.

So Disraeli's 'Leap in the Dark' posed no immediate threat to the existing economic or political system.

The mass of low-paid workers continued to live in bad housing, to suffer bad health, long working hours and unemployment.

The 'labour leaders' were safely harnessed to British imperialism. They obtained for their followers merely a small portion of the immense wealth reaped from Free Trade and the colonies.

As Trotsky wrote: '... the greater the success with which Britain applied force to other peoples, the greater was the degree of "gradualness" which she was able to realize within her own boundaries.'

In the late 19th century the difference of principle, and even of social composition, between the Liberal and Tory parties was minimal. Both bourgeois parties had become experts at 'rocking the parliamentary swing from right to left, and from left to right', so as to give discontented voters the illusion of choice at elections.

## THE IRISH ISSUE

But both parties stood firmly for the maintenance of Britain's position as the leading capitalist power in the world. The mythology of imperialism ('painting the map red') was popularized during Disraeli's ministry, 1874-1878.

But when Gladstone's Liberal party came to power in 1880, his earlier moral outrage at the results of imperialism succumbed to the economic demands of capitalism. In 1882 he forcibly annexed Egypt. A few years later a whole wing of the Liberal party, led by Joseph Chamberlain, took a leading role in the British annexation of African countries.

Ireland is supposed, by many historians, to have been the main issue dividing Tories

from Liberals in this period. But Gladstone's Land Bills and even his Home Rule attempts, were measures of pure expediency.

Davitt's Land League threatened the whole basis of landlordism in Ireland. British ruling-class fears that it might prove an example for the agricultural poor in England is reflected in the fact that the Tory Land Act of 1903 went far further than Gladstone's measures!

Even if the Home Rule Bills of 1886 and 1893 had been passed, they would have kept Ireland tied more closely to Britain than any other colony. Gladstone's basic aim was to preserve the unity of the Empire. Politically, he hoped to take advantage of the bourgeois nature of Parnell's nationalism to win him away from the 'extremism' of Davitt's organization.

Both Gladstone and Parnell thought the Tories might introduce a Home Rule Bill on similar pragmatic grounds, which accounts for the electoral manoeuvres of 1886.

Both Liberal and Tory parties accepted, after the 'success' of the 1867 Reform Act, that a further measure of parliamentary reform was inevitable. Indeed, they welcomed it, each planning to win new voters to their ranks, and at all costs to prevent the development of independent working-class politics.

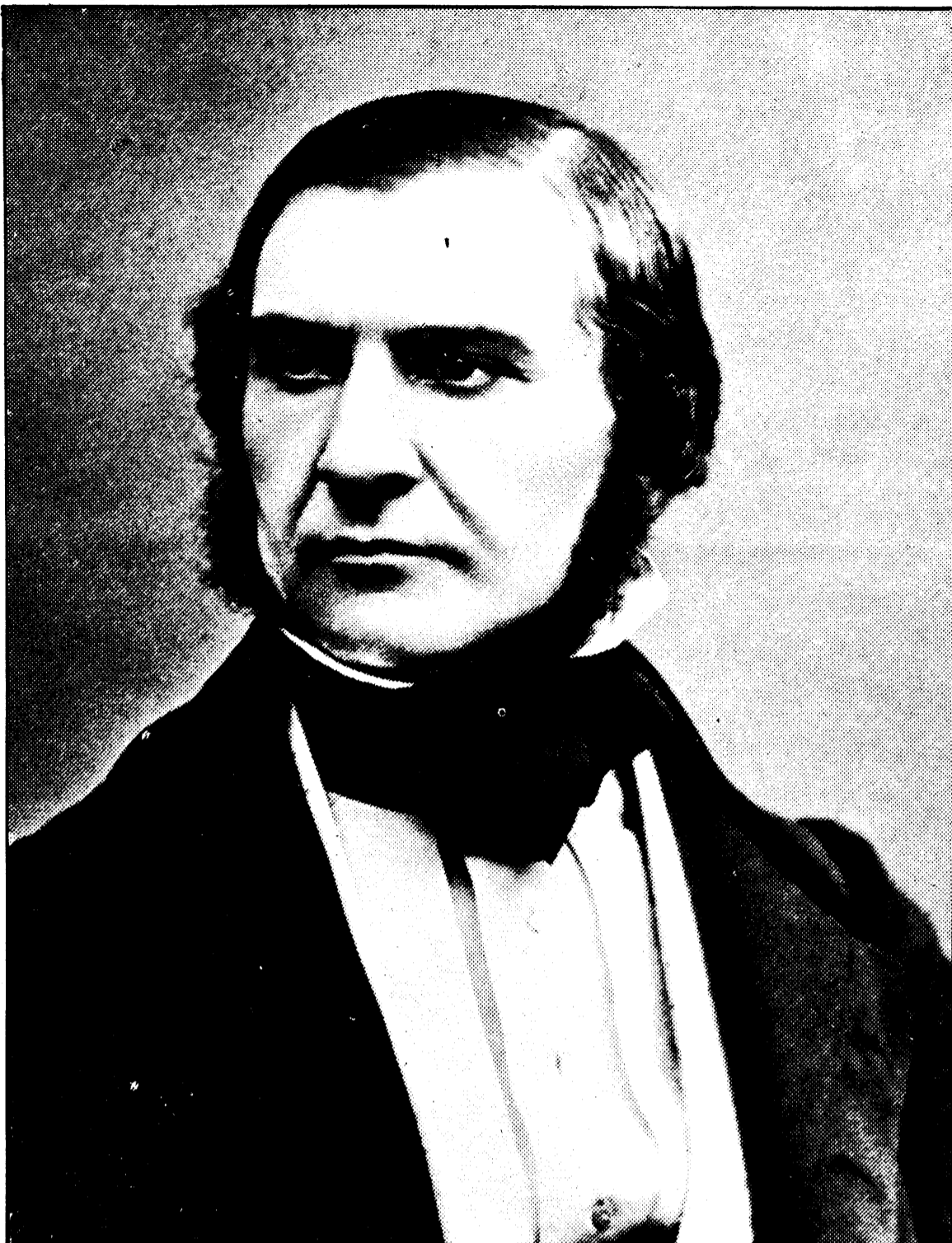
The 1884 Reform Act was therefore carried in a very different manner from its predecessors. In 1832 and 1867, reform had been chiefly the result of great working-class campaigns, meeting resistance from a ruling class which feared the threat to its ownership of property and control of the state machine. In 1884 the trade union movement was solidly behind the Reform Bill (as a demonstration of over 100,000 in London showed). But they did not force the government to take up the question. Gladstone introduced the Bill simply because he believed it would strengthen the existing Liberal Party.

A recently-published book by A. Jones ('The Politics of Reform, 1884') gives a detailed account of the passage of the Bill through parliament. It sheds a good deal of light (unintentionally!) on the unprincipled nature of both parties' political tactics.

Disagreement over Gladstone's proposals for the redistribution of seats caused the House of Lords to throw out the first Bill. A second Bill, giving slightly more weight to the traditionally Tory 'county' interests was successful, owing to secret bargaining between the party leaders, Gladstone and Salisbury.

According to the Liberal MP Sir Charles Dilke, if the government was defeated the Tories would 'come in and carry the same Bill'!

The House of Commons and the House of Lords was impotent in the face of the backstairs deal made by the party leaders. It was in vain for the Liberal 'Manchester Guardian'



Top: the Liberal, Gladstone, who sought to preserve the Empire. Above: Charles Parnell, leader of the Irish members at Westminster.

to protest that these methods were 'a usurpation of the office and powers of parliament'.

Such liberal idealists have never learnt that, in order to rescue 'parliamentary freedom' at awkward moments, its supposed defenders will always resort to undemocratic methods!

For 'parliamentary freedom' and 'democracy' are not ends in themselves: they are merely the means to an end. If the 'end', i.e. the rule of private property, seems threatened, then no one shows less compunction about throwing 'democracy' overboard than the parliamentarians.

It was Gladstone who first introduced the 'guillotine', to force through his Irish meas-

ures in 1881. This means of curbing parliamentary debate has been frequently used by Tory, Liberal and Labour governments ever since—e.g. during the Common Market debate.

Backstairs deals between party leaders have also become commonplace—e.g. over policy for Northern Ireland. This is part of the great tradition of the 'Mother of parliaments'!

## WORKERS MAJORITY

In its final form, the 1884 Reform Act gave the householders in the counties the same rights as those in the boroughs. The Tories had a

lot of faith in the 'deference' of agricultural labourers to the political convictions of their landlords (who had plenty of opportunities to 'influence' recalcitrants). So they were not unduly alarmed at the large number of new voters, which sent the percentage of adults entitled to vote up from 16 per cent (1867) to 28½ per cent.

For the first time working-class voters became the numerical majority of the electorate. As usual, the redistribution of seats tended to keep the industrial areas under-represented. As late as 1926, Trotsky calculated that it took twice as many voters to elect a Labour MP than to elect a Tory.

In 1884 both Liberals and Tories believed they could 'manage' the working-class vote. But the 1880s saw the beginning of the change in Britain's world economic position which was eventually to undermine class collaboration both in politics and industry. Production continued to increase, but profit levels were falling. People began to talk about a 'Great Depression'.

Its effects were first felt in agriculture. Improved methods of transport began to flood 'free trade' Britain with cheap grain from the United States and with frozen meat from Australia and New Zealand.

Soon, competition began to seriously threaten Britain's industrial and commercial supremacy as well. In the 1870s and 1880s Germany and the USA had increased their output of coal and iron far faster than Britain; and while falling profit levels discouraged investment in Britain, the newer industrial countries took an early lead in such fields as the electrical and chemical trade, with all the advantages of up-to-date equipment and high expenditure on technological research.

CONTINUED ON MONDAY.



# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## SICK

Every day for the past few months two policemen have turned out on duty at the Midland Cold Storage depot at Hackney in east London.

They are there, of course, to keep 'law and order' while the pickets are picketing.

This Tuesday there was only one on duty.

Where was his mate?

'He's down the road a bit,' one of the pickets replied.

Why's that?

'He can't stand the smell from the Oxo factory. It makes him sick.'

Send for Dixon of Dock Green!

## MOTERING CORRUPTION

The 'Guardian's' motoring correspondent, Ian Breach, has just resigned from his trade and revealed all about the corruption in his particular department. His revelations have caused a huge uproar in the circle of sycophants who live around the big car companies.

When the senior motoring correspondent of one large Sunday newspaper heard about the Breach article, he shouted: 'Why don't they do an exposé of the travel department.'

Good point. But where would it all end? You'd have to start on the political correspondents. And then, perhaps, the editors and proprietors...

## MARBLES

A number of businesses have sprung up in the United States adopting the same techniques as Investors Overseas Services, the international offshore fund started by Bernie Cornfeld.

All the leading finance writers spent the 1960s lavishing praise on Cornfeld's maverick style.

With the virtual collapse of IOS, some of the pundits are rethinking their previous endorsements. The 'Forbes' business magazine has recalled one of the guiding principles of Bernie's wizardry: 'Find a hole in the fence. Pick up all the marbles you can and run through the hole.'

## 'JUDGE'

D. N. Pritt, QC, who died in May aged 84, still the most craven apologist for Stalinism and the Moscow trials, received a very fitting memorial service last week.

It was held in the Temple Church with all the pomp surrounding such a reverent occasion. And indeed the dispensers of bourgeois law flocked to pay respects to the man who spent his life giving judicial blessing to the Stalin frame-up trials.

There were many High Court judges and Law Lords. Among the worshippers were the Lords Diplock and Cross of Chelsea. On July 26 these two noble Lords, in the company of three others, found against the Transport and General Workers' Union in the Heaton case and established once more the precedent of the infamous Taff Vale judgement.

Jack Jones and the TUC complained bitterly about the House of Lords decision, alleging it was rushed and took no account of the union's evidence.

We leave you with Pritt's comments on the first Moscow Trials of 1936, to show what sort of 'judge' he was in his day.

... once again we can feel confident that when the smoke has rolled away from the battlefield of controversy it will be realized that the charge [against Zinoviev] was true, the confessions correct and the prosecution fairly conducted...

Below: Zinoviev



# MOSCOW GREETS THE BUTCHER SHAH

Stalinist Crisis. By John Spencer

The Soviet Union is to help Iran to develop its metallurgy, oil and gas industries and its electric power and transport under a 15-year treaty signed recently.

The pact was concluded by the foreign ministers of the two countries in the presence of the Shah, who then left Moscow for a VIP tour of Soviet Asia. The text of the treaty was published in the Communist Party newspaper 'Pravda'.

The Soviet leaders have cultivated close ties with the Shah who runs one of the most bloodthirsty, anti-communist dictatorships in the world. He gained personal power in a CIA-backed coup in August 1953, overthrowing premier Mohammed Mossadeq.

The CIA spent \$40m to achieve the coup, according to Fred Cook, author of an exposé of the US intelligence organization. The front man for the coup was General Zahedi, a former Nazi spy who was imprisoned by the British during the war.

The coup was followed by a White Terror which continues to this day. In the 19 years since the overthrow of Mossadeq, more than 5,000 Iranians have been murdered, among them a former Foreign Minister and many officers. Much of the repression was borne by the Tudeh (Communist) Party, which supports Moscow.

The terror is organized by the secret police, SAVAK, with technical advice from former SS-Brigade Fuehrer Fritz Katz-

man, who was in charge of the Nazi extermination of the Galician Jews. His regime has received colossal American handouts, three-quarters of which go on the armed forces.

The Shah himself owns 10,000 villages — more than half the country's arable land. He also has the monopoly of the opium plantations which are the source of much of the western heroin trade. An estimated 20 per cent of Iranians under 30 have become addicts since the coup, largely as a result of the activities of the Shah's 'pushers'.

In 1959 his sister, Princess Ashraf, who recently visited China to a fulsome welcome from the Peking bureaucrats, and is currently being feted by the Tito regime in Yugoslavia, was arrested by the Swiss police with several suitcases full of heroin.

During his visit to the USSR, the Shah was given the full red-carpet treatment. He even went with Queen Farah to lay a wreath in the Lenin mausoleum, with the full approval of the Kremlin leaders.

Their wives, together with the inevitable Soviet woman cosmonaut, turned out at a tea party in the Grand Kremlin Palace in honour of Queen Farah and both she and her husband later visited the Bolshoi Theatre, accompanied by President Podgorny and other leaders.

At a banquet in his honour the Persian despot exchanged toasts with President Podgorny. He said relations between the two countries were 'a model of good neighbourliness

Above: the anti-communist Shah of Iran visiting Lenin's Mausoleum in Moscow after signing the 15-year oil and gas treaty.

between two nations and two peoples'.

Similar sentiments were expressed by the Soviet leader and Moscow Radio described Soviet-Iranian relations as 'developing and growing stronger with every passing year'. The pact between the two regimes is clear evidence that this is indeed the case.

In addition to Soviet industrial aid the two countries are to balance their trade, which has hitherto been substantially in the USSR's favour. The Soviet Union is now importing Iranian natural gas and the balance of trade is now more even.

Under the treaty the Soviet Union and Iran expressed readiness to take part in economic, trade and transport co-operation with other countries in the region.

The fields of economic and technological co-operation foreseen in the pact include ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, the oil, gas, petrochemical and chemical industries, engineering, agriculture, irrigation and fisheries.

It also provides for geological prospecting for solid minerals and oil, training of Iranian technologists, consultations on technological development and protection of the human environment.

Collaboration in the design and construction of power stations, transmission lines and industrial projects and in expanding transport links is also foreseen.

electoral pact and to emphasize its mild reformist nature.

There is thus a contradiction between the Party's claims of big successes and increasing support and the growing difficulty it has in selling its papers.

Whatever effect the common programme may be having in some circles, the party is not able to generate much enthusiasm from the working class in general, the youth or even many of its own militants. Its leaders in the apparatus of the CGT unions have been at their old game of holding back the working class and negotiating small wage increases with the government.

It wants to prevent a wave of strikes this autumn because it fears that this could destroy its electoral prospects which are based on an alliance with the Socialists and Radicals.

# FRENCH CP PRESS IN TROUBLE

By Tom Kemp

While the French Communist Party claims to have recruited over 40,000 new members this year, its Press is under heavy financial pressure.

Receipts from 'L'Humanité-Dimanche' which used to meet part of the loss on the daily 'L'Humanité' have been falling and rigid economies have been called for.

The premises occupied by the daily paper are to be vacated and let to raise money. The literary weekly 'Les Lettres Françaises' has already been closed down for political as well as financial reasons. Other journals are under sentence of death.

Meanwhile the Party is turned completely towards the preparations for the March 1973 elections. The aim of selling 590,000 copies of the common electoral programme with the Socialist Party is still very far short of fulfilment. Sales to date amount to 135,000 copies.

Party branches have been urged to step up sales. Efforts are being made to extend the

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## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 11.10 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Puffin. 11.40 Bonanza. 12.30 London. 5.10 On the buses. 5.40 London. 7.00 Film: 'Namu, the Killer Whale'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 All our yesterdays. 11.55 Weather.

**WESTWARD. As Channel except:** 10.45 Make a wish. 11.35 Gus Honeybun. 11.55 Faith for life. 12.00 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoe-string. 10.10 All our yesterdays. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Man from Uncle. 12.00 Merrie melodies. 12.27 Weather. 12.30 London. 5.10 Smith family. 5.40 London. 7.00 Film: 'Maya'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Nelson. 11.40 News. 11.50 Spyforce. 12.40 Weather. Guide-line.

**HARLECH:** 9.00 London. 9.50 Bugs Bunny. 10.00 Tomfoolery. 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 Follyfoot. 12.00 Farming diary. 12.30 London. 6.10 UFO. 6.10 London. 7.00 Columbo. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.40 Name of the game. 12.55 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except:** 5.10 Dora. 5.40-6.10 Sion a sian.

**ANGLIA:** 9.00 London. 10.00 Sean the leprechaun. 10.15 Rovers. 10.40 Film: 'Rhino'. 12.15 Cartoon. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Rounders'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'The Curse of Frankenstein'.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoe-string. 10.10 Lord Mountbatten. 11.00 MGM cartoon. 11.05 Tomfoolery show. 11.30 London. 12.00 Elephant boy. 12.30 London. 5.15 It takes a thief. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Carry On, Follow That Camel'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.25 Film: 'Ill Met By Moonlight'. Weather.

**ULSTER:** 11.00 Thunderbirds. 12.00 Woobinda. 12.30 London. 5.15 Flintstones. 5.40 Sportscast.

**CHANNEL:** 11.00-12.25 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Frankie and Johnny'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Two Rode Together'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Avengers. 12.05 Epilogue. Weather.

**WESTWARD. As Channel except:** 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 12.25 Gardening today. 12.55 Collecting on a shoe-string. 1.20 Smith family. 1.45 Gus Honeybun. 1.50 Farm and country news. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.15 Talking hands. 9.30 London. 10.30 Farm progress. 10.57 Weather. 11.00 London. 12.30 Bush boy. 1.00 Superman. 1.20 How. 1.50 Hogan's heroes. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Sea Devils'. 4.55 News. 5.05 Fenn Street gang. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.25 On the buses. 7.55 Film: 'Genghis Khan'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Strange report. 12.10 Frighteners. 12.35 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 10.35 Time to remember. 11.00 London. 12.25 Talking hands. 12.45 Journey of a lifetime. 1.00 Let them live. 1.25 Love, American style. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Jazzboat'. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Murder By Contract'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 11.15 Avengers. 12.05 Weather.

**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 10.30 Survival. 11.00 London. 12.30 Dr Simon Locke. 12.55 Cowboy in Africa. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming. 2.30 Name of the game. 3.55 Match. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Seven Women'. 9.30 Stanley Baxter. 10.00 London. 11.15 Department S.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 London. 12.30 Citizen's rights. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Star soccer. 3.00 Film: 'Whistle Down the Wind'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Oscar'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Spyforce. 12.10 Stories worth telling. Weather.

**ULSTER:** 11.00 London. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on a shoe-string. 1.30 HR Pufnstuf. 1.55 Women only. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'The Farmer Takes a Wife'. 4.40 London. 5.35

## SATURDAY

6.10 London. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 McCloud. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Journey to the unknown.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoe-string. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 UFO. 12.00 Rugby. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Apache Rifles'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Mannix. 12.30 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoe-string. 10.05 Craftsmen. 10.40 Sesame street. 11.40 Arthur. 12.05 Clapperboard. 12.30 London. 5.10 Big valley. 6.10 London. 7.00 Mr Magoo. 7.05 Film: 'Terror in the Sky'. 8.25 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Curse of the Cat People'.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoe-string. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Film: 'Tarzan's Desert Mystery'. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Apache Rifles'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Journey to the unknown. 12.25 Epilogue.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoe-string. 10.10 Tomfoolery show. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Sounds great. 11.30 London. 12.00 Cavalcade. 12.30 London. 5.10 Bonanza. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'The Sons of Katie Elder'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Spyforce.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.15 Beagan gaidhlig. 11.30 Tomfoolery. 12.00 5.10 Batman. 5.40 Protectors. Rumble jumble. 12.30 London. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Texican'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Jason King.

## SUNDAY

Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.53 Sports. 7.55 Film: 'Merrill's Marauders'. 9.30 Stanley Baxter. 10.00 London. 11.15 Department S.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 11.00 London. 12.30 On the buses. 1.00 Farming outlook. 1.25 Calendar. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'Hot Enough For June'. 4.35 Cartoon. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Along Came A Spider'. 9.20 Emmerdale Farm. 9.30 Stanley Baxter. 10.00 London. 11.15 Strange report. 12.10 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 10.35 Time to remember. 11.00 London. 12.25 Merrie melodies. 12.55 Corwin. 1.50 Survival. 2.20 Football. 3.20 Film: 'A Window In London'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.05 Film: 'Traitor's Gate'. 9.30 Stanley Baxter. 10.00 London. 11.15 Scotland Yard casebook.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 11.00 London. 12.30 On the buses. 1.00 Farming outlook. 12.05 Something to sing about. 1.50 Where the jobs are. 1.55 Shoot. 2.50 Film: 'Hot Enough For June'. 4.40 Cartoon. 4.45 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Along Came A Spider'. 9.20 Emmerdale Farm. 9.30 Stanley Baxter. 10.00 London. 11.15 Challenge. 12.05 Poem.

**SCOTTISH:** 10.15 Master chefs. 10.30 Skilful rugby. 11.00 London. 12.30 On the buses. 1.00 Randall and Hopkirk. 2.00 Scotsport. 3.25 Film: 'The Sharkfighters'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Elephant boy. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Admirable Crichton'. 9.30 Stanley Baxter. 10.00 London. 11.15 Late call. 11.02 Strange report.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.00 London. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on a shoe-string. 1.30 Farm progress. 2.00 Scotsport. 3.25 Film: 'Green Fingers'. 4.40 London. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Above Suspicion'. 9.30 Stanley Baxter. 10.00 London. 11.15 Untouchables.

# TV

## BBC 2

11.05-12.00 Open University. 3.00 Film: 'Gunman's Walk'. Van Heffin, Tab Hunter, Kathryn Grant, James Darren. A tough rancher tries to bring up his two sons in his own image. 4.30 Play away. 4.55 Trans-African hovercraft. 5.45 Man alive.

**6.45 TELEVISION DOCTOR. 7.00 WESTMINSTER. 7.20 NEWS, SPORT. Weather. 7.35 RUGBY SPECIAL.** Wales 'B' v France 'B'.

**8.20 WAR AND PEACE.** A Letter and Two Proposals.

**9.05 FULL HOUSE.** Introduced by Joe Melia, with Charles Causley The Cornish poet. 9.25 Cantores in Ecclesia. 9.35 Two Gallants The Dubliners. 10.05 Stuart Brisley, artist, The Cannonball Adderley Quintet. 10.35 Juveniliaq.

**11.05 NEWS ON 2. Weather.**

**11.10 FILM: 'NIGHTMARE ALLEY.'** Tyrone Power, Joan Blondell, Coleen Gray. A ruthlessly ambitious fairground hustler rises to the top by exploiting his friends.

## BBC 1

10.00 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.30-10.55 Aventura. 11.40 Weather. 11.45 Mr Benn. 12.00 Harlem globetrotters. 12.20 Barrier reef. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 Football preview. 1.20, 1.50, 2.20, 2.50 Racing from Newbury. 1.35 International boxing. Les Stevens (England) v Mike Boswell (USA). 2.10, 2.35, 3.25 Motor racing from Brands Hatch. 3.05, 3.50 Rugby League. Swinton v Salford. 4.40 Final score. 5.05 Donald Duck. 5.15 Mary Tyler Moore show. 5.40 News, weather, sport. 5.55 Bruce Forsyth and the generation game.

**6.45 DIXON OF DOCK GREEN.** Gun Point.

**7.35 THE TWO RONNIES.** Ronnie Barker, Ronnie Corbett with guests Alan Price and Georgie Fame.

**8.20 FILM: 'CANNON.'** William Conrad, Vera Miles. A private investigator goes to New Mexico to solve a war buddy's murder.

**9.55 NEWS. Weather.**

**10.10 MATCH OF THE DAY.**

**11.10 PARKINSON.** Michael Parkinson.

**12.10 Weather.**

## ITV

9.00 Time off. 9.30 Collecting on a shoe-string. 9.55 Return to Peyton Place. 10.20 Sesame street. 11.20 Merrie melodies. 11.30 The Osmonds. 11.55 Junior police five. 12.00 The Partridge family. 12.30 News. 12.35 World of sport. 12.40 On the ball. 1.05 International sports special. Gaelic football. 1.20 The ITV six. 1.30, 2.00, 2.35 Racing from Stratford. 1.45, 2.20, 3.00 Racing from Doncaster. 3.10 International sports special. Rothman's canoe slalom. 3.55 Results, scores, news. 4.00 Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.10 Adventures of Black Beauty. 5.40 Sale of the century.

**6.10 NEWS FROM ITN.**

**6.15 THE ROLF HARRIS SHOW.** Guests Caterina Valente, Milo O'Shea, Bobby Crush.

**7.00 FILM: 'THE TARTARS.'** Orson Welles. Victor Mature, Liana Orfei. Drama about the Vikings and Tartars.

**8.30 THE JULIE ANDREWS HOUR.**

**9.30 UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS.** The New Man.

**10.30 NEWS FROM ITN.**

**10.40 RUSSELL HARTY PLUS.** A quest for total television.

**11.40 NEW MISSIONARIES.**

**11.45 McCLOUD.** A Little Plot at Tranquil Valley.



On BBC 2 Joe Mella (left) is the link-man for a lively mixture of music, plays, poetry, prose, comedy, films, etc. on BBC's new, two-hour Saturday series 'Full House'. Jack Lemmon (right) plays C. C. Baxter in Billy Wilder's 'The Apartment' on BBC 1 on Sunday.

## BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.00-10.25 Aventura. 11.00-11.30 Seeing and believing. 11.35 A job worth doing? 12.00 Design by design. 12.25 Search for the ideal. 12.50 Farming. 1.15 Made in Britain. 1.30 Jimmy Young asks. 1.55 News and weather. 2.00 Chigley. 2.15 Tito welcomes The Queen. 3.00 Ask Aspel. 3.20 Where there's brass. 3.45 Film: 'Father Goose'. Cary Grant, Leslie Caron, Trevor Howard. An ex-teacher becomes an island watcher for the Navy in World War II. 5.40 The hole in the wall.

**6.05 NEWS and weather.**

**6.15 A CHANCE TO MEET.** Ulster supremo William Whitelaw.

**6.50 SONGS OF PRAISE. 7.25 THE ONEDIN LINE.** Survivor.

**8.15 FILM: 'SINGING IN THE RAIN.'** Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, Debbie Reynolds. Musical set in Hollywood in the 1920s at the time of the first talking pictures.

**9.55 NEWS. Weather.**

**10.10 OMNIBUS.** Andre Previn asks the question Who Needs a Conductor?

**11.05 SYBIL THORNDIKE REMEMBERS.** A programme repeated in the week of her 90th birthday.

**12.00 Weather.**

## BBC 2

10.05-1.00 Open University. 4.00 Man at work. 4.25 Money at work. 5.25 Horizon.

**6.05 NEWS REVIEW.**

**6.50 NEWS. Weather.**

**6.55 DOUBTS AND CERTAINTIES.** Harry Williams, former Dean of Trinity College, Cambridge.

**7.25 WHO SANK THE 'LUSITANIA'?** Dramatized examination of the people and politics, facts and suspicions that surround the sinking of the Lusitania.

**8.55 S C O O P.** War-torn Ishmaelia.

**9.25 KENNETH MORE IN SIX FACES.** Around the Child. With Zena Walker, Hildegard Neil and Stacey Tendeter.

**10.10 FILM: 'THE APARTMENT.'** Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine. Billy Wilder's satire on the politics and morality of American big business.

**12.10 NEWS. Weather.**

## ITV

9.30 Morning service. 10.30 Return to Peyton Place. 11.00 Weekend world. 12.30 Forest rangers. 1.00 Thunderbirds. 1.50 Brian Connell interviews. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Persuaders. 4.20 Golden shot. 5.15 Aquarius.

**6.05 NEWS FROM ITN.**

**6.15 ADAM SMITH.**

**6.40 THE GOOD LIFE.**

**6.55 STARS ON SUNDAY. 7.25 THE FENN STREET GANG.** Smart Lad Wanted.

**7.55 FILM: 'RIDE BEYOND VENGEANCE.'** Chuck Connors, Michael Rennie, Gloria Grahame. Western.

**9.30 THE STANLEY BAXTER PICTURE SHOW.**

**10.00 NEWS FROM ITN.**

**10.15 PLAY: 'TED.'** Richard Morant, Carmen Munroe.

**11.15 THE FBI.** Blueprint For Betrayal.

**12.15 NEW MISSIONARIES.**

**12.20 SIX DATES WITH BARKER.** AD 2774. All the World's A stooge. Ronnie Barker.



# Allende gives in to right-wing strike

**PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE** has decided to surrender to the demands of the right-wing Transport Federation, whose members are now in the second week of their strike against the Popular Unity government plans for a nationalized transport system in southern Chile.

On Wednesday, Allende told bus-owners, who were intend-

ing to strike in sympathy with the lorry-owners, that strike leaders would be released, requisitioned lorries would be returned to their owners and transport would remain in the hands of private enterprise.

These conciliatory moves followed the call by the Christian Democrats for a General Strike against the government which has already

been answered by 90 per cent of shopkeepers in the capital, Santiago.

The strike continues despite Allende's appeals for peace. In yet another radio broadcast he claimed that the country was not paralysed.

'More than three million Chileans are still working for their country' and that their efforts 'had overcome the

fascist conspiracy', he said.

In Santiago yesterday, lorry loads of troops continued their patrols and stood by while police broke up a fight between pro-Allende and anti-Allende factions with tear-gas.

The Christian Democrats' General Strike is showing the complete bankruptcy of Allende's peaceful road to socialism in Chile.



Troops out in Santiago, Chile's capital

## French railmen want 8p.c.

THE FRENCH railways came to a halt yesterday as railway workers came out on a one-day strike in support of a wage increase of 8.5 per cent.

The management has offered a 6.5 per cent increase in line with their calculations that prices have risen 2 per cent this year.

The CGT, the Stalinist trade union federation and other trade unions which organize the railways maintain that prices will go up by 8 per cent this year if present trends continue.

The Stalinists back up their policy of the token strikes with the demand that fares should be increased in order to pay more wages.

## Economic facts of Czechoslovak life

'WE MUST increase imports from both socialist and communist countries, chiefly of machinery, so as to ensure sufficient modern plant for our economy' said Jozef Hvorecky, deputy chairman of the Czechoslovakian State Planning Commission, this week.

He has revealed a crucial problem of the Czech economy, its dependence on foreign trade and particularly on imports of machinery to modernize its industry. At the same time he showed that these requirements cannot be met within Comecon (the eastern trading bloc) but only by trade in the world market.

Once more the economic facts of life blow sky-high the old dogma of 'socialism in one country' so dear to the bureaucracy.

While claiming the usual over-fulfilment of plan targets for overall industrial production in the first eight months of 1972, he admitted that this concealed some serious shortcomings.

He cited excessive use of materials by industry and the lag in the completion of high-priority investment projects.

He complained that the resources tied up in unfinished investment projects and work in progress is tending to increase. This causes budgetary problems as well as confusion on the sites.

Hvorecky also admitted that there were 'marketing difficulties caused, above all, by technological backwardness of products, poor quality and also high prices'.

As an example he gave the footwear industry where over 100,000 pairs had been returned in the first half of the year owing to faults caused, he said, by using inferior materials.

Not only is the home consumer refusing to buy inferior goods, but Czech industry is finding it difficult to build up the exports which it needs to buy the machinery to modernize industry.

In addition, the universal hostility of the working class to the Husak regime is no aid to productivity or the maintenance of standards.

Behind the boasts of plan fulfilment are all sorts of distortions, wastes and inefficiencies which are a result of bureaucratic methods and the barriers between the Czech economy and the world market.

## Kremlin chiefs welcome: Sadat

ANWAR SADAT, the Egyptian president, has welcomed the decision of Kremlin leaders to visit Cairo for talks and is eager that the meeting should take place as soon as possible, informed sources in Cairo said yesterday.

A joint communiqué issued in Moscow following a visit by premier Aziz Sidky this week said Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev, premier Alexei Kosygin and President Nikolai Podgorny have accepted an invitation to visit Cairo.

Their visit is thought likely to take place next month. The Egyptian government, which has turned smartly to the right over the past 12 months, is eager to normalize its relations with Moscow.

Earlier this year, in a gesture designed to conciliate the Americans, Sadat ordered 20,000 Soviet military advisers to leave the country immediately.

It is not clear whether these military personnel, whose expertise is necessary to operate sophisticated Soviet weapons systems, will now be asked to return.

PORTUGUESE students and workers will picket the Portuguese Embassy in London today in protest against the wave of repression against students in Lisbon. Since José Ribeiro dos Santos, a law student, was murdered by secret police on October 12, police have arrested 20 students in Lisbon.

## Turkish court to give six years for book

A MILITARY tribunal in Ankara, Turkey, is due to pass sentence today on Professor Mumtaz Soysal, who faces over six years' imprisonment and two years' exile for alleged communist activity.

This is the third attempt to sentence Soysal, whose two previous convictions on the same charges were quashed by the court of appeal.

The charges against him relate to his textbook 'Introduction to the Constitution', published legally in 1968.

This book, generally regarded as the standard work on the Turkish constitution, has been decreed subversive by the present government which came to power with the imposition of martial law last year.

Socialist Labour League  
PUBLIC MEETING

### Behind the Assassination of Trotsky

A reply to Joseph Losey's film

Tuesday October 24, 8 p.m.

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Speaker: G. Healy  
(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', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross.

BRACKNELL: Monday November 6, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre. 'Councils of Action'.

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# What we think

# Behind the jobless drop

FAR FROM solving the Tories' problems, this month's fall in the unemployment figures reflect the sharp crisis of policy facing the Heath government. This crisis was pinpointed at the Lord Mayor's dinner where Chancellor Anthony Barber laid heavy stress on the fight against inflation, but admitted that since his March Budget there has been a 'probably excessive' increase in the supply of money. Measures to cut money supply and raise interest rates—which would quickly push up unemployment—were urged by Bank of England governor, Sir Leslie O'Brien. In other words the Tories have been fighting inflation with inflationary policies, but there are powerful forces within

their own ranks demanding that these weak-kneed 'consensus politics', as 'The Economist' scathingly described them last week, are quickly finished with. Action by the Tories on these lines would quickly wipe out the 76,950 fall in the total number of people registered as unemployed in Britain and Northern Ireland between the September and October counts. There is every indication that such action is already in preparation. Indeed the 'Financial Times' yesterday suggested that the improved unemployment figures themselves, together with decision to float Bank Rate, would make it 'politically easier'. The Tories' hand may be further forced by the slump in the

value of the pound on the foreign exchange markets. Already at its lowest point since the decision to float in June, this is now likely to be further depressed. Confidence in the Tories' ability to deal with the working class will not be encouraged by a fall in the jobless figures, however transient. Hard-core unemployment—the 'wholly unemployed' category in the Department of Employment's figures—has in fact decreased only 19,750 over the last month. Over 800,000 people are still in this category. And this is the level around which the hard-core figure has been fluctuating for the last 12 months. At the same time, with the latest available industrial production figures showing a 2 per cent

decline in one month, there is no indication that any of the more recent intake into jobs has gone into basic industry.

Order-book figures for the key engineering industry—and even more so its machine-tool sector, always a sensitive indicator of the long-term trend—indicate that this decline is to continue.

The Tories have found themselves unable to break the strength of the working class through unemployment.

Recently the influential Engineering Employers' Federation was complaining that despite a shake-out of 370,000 jobs from member firms over 18 months, the fight for wages was going on unabated. Workers were forcing up their earnings at a rate of 10 per cent a year.

In an attempt to buy time until they can gang up next year against the working class with the capitalists of the Common Market, the Tories and the employers have been forced towards further inflation.

But this is backed with no new investment and can quickly and dramatically collapse. The Tories' attempt to buy time in fact enormously intensifies their crisis and can lead to a further huge increase in unemployment in the very near future.

## Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

**11 DAYS TO RAISE £1,191.21**

WE STILL have a long way to go. Our total so far stands at £558.79 and frankly we are concerned. For the last two months we have noticed that the huge increases in the cost of living have greatly hit at the pockets of our readers. But more and more people are beginning to read Workers Press. Our paper alone has fought back against these attacks on living standards and prepared trade unionists for the government's statutory wages policy.

We know therefore, with a great effort over this coming weekend we can turn the situation around. We also know that when the fight is on, you have never let us down. So let's go into action immediately. Raise everything you can. Make it a very special effort. Post all donations immediately to:

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

# Cold store jobs: Fight goes on

BY IAN YEATS

AS 17 SACKED men drove in a convoy of cars out of the gates of the Midland Cold Storage, Hackney, yesterday dockers' pickets said their fight for jobs would go on.

Overnight Edmund Vestey, one of the joint owners of the depot, said registered dock workers would never be employed at any of his stores.

A statement said: 'This suggestion, apart from the precedent it sets, would be totally undesirable and completely at variance with established employment policies in the industry.'

Vestey's ruthless determination to hold down wages by refusing jobs to registered dockers was responsible for the collapse on Thursday of last-minute 'peace' talks with T&GWU national dock secretary, Tim O'Leary.

Despite Vestey Organization claims that the T&GWU were doing nothing to end the five-month-old picketing which the company say has cost them £100,000, over the past week union officials have left no stone unturned in feverish efforts to find a solution.

Tooley Street road transport official David Daniels told me yesterday: 'We have been doing as much as we possibly can, but we have not got any results.'

Last week after consultation between district and branch officials drivers in the union's No. 1 branch unanimously voted to cross dockers' picket lines and on Thursday at a meeting with Royal group docks shop stewards they issued a final warning.

According to Daniels, the following afternoon union officials were told by unnamed dock shop stewards that if negotiations with the Vestey Organization could be started the picketing would be called off.

T&GWU docks and transport section officials immediately set about arranging talks, but all their approaches to Vestey were turned down on the grounds that management was pressing for a meeting 'at a higher level'—Thursday's meeting with O'Leary.

Meanwhile the drivers' plan to break the dockers' pickets was

torpedoed when hauliers, importers and merchants unanimously refused to risk having their businesses blacked by crossing the line.

But, said Daniels: 'If they had given my lads work last week they would have been there.'

Yesterday neither Vestey nor Royal group shop stewards and dockers were prepared to shift their ground and no meetings of the dockers are planned.

Vestey's 'no registered labour in my depots' announcement coincides with a mounting campaign by the employers not only to resist the dockers' specific demands but to put an end to the National Dock Labour Scheme altogether.

This week at Hackney the battle lines for the first major clash over the scheme were drawn up.

The office staff were dismissed from the Midland Cold Storage yesterday afternoon bringing the total for the day to 27, but dockers' pickets were adamant that the sackings changed nothing. They added they would await developments.

The sacked men drove off immediately from the depot and no action is planned by the remaining cold store workers.

# Teachers' pay: Promise broken

A PROMISED increase in the wages allowance for London teachers due on November 1 has been stopped by the Tory government because of its talks with the TUC.

Angry union leaders were given this message yesterday at a meeting of the Burnham Committee, arranged to discuss their 21-per-cent pay claim.

Meanwhile outside, 300 members of the National Association of Schoolmasters who had staged a walk-out from London schools in the morning mounted a noisy lobby.



## Strike hits PA service

Some of the Press Association copytakers and staff picket the PA-Reuters building yesterday over pay and alleged victimization.

● See full story p. 3.

## Actors

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would weaken the union.

In an attack on the growing left wing in the union, who have forced the pace of the claim, he said anyone who insisted on a further fight with the theatre

managements was motivated by political or revolutionary ideals.

He was immediately seconded by the extreme right-winger Nicholas Smith who led the move to keep the union registered under the Industrial Relations Act earlier this year—a move which resulted in Equity's expulsion from the TUC.

Militants were incensed at the way the meeting was conducted.

After a perfunctory time for question and discussion—most of the comments were hostile to the deal—Equity president George Clarke accepted a demand that the five-year package be put to a vote.

This was accepted by the floor and the deal went through by 318 votes to 76.

The executive was also accused of masking the original demands of the union and boosting the concessions won from the millionaire managements of the West End Theatres Association.

Another snag is that the new agreement applies to new contracts only, though the executive believes managements will begin paying the new rates to actors already under contract.

Other parts of the deal provide for holidays, better payment for understudies and improved contract rights. But on all these issues the concessions fall short of the original demands.

The major fear, however, is over possible rises of the cost of living. Many actors felt that they will be completely unprotected against this in the coming five years.

In September education authorities had promised London teachers an allowance offer due yesterday. But Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher then told them not to pay up, but instead to adjourn the talks until November 10.

'The refusal of the government to give clearance for the offer raises serious implications about the Burnham Committee', said Edward Britton, National Union of Teachers' general secretary afterwards.

'Overall the signs are that the government intends to use

unions in the public sector to impose restrictions on wages and incomes.'

But Britton made it clear he was not opposed in principle to the TUC-CBI-Tory talks.

He could only say that any agreement reached had to include 'restrictions on rents, dividends and the earnings of self-employed people'.

The Burnham Committee now plan a joint approach to Thatcher to try and get the go-ahead on the allowance payment. It is clear, however, that the Tories intend to stand firm.