

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY OCTOBER 27, 1972 ● No 906 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

AS POUND TAKES POUNDING TORY PAY TRAP IS SPRUNG

BY ALEX MITCHELL

AS THE TUC General Council marched into Heath's parlour at No 10 Downing Street yesterday, the Foreign Exchange markets opened with the pound plunging to record low levels. The pound opened 40 points down on the overnight rate. Within minutes it fell to \$2.3535, which was 70 points lower than overnight trading.

In three consecutive days' trading the pound has plummeted to all-time low levels. Since the decision to float on June 23 the pound has dropped from \$2.60 to \$2.35—a devaluation of almost 10 per cent.

As one commentator said: 'The Tories always claimed to be the party of no devaluation. They were the great defenders of sterling. Now they are devaluing every single day of the week.'

But the powerful bankers who stand behind the Tory government want sterling devalued still further. They have been joined by 'The Times' in demanding a 'realistic' figure somewhere between \$2.20 to \$2.25.

The big devaluation—it will probably be a drop of 15 per cent—will result in the most colossal increase in the cost of living.

And on top of the huge increase in the cost of imports, working-class families will have to contend with a 10 per cent Value Added Tax (VAT) which comes into operation at the time of British entry into Europe.

Despite these glaring facts on the soaring cost of living, the TUC were closeted with the class enemy yesterday discussing a state pay plan which will give Heath the power to adjudicate the salaries of millions of workers.

The Tories have trapped the trade union leaders in a state pay plan at the same time as they are ferociously devaluing the pound.

The TUC has no mandate to continue these talks with the Tories let alone sign any pledges. As a consequence workers in all industries must repudiate any deals which are reached.

As the Tories plan to impoverish millions of workers by devaluation and hold down wages by voluntary or legislative means, there is only one answer—they must be removed from office by

the mass action of the working class.

● The talks began in Heath's parlour in the morning under the most cheery circumstances. It was discovered that AUEW president, Hugh Scanlon, was celebrating his 59th birthday so all sides—Tories, CBI and TUC—spent the opening minutes passing on good wishes to Brother Scanlon!

London Stock Exchange yesterday. Later the pound fell even further.



Power unions plan pay action

THE EXECUTIVES of the four unions in the powermen's pay dispute meet today to plan industrial action in support of their claim.

Yesterday two unions—the electricians and the general and municipal—joined the engineers and the transport and general in calling for industrial action.

Today's joint meeting is almost certain to recommend the introduction of a work-to-rule and overtime ban to start in a week's time.

Introduction of these sanctions will lead to immediate disruption of power supplies. There will be black-outs and power cuts; depending on its severity the cuts could cause widespread interference to industry.

At the last round of negotiations the Electricity Council, under instructions from the Tory government, refused to make an offer.

The resolution passed by the electricians' union calling for industrial action reveals the reluctance of the trade unions to lead an all-out fight against the government.

The lengthy proposal stresses that the unions do not want 'any unnecessary escalation' of the wages struggle.

'The Times' has already urged the government to plan ahead to defeat the power strike.

A week ago in a major editorial manifesto, the 'top people's paper' said: 'It is important that the government's arrangements for dealing with an electricity strike should have been thoroughly made. 'Simply because electrical supply is the most powerful of strikes, to survive it would offer the greatest advantage.'

As they have now taken the lead in the state pay revolt, the powermen must not be isolated.

Fleet Street is ready



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to unleash yet another blast of slanders against powerworkers in their presses which will make the 1970 hysteria look mild by comparison.

● Ray Buckton, the general secretary of ASLEF, said yesterday a General Election should be held to elect a government willing to

plan the economy properly. Buckton, who is opposed to the present TUC - Tory - CBI talks, said it was impossible for the Tories or the CBI to hold down prices.

'I don't think you can reach agreement with this government to solve this very vexed problem,' he added.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETING

BEHIND THE ASSASSINATION OF TROTSKY



a reply to Joseph Losey's film

WEDNESDAY NOV 1

'The Three Legs' The Headrow LEEDS

7.30 p.m.

Speaker: Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee)

admission 10p

workers press

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Death threat letter sent to Palestine representative

ZIONIST terror organizations have been issuing death threats to Palestinian representatives and Arab ambassadors in Britain following Israeli premier Mrs Golda Meir's promise to crush the Arab guerrillas wherever they can be found.

Said Hammami, London representative of the Palestine

Liberation Organization, told Workers Press he had received a letter from the 'World Organization for Welfare and Individual Security' threatening to murder him if he stays in Britain.

Similar threats have been issued to Arab ambassadors warning them to break off

relations with Mr Hammami or face assassination themselves. The threats are being taken seriously by Scotland Yard.

Last week the PLO representative in Rome was murdered outside his apartment by unknown gunmen and there has since been a spate of letter-

bomb attacks on Palestinian militants in Algeria, the Lebanon, Libya and Egypt.

Mr Hammami said yesterday he will not be intimidated by the Zionist terror campaign into leaving Britain: 'This is part of my work,' he said. 'We are fighting against Israel and Zionism and this is a part of the fight.'



Hammami: Not intimidated

Vietnam—new war dangers in 'national concord' settlement

NORTH VIETNAM yesterday made a stinging attack on American bad faith in the Vietnam peace negotiations and published the text of a ceasefire treaty which the Americans have failed to implement. Hanoi Radio said North Vietnam was still willing to sign the agreement in five days' time, but accused Washington of hiding behind 'so-called difficulties in Saigon' in order to sabotage the deal.

The nine-point agreement provided for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of all US and other foreign troops supporting the Saigon regime within 60 days. Prisoners were to be exchanged while the withdrawal of US troops was under way.

It provided for the formation of an 'administrative structure' with representatives from the present Saigon governments, neutralists and the NLF. This tri-partite administration would organize 'genuinely free and democratic general elections' supervised by an international commission.

In addition, the various governments involved, including the US, pledged to respect the neutrality of Cambodia and Laos in accordance with the 1954 Geneva agreements. All foreign troops were to be withdrawn from these countries.

According to Hanoi, Dr Henry Kissinger, the US negotiator and Le Duc Tho for the North Vietnamese, had originally decided at their secret talks in Paris to sign the agreement on October 26.

Under a revised timetable sought by the US it was agreed that signature should be delayed to October 30. Washington again proposed a new timetable and signature was accordingly set for October 31.

'But contrary to its commitments on October 23, the American side invoked difficulties encountered in Saigon and asked for the continuation of negotiations to solve new problems,' the statement said.

Following talks with Kissinger in Saigon, South Vietnamese president Nguyen Van Thieu opposed the draft deal and went on television to denounce the idea of a ceasefire.

The Hanoi statement said 'everybody knows the Saigon government is merely a tool formed by and supported by the United States. The above-mentioned situation proves that the Nixon administration does not have a serious attitude and the good-will to negotiate for an end to the Vietnam war but only wants to prolong the negotiations with the aim of deceiving public opinion.'

Ly Van San, the National Liberation Front negotiator at the peace talks told pressmen in Paris on Wednesday that Thieu was in office thanks only to US bombs and dollars.

'Thieu cannot resist the United States and if the United States wants to end the war we are certain that it can.' He asked: 'Are these serious negotiations or a manoeuvre to deceive US public opinion?'

With the presidential elections only a fortnight away, Nixon's 'peace offensive' has all the marks of a vote-catching gimmick while the preparations for continuing the war are carried out behind the scenes.

Pentagon officials have told Pressmen in Washington that the

war will be intensified following the election and will continue right up to 1976. The fact that North Vietnam has published what was supposed to be a secret treaty indicates that Hanoi now does not expect America to sign.

Nixon presumably considers that once his backing is removed from South Vietnam the corrupt Thieu regime will collapse like a house of cards. This is also what the North Vietnamese think will happen.

They consider that 'national concord' can be re-established in the south on a bourgeois-democratic basis. But this could be the basis for a new outbreak of civil war in the future.

The Vietnam war has never been simply a struggle for national liberation but is above all a social revolution in the countryside. Any regime in Vietnam which tries to re-establish landlordism and the tyranny of capital over the peasantry will be a stepping stone to a new war.

Japanese plan to avoid yen revaluation

JAPAN yesterday unveiled a plan for 20 per cent across-the-board cuts in import tariffs on nearly 2,000 items including cars, cameras, electrical domestic appliances and liquor.

The cuts are part of a government programme to avoid revaluing the yen, which has been at its parity ceiling on the foreign exchange markets since July.

Japan's foreign competitors, alarmed by the country's massive export offensive in European and American markets, have been demanding a yen revaluation for some months.

They had hoped that Japanese exports would be curbed by the 16.8 per cent yen revaluation imposed at the Washington monetary conference in December last year.

Over the past nine months, however, Japan's exports have risen to their old pre-revaluation level and the balance of payments surplus is running at \$950m a month.

The Tokyo government is very reluctant to revalue a second

time and has carried out a number of window-dressing operations aimed at giving the impression that they are tackling the payments situation.

The cut in import tariffs is the latest of these moves. According to Japanese government officials, it will increase imports by \$300m. But the Common Market countries are not impressed.

EEC sources in Brussels said the tariff cuts would boost the Common Market's exports to Japan but this was not the immediate problem at issue. EEC

exports to Japan have been rising satisfactorily anyway, they said.

The real difficulty for the Common Market lies in the extraordinary growth of Japanese exports to the European market. These have nearly tripled in the past four years, totalling £642m in 1971.

In fact, the Japanese move puts the EEC in greater difficulties—now that the Japanese have cut their tariffs, it becomes more difficult for the Common Market countries to raise their duties on goods from Japan.

Record Japanese car exports

JAPANESE car exports are running at almost twice the record 1971 figure. This year 350,000 Japanese cars are likely to be sold in Europe and next year the figure may be up to 500,000.

Manufacturers are concentrating more heavily on the European market and shipments to

the US have levelled off. Japanese penetration of the market has been highest in Finland, Portugal and Greece.

Sales to Britain and Germany have also increased. Only 18,000 cars were imported by Japan last year, mostly in the luxury category.

Police shoot anti-Franco leafletter

FASCIST police shot at a group of youths giving out leaflets outside a factory in Villaverde in Madrid on Wednesday.

One of the youths was hit and he died later. A young girl was arrested by the police.

The leaflets called for better conditions in the factory and for the removal of Franco.

More than 50 women demonstrated in Bayona, near Vigo, on

Wednesday against the lack of water. They marched with buckets full of dirty washing in front of the town hall and demanded to see the town council.

Their only supply of water, the local river Bahina, is now restricted to use by local farmers as the result of an agreement ratified by the provincial governor.

Soviet boost for Spain's trade



The Director General of Imports at the Spanish Ministry of Commerce, Señor Basabe y Manso de Zuñiga, cuts the tape to open the exhibition in Moscow.

THE SPANISH Cortes set up a committee on Wednesday to work out details of protocol for the establishment of relations with the Soviet Union. The committee will include don Jesus Fueyo Alvarez, a national councillor appointed by Franco himself.

Without waiting for the protocol, the trade expands. It was revealed yesterday that Russia will export one million tons of crude oil to Spain within the next year.

Already more than 10,000 Moscovites have visited an exhibition of Spanish craft-work which opened in Moscow on Tuesday.

Visitors include the President of the Moscow Soviet, Vladimir Promislov and Alexei Pavlenko, director of Soviet exhibitions.

The exhibition got a big boost from the weekly supplement of 'Izvestia' which described it as 'a glimmer of Spain shining in the autumnal grey of "Lenin's hills".'

ABRAHAM LINCOLN Brigade of American volunteers which fought against Franco in the Spanish Civil War has been removed from the list of subversive organizations by the US Court of Appeals. For the past 24 years it has been listed as a communist-front organization under reactionary legislation.

Stalinist inaction isolates rent rebels

BY PHILIP WADE

ALTHOUGH West of Scotland trade unionists will demonstrate next month against the Tory Rent Act, their leadership has stopped short of calling industrial action to back up the defiant Labour councils.

In fact it was Communist Party members who opposed the call for industrial action at a meeting of 150 delegates representing district committees all over the area.

Stalinist chairman at Monday's meeting was Hugh Wyper, vice-chairman of Glasgow trades council. Replying to an amendment to the motion calling for industrial action in support of the 22 Scottish Labour authorities defying the Tories, he said:

'We cannot specify industrial action as it would put some district committees in a difficult position. We should stick to supporting local authorities because it would be impossible for us to support any individual tenant eviction.'

The 22 have all received letters from the Tory government giving a month to fall in line and implement the rent increases due under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Scotland Act.

Several delegates, notably from the Renfrew district committees of the AUEW and the T&GWU, called for industrial action to back up words of support.

But another Stalinist, Sammy Barr, boilermakers' convenor at the Scotstoun yard at Govan Shipbuilders, also said industrial action was not on because 'unfortunately although our society has pledged support it does not specify such action'.

Eventually the meeting, representing about 150,000 workers agreed to go ahead with the demonstration on a Saturday, November 18.

The motion passed merely 'pledges the fullest support' and uselessly calls on Edward Heath to receive a delegation 'to hear our objections to this Act being implemented'.

But the Tories intend to move Housing Commissioners in if the Labour councils do not fall in line with the rent increase, so depriving workers of elected local councillors.

By refusing to mobilize the working class against the Tories the leadership at the conference in fact ran away from this fight and decided to confine the campaign to one of meek protest.

CRAFTSMEN at the British Steel Corporation's Port Talbot works have withdrawn a threat of strike action over pay. Officials of the three unions involved are to hold talks with management about a productivity deal. The talks are expected to be held within the next three weeks.

Reception for launching of Trotsky book



Gerry Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League (left), speaking to Francis Wyndham (centre) and David King (right) at a reception organized by the Paper-

back Centre on Wednesday — the publication date of Wyndham's and King's large-format paperback documentary of Leon Trotsky.

Call for industrial action to back CAV sit-in

A CALL is to go out to Lucas workers on Merseyside to back the occupation at the combine's Fazakerley plant with industrial action.

A one-day protest strike with the 1,100 workers sitting-in at CAV Fazakerley is planned for November 10. Factories likely to be affected include Girtings at Bromborough, Lucas Aero Space, Netherton and Lucas Industrial Equipment at Fazakerley.

The call for action was endorsed on Wednesday by the Liverpool district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Liverpool Trades Council are also expected to call a meeting of shop stewards in the Merseyside area to discuss what action can be taken to support the sit-in, now at the end of its third week.

The campaign is also

spreading outside the north-west. Lucas workers throughout the combine are being asked to back the occupation by blacking parts normally produced at the Fazakerley plant.

This is a challenge to the shop stewards' committee at the CAV complex in Acton, London. The Acton management has already asked workers to manufacture 'black' work.

Meanwhile there are few results from efforts to persuade the Lucas group to change its mind over the closure, due next April.

On Monday national officials of all the unions involved in the occupation will meet Fazakerley shop stewards and Lucas management. But the group appear adamant over the closure.

This is despite the offer of help from the government. I understand that Tory Trade Minister Christopher Chataway offered Lucas money from the government's 'lame-duck' fund when he heard of the proposed shut-down. There was also an offer to underwrite losses for six months.

£36m investment planned by Lucas

THE Joseph Lucas group is to invest £36m in Britain next year, Mr Bernard Scott, the deputy chairman and managing director has announced.

Speaking to Lucas agents at the London Motor Show, Scott said the huge investment was based on confidence in the continued

growth of the car industry.

He said the £36m would be spent throughout the group. A considerable amount would be spent on modernizing plant and providing new machinery to increase production.

A company spokesman later told the Press: 'We have spent a lot overseas

and now we are taking another look at home.'

These wildly enthusiastic statements by the Lucas chiefs have a hollow ring when one looks at the situation at Fazakerley where the combine's vehicle pump factory is under worker occupation to resist closure.

Lorry firm not going to NRC

MANAGING director of Howitt Transport Limited, Mrs Olive Howitt, says the company has no immediate plans to return to the National Industrial Relations Court.

Although an order forbidding

'blacking' was granted by the court last week, Liverpool dockers are continuing to turn away Howitt's lorries.

On Tuesday two lorries were halted and this was referred to Howitt's lawyers.

Mrs Howitt said that a decision about a return to the NIRC was being left in abeyance. She

said she hoped the Transport and General Workers' Union would be able to do something to lift the black in the next few days.

She added: 'We do not intend to send any more vehicles to the docks until we have heard from the unions. It is like throwing a dog a bone.'

FORECASTS for government support to the British shipbuilding industry totalled £53m for the 1972-1973 financial year, and £42m for the 1973-1974 financial year, the Minister for Industrial Development, Christopher Chataway, said yesterday. He said in a Commons written reply that these forecasts covered direct support already announced to Govan Shipbuilders Ltd, Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd, Harland and Wolff Ltd and the UCS Liquidator, as well as construction grants.

Here's where to buy books by Leon Trotsky

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Left: Cars wrecked by bombs that were aimed at Hassan's plane by Oufkir's conspirators. Bottom left: Hassan. Centre: Oufkir. Right: de Gaulle.



Algerians were illegally arrested and tortured and killed by the French police during the period of the Algerian war, and that the French police stood by while gunmen of the FLN shot down their political rivals on the left wing and leading trade unionists.

To quell speculation about the Ben Barka affair, President de Gaulle, who was facing an election campaign, held a press conference on February 21, 1966, in which he said, in effect, that only minor officials had been concerned and tried to free his own government of any blame or responsibility.

'Nothing, absolutely nothing', de Gaulle unconvincingly maintained, 'suggests that the counter-espionage services and the police as a whole knew about the operation, and thus they could not have covered up for it.'

In the trial which followed the 'vulgar and the subaltern', as de Gaulle described them, received prison sentences. Lopez got eight years, Souchon six; not for kidnapping or complicity in murder but 'for making an illegal arrest'. The rest of the defendants, including Bernier, the doubtful 'left' in the affair, were acquitted.

There were still the Moroccans—Oufkir and his security men—and the gangsters who were in flight. They were all sentenced to life imprisonment—or could be re-tried if they gave themselves up. This, neither Oufkir, Moroccan strongman, nor Boucheseiche, the brothel tycoon, were likely to do.

The trial was the occasion for a torrent of false testimony aimed to prevent the truth from being discovered. The affair was made to appear more incoherent and complex than it really was by the well-used technique of covering up the tracks and letting subordinates take the rap. The blame was pinned on a few individuals to whitewash the services which employed them and the regime as a whole.

With remissions, Souchon was released from jail at the end of 1969 and then sought a re-trial on the grounds that he had acted in good faith on instructions from an agent of SDECE. He claimed that the order had come over a special police line and that his own chiefs had instructed him to keep silent about the affair.

Before as well as after the trial, despite the condemnation of Oufkir, the French secret service continued to maintain its relations with its Moroccan opposite numbers with whom it had co-operated during the Algerian war. A top French secret service man was aboard Hassan's plane when it was shot at last summer by Oufkir's conspirators.

The shady activities of the SDECE, its connections with the drug traffic and the criminal underworld, continued. The Swiss and other police continued to inform Paris about the coming and going of political exiles.

Another SDECE scandal broke in 1971 when a VW minibus consigned to one of its agents in New York was found to be stuffed with drugs.

This affair, like the truth about the secret service's role in the murder of Ben Barka, has been hushed up. Other scandals have shown the connection between the Gaullists, the secret service and the political and criminal underworld which proliferates in the Fifth Republic.

The Ben Barka affair, like the treatment of thousands of Algerian and other foreign workers before and since, was a warning to the French working class of the corruption and savagery of its class enemies. The lessons should be learned.

THE BEN BARKA AFFAIR

By Tom Kemp. The Story of a Political Murder

PART THREE: THE WHITE-WASHING CAMPAIGN

The small-time crook Georges Figon made a 'confession' of his part in the Ben Barka killing to Jean Mavrier of 'L'express' on a tape recorder belonging to Edward Behr, 'Newsweek's' man in Paris. The tape proved to be inaudible, but the French weekly published an account said to have

been made from notes. Figon told a similar tale to several people of how he saw Moroccan Interior Minister General Oufkir torture Ben Barka.

He told different and contradictory stories to other journalists. For about ten weeks, while the affair was holding the attention of the front pages, Figon remained at large. He even had a photograph published which showed him standing by the window of the chief of the Criminal Brigade of the Paris police.

Lemarchand's part in the affair is also obscure. The Paris Bar removed him from membership for life for unprofessional behaviour, but on appeal he was merely suspended for three years.

It seems that Figon hoped that his knowledge of the plot would enable him to blackmail the Moroccans. As it happened they did not even pay him the sum agreed for his part in bringing in Ben Barka. That was his motive for publishing the account of how Oufkir had tortured the opposition leader.

By the middle of January 1966 Figon's luck was running out. On the evening of January 17 a police squad closed in on the ground-floor flat where he was living. He was packed and ready to flee—but he was found lying on the floor in his overcoat, shot dead by a revolver bullet.

Suicide, the police said, but there was no shortage of sceptics to say that an uncomfortable witness had been 'removed'.

So Figon's story died with him, leaving nothing but an inaudible tape and a lot of suspicions.

'Figon commits suicide with a pistol he has had fired at him at point-blank range' ran the headline in the satirical weekly 'Le Canard Enchaîné'.

The complicity of French government officials and even ministers in the affair shook the Gaullist regime, which had boasted of its capacity to restore the authority of the state. People of all opinions were asking how it was that a political exile could be spirited away in the middle of Paris and murdered by the security branch of another government, albeit a former colony, under personal direction of its Minister of Interior.

What is sometimes forgotten is that hundreds of

LIU SHAO-CHI IS ATTACKED FOR 'ANARCHISM'

The former Chinese president Liu Shao-chi, deposed during the 'cultural revolution', is accused of spreading anarchism in a recent issue of 'Notes on Study' issued in Peking.



Above: Liu Shao-chi, the former Chinese president who is now accused of providing a breeding ground for anarchism.

Liu is usually depicted as 'treading the capitalist road', but now finds himself denounced in company with Proudhon, Bakunin and Kropotkin. The notes also speak of 'a handful of sham Marxist political swindlers who wanted to use the spectre of anarchism to stir up disorder and poison the masses in order to oppose the revolution'.

ANARCHISM

The attack on anarchist theories of absolute individual freedom and no subordination to authority could be directed against some of the 'excesses' of the 'cultural revolution'. The article is an argument for discipline and authority.

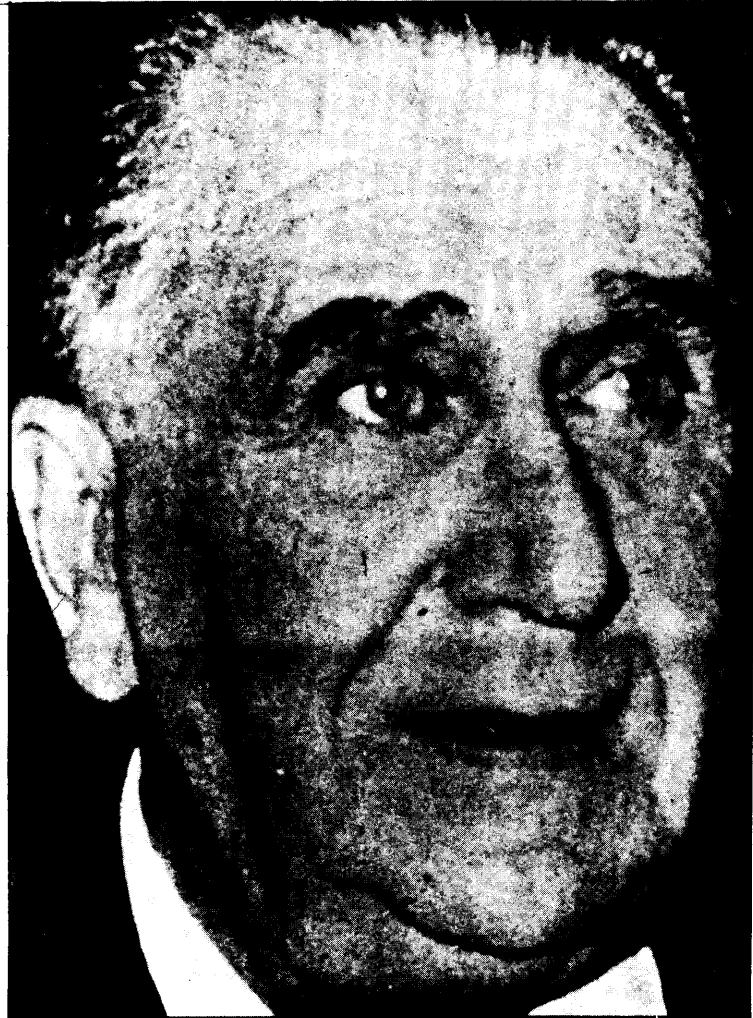
Liu Shao-chi and his company is alleged to adopt the bourgeois method of controlling, restricting and oppressing the masses and thus to have provided a breeding ground for anarchism.

They then went over to an 'ultra-left' position 'to destroy thoroughly socialist labour discipline, to bring about the disintegration of socialist production and to weaken the economic base of the dictatorship of the proletariat'.

IDEOLOGY

The article claims that Liu went all out to incite anarchism in order to prepare the way for the restoration of the power of the bourgeoisie. It warns that although 'swindlers like Liu Shao-chi have been swept into the garbage heap of history, the anarchist trends of thought they incited may emerge again in new forms and in new appearances'.

The point of the article seems to be that there are among the masses those who are under the influence of 'anarchism'. The notes are intended to enable Party officials to oppose its influence with a correct ideology.



BRAZILIAN BROWN-SHIRTS ON THE MARCH AGAIN

Plinio Salgado, the would-be Brazilian führer, has gone onto the offensive with a recent rally in the city of Belo Horizonte to celebrate the 40th anniversary of 'Brazilian Integralist Action', his 1930s-style fascist movement.

Those who thought that Salgado commanded a handful of nostalgic Nazis were surprised by the list of new sympathizers, all of them eminent members of the Garastazu Medici government.

Salgado, who upheld the Nazi banner in the period of World War II, does not hide his role as a theoretician of the present regime and he boasts a long list of government personalities who 'share his ideals'.

In fact, the fascist leader was until recently a lawmaker for the regime's official 'Arena' party.

Emergildo Alves Ramos, one of his followers, claimed that the present military dictatorship is guided by the 'integralist' programme and that the ideas defended by Salgado in the 1930s are now being put into practice.

Another, Nicolas Senize, went even further. He outlined a strategy for the conquest of full power with no middlemen and suggested that the Integralists infiltrate Arena, 'a fictitious party which is really represented by ourselves'.

This is no idle boast. Arena's Top: Brazil's president Medici—Nazi sympathizers in his government. Left: War Minister, Orlando Giesel.

second-ranking leader, Deputy Raimondo Padilha, was considered Salgado's right-hand man. Padilha is an Integralist who is proud of his fascist past.

His name appears in the 'white book' published by the Allies in 1945, as an efficient Axis spy. He channelled funds provided by Count Caleazzo Ciano de Mussolini, the Italian Foreign Minister, to the Brazilian fascists.

Perhaps the most important old Integralist at the present time is Filinto Muller, the chairman of Arena and 'political arm' of dictator Medici.

Filinto was police chief of Getulio Vargas during the 1930s. His 'feats' include the return of several Jewish immigrants to the Gestapo, among them Olga Prestes, whose husband is now general secretary of the Brazilian Communist Party.

Clad in brown shirts, goose-stepping to old Prussian marches, the Integralists recently paraded through the streets of Belo Horizonte, capital of Minas Gerais state.

The Brazilian Democratic Movement, the opposition party tolerated by the regime, complained in the Chamber of Deputies about the fascists' activities.

General Aluizio Guedes Pereira, army training chief, applauded the Integralist call when he spoke recently with War Minister Orlando Giesel.

'We must provide the nation with men who are psychologically ready for war, since only then will we be constructing Brazilian power. This must be the incentive for young Brazilian men today,' he said.

UPSIDE DOWN DEBATE IN WARSAW

Three Polish radio commentators gathered round the microphone of Warsaw radio the other day to discuss the week's events, beginning with the United Nations debate. The discussion went like this:

First speaker: 'I have to say with complete satisfaction that even some countries of the so-called third world, which not so long ago wanted to turn the whole world upside down

and on their own pluck the sun out of the sky, have taken on a new temperance.'

Second speaker: 'Excuse me but there was one exception. China.'

First speaker: 'China.'

Third speaker: 'And Albania.'

First speaker: 'Yes, there were two, I beg your pardon. I had forgotten the Albanians because, I am sorry to say, not much attention is paid to them in UN. But the Chinese speech was so dangerous, because it did not contain the typical Chinese abuse and rebuke. It was a cold, one can almost say, cynical, strategic plan, calculated over many years to sabotage all forms of co-operation, understanding and co-existence.'

The only blood-curdling pronouncements of the Chinese delegate concerned criticism of the proposed European Security Conference and a guarded welcome for the enlarged European Economic Community.

There was nothing to suggest that he wanted to 'turn the world upside down' or do anything which could disturb the status quo or give a single UN delegate a sleepless night.

FASCIST POLICE 'RATIONALIZE' AGRICULTURE

Peasants and small farmers clashed with the fascist Civil Guard in Valencia in the early hours of last Saturday morning.

The monopolists and speculators are moving in on the fertile land which peasants and farmers cultivate, where crops of rice, oranges and beans have enabled them and their families to subsist for years.

The 'Mercavalencia' company has taken over their plots of land... with the kind permission of the provincial governor.

Six months ago, their irrigation water was cut off and access roads were torn up. The 300 families who live on this land have waited on,

hoping that their appeal to the local court would be accepted.

Then last weekend the bulldozers and the pneumatic drills of 'Mercavalencia' appeared. Old boundaries were destroyed; trees were uprooted. Groups of Civil Guards accompanied the workers who handled the drills.

When they turned to opening up a new entrance for the Anohuers roadway across the land of one family, a peasant woman and her daughter stood defiantly before the gang of men with drills.

As the woman and her child shouted, the neighbours came and formed a human wall in front of the advancing drills. The Civil Guard attacked the peasants and their children and arrested three peasants. The peasants only dispersed finally when the arrested men were released at midday and when three jeeps of Civil Guards arrived.

This brutal expulsion of peasants and farmers from their land is one of the first shots in the rationalization of Spanish agriculture in preparation for entry into the Common Market.

EUROPEAN SHIP BUILDING DRIVEN TO THE WALL

BY JOHN SPENCER

A cut-throat trade war is under way in international shipbuilding which is one of the first victims of the recession in world trade caused by the breakdown of the post-war capitalist monetary system.

The post-war boom in shipbuilding is definitely over. Not only is world trade declining, but the bulk of cargoes are being concentrated on fewer and fewer main routes as the share of the underdeveloped countries in world trade plummets.

A more efficient utilization of capacity is made possible by the development of containerization, and roll-on, roll-off ships which are able to cut turn-round times and thus transport more cargo than earlier ships of similar size.

According to the shipbuilding employers within the Common Market there is a fundamental trend towards surplus capacity in sea transport supply. Order books are shrinking throughout the Common Market, they say.

Much of the European shipbuilding industry is backed by world standards and the ship owners are complaining vehemently about Japanese competition. On present trends, it is estimated, Japan will have cornered 80 per cent of all new ships produced by 1980, driving most of the European yards to the wall.

The European employers are screaming about 'dumping' by the Japanese shipbuilders, but despite the massive yen revaluation in December last year the Japanese producers are still able to undercut European prices with ease.

The basic reason for this is that the bulk of Japanese capacity has been built up in the past seven years and is designed specifically to handle even the largest orders at low cost and with maximum speed.

Japan has also set in motion a grandiose expansion programme which would enable it to build 65 per cent of all new shipping by 1975. This strikes terror into the European shipbuilders, who are currently bombarding their governments with demands for action to prevent Japan winning a monopoly position in the shipbuilding world.

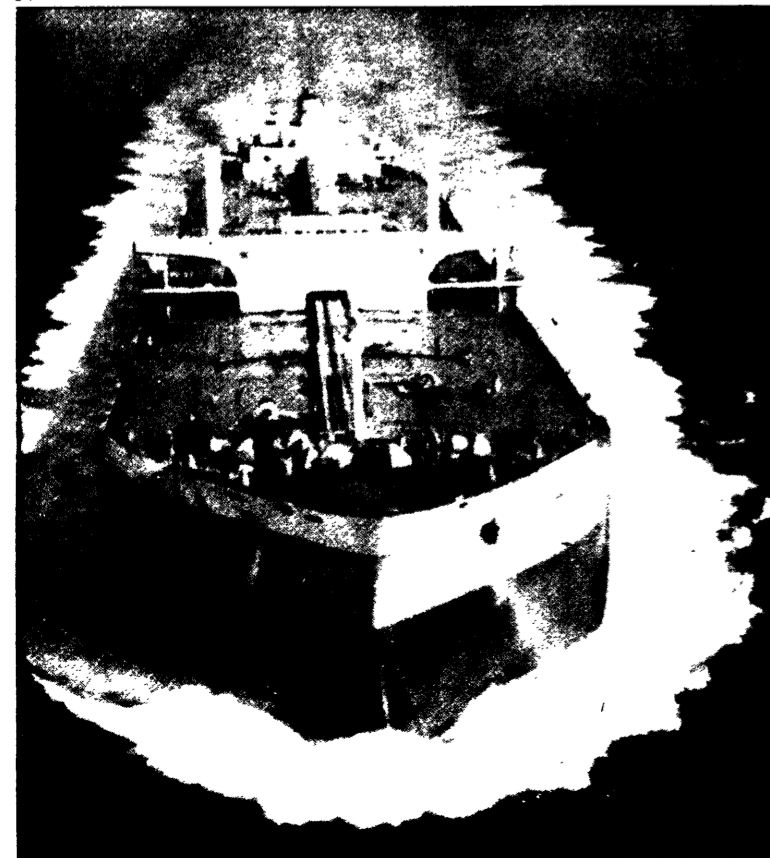
The Association of West European Shipbuilders and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development are both sending high-powered delegations to plead with the Japanese government and shipbuilding employers.

The confrontation is likely to be very tense. In a statement issued last month, the AWES accuses Japanese shipbuilders of trying to dominate the world with the aid of their government.

The AWES statement gives the lie to the Communist Party leaders of the upper Clyde work-in who claimed that British shipbuilding had a bright future in front of it. It shows conclusively that not only are the inefficient and badly-placed Clyde yards doomed, but with them the majority of yards in Europe.

As Workers Press repeatedly pointed out during the UCS work-in, shipbuilding is gripped by a titanic international crisis brought on by the anarchy of capitalist production.

This stand is amply confirmed by the shipbuilding employers themselves who give chapter and verse for the



Top: The Swan Hunter shipyards on the Tyne, Newcastle. Left: A Japanese super tanker. Japanese price cutting causes European employers to cry out for government protection. Yet continuing Japanese expansion will mean that by 1980 it will have cornered 80 per cent of the world ship market.

crisis situation in the industry not only in Britain but internationally.

No capitalist government, let alone the present Tory government, has any power to resolve this crisis. It can only be tackled by the nationalization of the yards without compensation and under workers' control.

This demand is inseparable from a campaign to mobilize the working class as a whole to force the Tories to resign and to elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

The ship-owners themselves have no answer: they end their statement with a plaintive plea to European governments to stop their expansion. Such

pleas are on the same level as the Stalinists' policy of 'presurizing' the Tory butchers of the UCS consortium to save the yards and the jobs of thousands of workers on the Clyde and the subsidiary industries.

The document adopts a desperate tone, it warns that in Europe 'many yards of all sizes have gaps in their order books for deliveries in 1974 and 1975, and in some cases even for 1973'.

The Japanese, it says, 'have demonstrated that they are prepared to offer what amounts almost to dumping prices for medium-sized tankers'. AWES goes on to attack the Japanese for not 'playing the game' by international rules.

It refers to the activities of

the Sanko Steamship company, which has ordered 50 tankers of 80,000-90,000 deadweight tons from Japanese yards. These are being built for \$11m-\$12m each—'far below the recent world prices for such ships', according to the European shipbuilders.

To add insult to injury Sanko is then chartering the finished vessels for long periods at low rates to European owners, thus evading international agreements on export credit terms. Similar arrangements are being made for very large cargo vessels, the AWES warns.

It complains that despite repeated assurances by the Japanese shipbuilders that their prices will be kept at 'rea-

sonably acceptable levels', the Japanese yards have cut their prices by 10-15 per cent over the last nine months.

The Japanese are frantically building up their capacity for production of new ships. Twelve years ago, their yards turned out 1,839 million gross registered tons of shipping against 5,566 million produced in western Europe.

By 1970, however, Japanese output was 10,100 million tons, leaving European shipbuilders trailing behind with only 8,481 million tons. While Japanese output increased nearly 450 per cent over the decade, European output was only just over 50 per cent up over the same period.

In addition, from now until

1975, nine new yards are planned in Japan adding a total of 4.6 million tons to the country's annual capacity to produce new ships.

In addition, expansion of existing yards is expected to add another 1.8 million tons to production capacity by 1975. A further addition to Japan's shipbuilding capacity is predicted through increased productivity, and could amount to as much as 2 million tons a year.

'The Japan Times' has estimated that by 1975 Japanese shipyards will be able to turn out 18.6 million tons of new shipping every year. Total world production of new shipping in 1970 was just under 21 million tons and even in the

unlikely event of an expansion of demand for new ships, Japan will have at least 65 per cent of the world market by 1975.

Projects which will add at least another 4 million tons to annual production capacity by 1980 are already being planned. The situation is bad enough for the European employers overall, but it is if anything even worse at the top end of the market with the very big vessels.

By 1975 Japan will be in a position to build up to 80 ships a year of over 200,000 tons deadweight. West European yards will have the capacity to build about 70 such ships in 1975. But current

estimates of the market for such vessels are that only about 100 a year can be sold.

To make matters worse, yards capable of building very large ships are being constructed in Korea and behind stringent tariff walls in the United States, thus further reducing the eventual market to be divided between Japan and the EEC.

The result of this cut-throat competition can only be what the AWES describes as a 'massive unemployment problem affecting shipbuilding yards in most, if not all, West European countries'. It calls for immediate action by European governments against the Japanese threat.

The European governments, it says, should 'take immediate steps in a joint action and make it absolutely clear to the Japanese government that the financial support given to its own expanding shipbuilding industry is the basic reason for the present crisis in the West European shipbuilding industry'.

The Japanese are hardly likely to be unaware of this obvious fact and it is safe to predict that they will take no notice whatever.

Appeals like this from the European employers are likely to have about as much effect as the appeals of the UCS Stalinists to the Tory government.

THE GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY UNDER HITLER

BY TOM KEMP. PART 1

When Hitler finally took power at the end of January 1933 the German Communist Party (KPD) leadership was completely taken by surprise and showed suicidal complacency. 'Hitler's rise to power hastens the revolutionary crisis' was the theme of its policy.

During January there were a few joint meetings and even joint demonstrations with the Social Democrats (SPD) in some areas, but this was contrary to the official Party line. Most of the Party leaders shared the view that the bourgeoisie would never hand over power to Hitler.

The leader of the KPD's Reichstag group, Torgler (who later went over to the Social Democrats) claims that when he asked general secretary Ernst Thaelmann on January 29 to declare a state of special emergency in the Party his reply was 'You are mad. The bourgeoisie won't let Hitler anywhere near power. Let's go to Lichtenberg to play skittles'.

Thaelmann had 12 years in a concentration camp to reflect on his folly in blindly following Stalin's directives. Whether he did in fact spend the evening before Hitler was appointed Chancellor of the Reich playing in a bowling alley is not certain—but it would not be out of character.

Thaelmann is now held up in the German Democratic Republic and, indeed, throughout the communist movement, not only as a martyr, but as an advocate of the united front who somehow anticipated the line adopted by the 7th World Congress in 1935. Reality was very far from this propaganda picture.

Many of the KPD leaders managed to escape the clutches of the Nazis and reached the Soviet Union. The fate of a number of them was as tragic as that of those who stayed behind. To all appearances in 1933 and 1934 there was no essential change in the policy of the KPD in exile or in that of its underground workers.

At its 13th Plenum in December 1933 the Executive Committee of the Communist International (Comintern) maintained that the KPD's policy had been correct at all times. Indeed, how could it do otherwise without repudiating the whole Stalinist policy of the 'third period' which had caused the German defeat?

MURDERED BY KGB

However, a phrase in its resolution revealed that the German leadership had been by no means agreed about this policy. It noted that Remmele and Neumann belonged to the 'right opportunists and defeatists in their appraisal of the perspectives of the German revolution'. But, together with Thaelmann, they had been the main KPD leaders for a number of years; in fact they had been the main theoreticians in the leadership.

As Trotsky commented: 'Now we are informed, in a fleeting remark, that two members of the triumvirate that led the German Party "cor-



Left: Herman Remmele (top) and Heinz Neumann, two leaders of the KPD who escaped to Russia after Hitler's coming to power, only to be murdered by Stalin's secret police. Right: Street fighting between the fascist SA and KPD 'Red Front' fighters.

rectly" before and during the overturn accidentally turn out to be "opportunists and defeatists". Only the thick walls of a fascist jail shield the third member against such an accident.'

Trotsky wrote this in January 1934. Three years later Remmele and Neumann were arrested by the KGB, Stalin's political police, and were killed, probably by a bullet in the back of the neck in the cellars of one of its prisons. More will be said later about the fate of the German communists in the Soviet Union.

The Comintern resolution of December, 1933, from which Neumann and Remmele had at least the courage to dissent, asserted that 'the growth of fascism and its assumption of power in Germany, and in a number of other capitalist countries, imply a growth of the revolutionary crisis and increasing indignation of wide masses against the hegemony of capital'.

As Trotsky bitterly observed: 'Commonly, this is called covering up one's tracks.' Not a word of honest examination of the reasons for Hitler's triumph: the KPD (i.e. Stalin) had been right all along.

And Trotsky goes on: 'It is an old story by now that the growth of fascism would have been impossible without the social crisis of capitalism. But Hitler's victory ("the assumption of power by fascism") did not at all arise from the "indignation of wide masses against the hegemony of capital", but from the impotence

of these masses, who have been paralysed by reformism and adventurism, by the lack of revolutionary leadership and by the despicable and criminal policy of the Comintern. "No Stalin—no victory for Hitler". No bureaucratic subterfuges can cover up either the depth of the German defeat or the responsibility of the Comintern'. ('Writings of Leon Trotsky, 1933-1934, pp. 209-210.)

MAKE-BELIEVE

While Manuilsky was drawing up resolutions for the Comintern pleasing to Stalin, the more subservient of the German exiles like Wilhelm Pieck were writing make-believe accounts of the revolutionary upsurge taking place in the Third Reich. It was claimed that hundreds of thousands were active in the communist resistance. The view that the KPD had suffered a disastrous defeat was dismissed by Pieck as a stupid and wicked lie concocted by the Social Democrats, still characterized with 'third period' zest as 'social fascists'.

According to Pieck, Walter Ulbricht and the other time-servers—later to turn up as Stalin's men in East Germany—Germany was ripe for revolution if only Social Democracy was destroyed first. The impression was given that it was only a matter of time before the crisis-stricken Nazi regime gave way to a Soviet

republic. Doubtless Stalin believed not a word of it, but, if he did, events soon convinced him of the utter falsity of this picture.

Publicly the Soviet Union commented little about the new regime in Germany and the Press gave little information about the persecution of the Jews and the arrest and execution of socialist and communist workers. In fact there was more outrage expressed by the foreign bourgeois press than by 'Pravda' or 'Izvestia'.

In January 1934, almost exactly one year after Hitler came to power, Stalin made a lengthy report to the 17th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in which he scarcely made mention of it.

He explained it 'not only as a symptom of the weakness of the working class and a result of the betrayals of the working class by the Social-Democratic Party, which paved the way for fascism; it must also be regarded as a symptom of the weakness of the bourgeoisie no longer able to rule by the old methods of parliamentarism and bourgeois democracy . . .

In other words, Stalin blamed the German working class—preparing the way for his wartime policy of holding the German people responsible for Nazis—blamed the Social Democratic Party but had not one word to say about the KPD's role. How was it that this Party, so often called 'the best section of the Communist International', had not been able to mobilize the masses to fight Hitler? Stalin did not

raise the question.

On Nazi foreign policy Stalin noted 'there have been some changes in the policy of Germany which reflect the growth of revanchist and imperialist sentiments'. His platitudes were punctuated with 'thunderous applause' from a hand-picked audience, many of whom were not to survive for more than a few years before falling victim to the purges for their alleged 'Trotskyism'.

He claimed that Rosenberg, not Hitler, was directing German foreign policy—with the aim of preparing a racial war of Germans against the Slavs!

Dealing with the view that Soviet foreign policy had been affected by the rise of Hitler, Stalin declared: 'Of course, we are far from being enthusiastic about the fascist regime in Germany. But fascism is not the issue here, if only for the reason that fascism in Italy, for example, has not prevented the USSR from establishing the best relations with that country.'

So, in 1934, one year after the crushing of 'the best section of the Communist International' by a fascist regime, which Stalin was far from being enthusiastic about it, it was quite in order to make a deal with it because the USSR already 'enjoyed the best of relations' with fascist Italy! Who said that 'peaceful co-existence' was invented by Khrushchev? And who would dare to say that Lenin would have countenanced a policy of this kind?

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

GLAMOUR

In the hippy circles police officers are called pigs. It's a nickname introduced from the United States. But Sir Desmond Heap, president of Britain's Law Society, has told officers of the law that they should not be ashamed of this title.

At a recent Society conference he sang the praises of 'these splendid people, the policemen'. In the case of British lawmen, he said, pig stood for Pride, Integrity and Guts.

Heap was chief assistant solicitor for Leeds and the Leeds assistant town clerk. Presumably this was when he developed this glamorous view of the force, which has been twice subjected to Home Office investigations in the past 20 years for corruption and low morale.

GOUT



General Idi Amin's abrupt admission to hospital is not all that surprising. Over the years the hugely overweight and burly Ugandan president has been dogged with gout.

Every now and then he has to go into hospital and be taken off alcohol and rich food.

The ex-heavyweight boxing champion and rugby player is then introduced to a rigorous routine of exercises to keep his weight down.

One thing about this latest bout of illness is that he has not, as in previous years, left the country for treatment. (Last time he went to a hospital in Cairo).

Amin obviously believes that to leave his army government now might leave the door open for a coup to oust him.

BOATSWAIN

Mr D. R. Rooper, managing director of the Bowring Steamship Company, didn't know what he was letting himself in for when he wrote recently to 'The Seamen' newspaper.

In lyrical terms he described the magnificent life on the ocean waves, the tremendous team spirit of the chaps as they hoist the mainsail and keelhaul the mate. Back wrote Joseph Rourke, boatswain on the MV 'Tua'.

'By your own admission, Bowrings have been ship-owners since 1818. Sir, one does not need to have attended the LSE to know how you have accumulated the vast amount of capital to have diversified and invested, eventually to control so many industries distinct from shipping.

'You made it over the backs of British merchant seamen during the last 150 years. I hasten to say that you are not alone: many of your compatriots also enjoy great wealth and power via the same route.

'We also helped to create that wealth, not by investing our money, but by investing our health, limbs and in many cases our lives. One thing I have become aware of—ship-owners and Bootle bookmakers have one thing in common; they both, all the time, cry poverty.'

Over to you, Master Rooper.

CONSISTENT

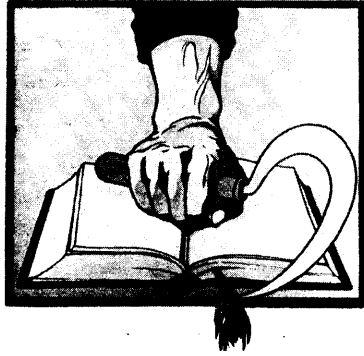
The 'Morning Star' delegation to last week's meeting of the Labour and Industrial Correspondents' Group was split on the issue of whether to admit David Maude, industrial correspondent of the Workers Press.

Mick Costello, the 'Star's' senior man in the field, abstained on the issue. He thus aided the defeat of Maude's application by a 17-14 majority with three abstentions.

But as chairman of the Group he played a much more direct role in the defeat, justifying the committee's recommendation that Maude be not admitted.

On the other hand David Turner, who recently joined the 'Star' as second-line industrial man from 'Tribune', supported the application, as he had done consistently while with both papers.

BOOK REVIEW



'Year One of the Revolution'. By Victor Serge. Translated and edited by Peter Sedgwick. Allen Lane, The Penguin Press. 436 pages. £3.95.

FIRST YEAR OF SOVIET POWER

BY JACK GALE

Victor Serge, former anarchist, supporter of the Russian Revolution after the event, one-time Left Oppositionist, but a firm opponent of the Fourth International, first published this book in France in 1930, three years before Stalin deported him to central Asia.

It lacks the incisive insight of Trotsky's monumental 'History of the Russian Revolution', nor does it have the advantage of being an eye-witness account—Serge did not arrive in Russia until January, 1919.

Nevertheless, it is a valuable and detailed review of a key period in Soviet history. It deals with all the internal problems which the dictatorship of the proletariat was called upon to resolve—the creation of a proletarian state and proletarian army, the organization of defence, the re-establishment of production and distribution.

The condition of a country exhausted and ruined by war was graphically revealed in Petrograd—when the Bolsheviks took power there was ten days' food supply in the city.

Bourgeois newspapers confidently announced the imminent arrival of Kerensky with forces which would 'restore law and order'.

The Mensheviks and Socialist Revolutionaries—screaming of 'anarchy', 'premature socialism', 'Bolshevik hysteria' and 'civil war'—were preparing counter-revolution. Together with the bourgeois Kadet Party they set up a 'Committee of Safety for Fatherland and Revolution' within the Petrograd Municipal Duma.

Plekhanov called for Bolshevism to be 'drowned in blood'.

The Socialist Revolutionaries' 'Military Section' (i.e. its terrorist corps) openly collaborated with the Junker officer class.

A Cossack offensive under General Krasnov got within 20 kilometres of Petrograd before being halted by the

Red Army, Bolshevik agitation and the hostility of the local population.

Ex-Tsarist officers had to be forced to serve in the Red Army which at one time was commanded by Colonel Muraviev—a former Socialist Revolutionary who had suppressed Bolshevik activities in the Tsar's army. The Bolsheviks placed a Committee of Five at Muraviev's elbow to shoot him at the first sign of treason. (He was eventually caught going over to the enemy and committed suicide.)

The Bolsheviks faced sabotage and obstruction at every turn. Former owners, anarchists and other counter-revolutionaries sought to stir up grievances among the tired workers and foment strikes.

Moscow's 16,000 municipal employees went on strike for four months. The old administrators, petty-bourgeois and some sections of the trade union leadership did all they could to halt developments.

Officials of the Ministry of Food struck. So did the staff of the State Bank. In every government department functionaries disappeared, taking with them the funds and vital files. The operators of the Central Telegraph Agency refused to transmit any of the despatches of the People's Commissars. The anti-revolutionaries at the head of the railway union refused to collaborate in restoring the transport system.

The Bolsheviks also had to fight the backwardness of the masses themselves. Machine-gun guards were placed at the wine-cellars. Hastily-assembled workers' tribunals dealt not only with saboteurs, bourgeois and officers, but with looters, thieves, hooligans and drunkards.

In these conditions, Lenin called for 'miracles of proletarian organization'. And these were achieved. Compared with the years—even decades—required by western Social Democracy to legislate even the most minor boom-time reforms the Bolsheviks achievements were monumental.

The Decree on Land was issued on October 26. Clause 1 declared: 'The landowners' right of ownership over the soil is abolished forthwith, without compensation.'

Two days later, to deal with the problem of homelessness in the cities all municipalities were empowered to requisition and confiscate properties.

The decree on peace was passed on October 26.

The decree on the rights of national minorities—including the right to self-determination and the abolition of all national and religious privileges—was issued on November 11.

In less than three months the entire civil service hierarchy was abolished, supplies were requisitioned for the army, all the old regime ambassadors and diplomats were sacked, a Supreme Economic Council was established, the state drive against counter-revolution and sabotage was opened and the Brest-Litovsk talks began. Decrees were passed instituting workers' control in industry and making banking a state monopoly.

The eight-hour day was enforced on the railways, education was taken out of the hands of the church, ranks in the army were abolished, the major electrical companies were confiscated as were the Putilov works and the huge Russo-Belgian Metal Company. Civil marriage and divorce were instituted, a code for the revolutionary courts was decreed, payment of interest on dividends and bonds was stopped, Russian spelling was simplified. The Institute for the Protection of Mothers and Children was formed, the Russian Federation of Soviet Republics was proclaimed and a decree was issued for the organization of the Red Army.

Political problems abounded; both outside and inside the Bolshevik Party. The elections for the Constituent Assembly at the end of November gave 13 per cent of the votes to the bourgeois parties, 58 per cent to the Socialist Revolutionaries, 4 per cent to the Mensheviks and 25 per cent to the Bolsheviks.

The rural areas had voted for the SRs, but the industrial cities and the most decisive parts of the army for the Bolsheviks.

Sverdlov, for the Bolsheviks, proposed that the Constituent Assembly accept the entire programme of the revolution. When this was rejected, the Bolsheviks walked out. The Constituent Assembly rambled on until a sailor walked to the rostrum and declared 'The guards are tired—please leave the hall'.

The following day the Constituent Assembly was dissolved. This created a sensation abroad, but was hardly noticed in Russia—where the issue was clearly understood: either the Assembly or the revolution had to go.

In April, 1918, the revolution had to disarm the anarchists—adventurers, criminals and counter-revolutionaries—who had formed an armed body called the 'Black General Staff'.

The Allied Wars of Intervention had to be defeated. Their plan was to organize a Czech rising in the Urals and Volga regions and in Siberia to coincide with counter-revolutionary coups in the towns near Moscow while the Japanese landed at Vladivostok and the British at Archangel.

But within the Bolshevik Party itself there was indecision. Some of its leading members leaned towards a government of a broad-based coalition of social democrats in which the Bolsheviks would hold only half the places and from which Lenin and Trotsky would be excluded.

The non-Bolshevik elements within such a government would have sabotaged every revolutionary measure and the consequent mass disillusionment would have weakened Bolshevism and opened the door to counter-revolution.

Nevertheless, at one stage Zinoviev, Kamenev, Rykov, and Milyutin resigned from the Central Committee on the issue.

The Brest-Litovsk peace negotiations produced an even more severe split which threatened to tear the Party apart between the 'peace faction' of Lenin and the ultra-left 'Revolutionary War' position. Lenin won when he persuaded Trotsky to abandon his position of dragging out the negotiations in anticipation of a German revolution.

But after this crisis, a more direct and personal threat was posed. The Bolshevik leaders had always been exposed to counter-revolutionary terror. On the Brest-Litovsk question the Left Socialist Revolutionaries broke finally with the Bolsheviks and their trained assassination squads made Lenin and Trotsky their prime targets.

Serge claims that at one time an anti-Bolshevik terrorist was employed as Lenin's chauffeur. And Lenin was, of course, wounded by the SR terrorist Fanny Kaplan.

But the revolution and its leadership survived these dangers, due to the revolutionary will of the Bolshevik Party and its training in Marxist theory and practice.

'Year One of the Revolution' ended as the German revolution appeared on the scene. But here the leadership—and hence the outcome—were different.

Tomorrow a special article will discuss the connection between the anti-communist International Socialist group and Victor Serge—an avowed opponent of the Fourth International.

BOOKS



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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.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday October 26, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road.

WANDSWORTH: Thursday October 26, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Tooting Broadway.

WILLESDEN: Thursday October 26, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW10.

CENTRAL LONDON (Press and entertainments section): Sunday October 29, 7.30 p.m. London Film School, Langley Street entrance, WC2. Speaker: David Calder.

READING: Monday October 30, 8 p.m. Trades Union Club, Minster Street.

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

CROYDON: Monday October 30, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, nr South Croydon Station.

BRACKNELL: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Bridge Road.

WOOLWICH: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday October 31, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue.

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.

NORTH LONDON: Thursday November 2, 8 p.m. Bricklayers' Arms, Tottenham High Road (nr White Hart Lane).

BASINGSTOKE: Sunday November 5, 7 p.m. The Hop Leaf, Church Street.

TV

BBC 1

9.38-11.45 Schools. 12.00 Let's get going. 12.25 Dechrau canu. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 The craftsmen. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 A chance to meet Rt Hon William Whitelaw. 3.00 Mastermind. 3.30 Shepherd's calendar. 4.00 Clangers. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Magic roundabout. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Help. 5.15 It's Michael Bentine time. 5.45 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 **BARNEY BEAR.** Bird Brain Bird Dog.

6.55 **THE PINK PANTHER SHOW.**

7.15 **THE VIRGINIAN: MEN FROM SHILOH.** Follow the Leader.

8.30 **DAD'S ARMY.** Getting the Bird.

9.00 **NINE O'CLOCK NEWS.** Weather.

9.25 **CANNON.** Blood on the Vine. New film series about a private detective.

10.15 FRIDAY TALK-IN.

11.00 LATE NIGHT NEWS.

11.05 **GEORGE AND IRA GERSHWIN'S 'OF THEE I SING'.** Carroll O'Connor and Cloris Leachman in a new production of the 1931 musical about a presidential election.

12.20 **Weather.**

ITV

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

6.00 TODAY.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 **THE PROTECTORS.** Think-back.

7.30 **HAWAII FIVE-O.** Chain of Events.

8.30 **DORA.** A Man About the House.

9.00 **NEW SCOTLAND YARD.** A Gathering of Dust.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 POLICE FIVE.

10.40 **FILM: 'PIT OF DARKNESS'.** William Franklyn, Moira Redmond. Thriller about an amnesiac searching for his past.

12.10 **INTERNATIONAL BOOK YEAR.**

12.15 **SPYFORCE.** Death Railway.



The lady with the knife is Jeanne Moreau as Julie Kohler, who is widowed on her wedding day. She sets out to trace and kill the five men responsible for her husband's death. The last of three Francois Truffaut films 'The Bride Wore Black' is on BBC 2. Jack Lord (right) is Steve McGarrett, head of the Hawaii Five-O team on independent channels.



BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.

6.35 **IRELAND.** Ulster Will Fight.

7.30 **NEWSROOM.** Weather.

8.00 **MONEY AT WORK.** The economic consequences of the motor car.

9.00 **GARDENERS' WORLD.**

9.25 **FILM: 'THE BRIDE WORE BLACK'.** (La Mariee Etait en Noir). Directed by

Francois Truffaut with Jeanne Moreau, Jean-Claude Brialy, Michael Bouquet.

11.10 **FILM NIGHT.** Twenty-one Years Young. Twenty-first anniversary of the Children's Film Foundation.

11.40 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.05 London. 1.10 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Let's face it. 3.00 Film: 'The Feminist and the Fuzz'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Report. 6.35 London. 7.30 FBI. 8.30 London. 10.35 Feet together hands to the sides. 11.05 Film: 'The Curse of Frankenstein'. 12.30 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sport. 10.32 News. 12.30 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Galloping gourmet. 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Weekend. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.35 Out of town. 7.05 Sky's the limit. 7.35 FBI. 8.30 London. 10.30 Weekend. 10.35 Film: 'See You in Hell, Darling'. 12.30 News. 12.40 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Junkin. 3.25 Marcus Welby MD. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Gustavus. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'Girl on Approval'. 9.00 New Scotland Yard. 10.00 London. 10.30 Dora. 11.00 Now it's your say. 11.30 Incident at midnight. 12.30 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 4.25-4.50 Stesion cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30 Outlook. 11.00 Sports arena. 11.30 UFO. 12.30 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 3.30 Shirley's world. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 Skippy. 4.50 London. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 O'Hara. 8.30 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Film: 'Three On A Spree'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.20 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Protectors. 8.00 Adventurer. 8.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Big Country'. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Randall and Hopkirk. 4.23 News. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 UFO. 8.30 London. 10.30 Spectrum. 11.00 Film: 'The House That Would Not Die'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Cade's county. 8.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'Waltz of the Toreadors'. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 3.25 I dream of Jeannie. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.25 Funnies. 4.50 London. 5.15 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 Cartoon. 6.40 Kick off. 7.00 Dora. 7.30 Protectors. 8.00 Dundee and the culhane. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'A Raisin in the Sun'.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Yoga. 3.00 London. 3.25 Danger man. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Cade's county. 8.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'Autumn Leaves'. 12.30 News. 12.45 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 Junkin. 3.30 Quentin Durgens. 4.20 Shirley's world. 4.50 London. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 A place of her own. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 London. 10.30 Friday night. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'Corridors of Blood'.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.50 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Let's face it. 3.55 Katie Stewart. 4.20 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson at tea time. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hogan's heroes. 8.00 McCue's music. 8.30 London. 10.30 Partners. 11.00 Job look. 11.10 Film: 'The Secret of Blood Island'. 12.35 Epilogue.

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Maintenance men stop Scottish buses

BUS SERVICES throughout Scotland were hit yesterday by a strike of 500 maintenance and semi-skilled workers over pay.

The men—members of the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in the Scottish Bus Group—want an increase of £7.50 a week. They have been offered 62p.

Strikers say the rise is needed to bring their wages in line with those of corporation employees.

Delays of more than six months in settling the claim are alleged. The group has now told them it cannot make a new offer until government policy on pay is decided, the men say.

Hospital ancillary staff out

ANCILLARY staff at London's Westminster teaching group of hospitals are to stage a 24-hour unofficial strike today over their pay dispute.

The hospitals involved—Queen Mary Hospital, Roehampton and the Westminster Hospital—say they will have to cancel many non-emergency operations.

A spokesman for the group governors said the staff likely to take part are catering and domestic workers, switchboard operators and sterile goods packers.

The spokesman added that all staff representatives had given them ample warning of the strike and did not intend to prevent the hospitals using volunteers to keep essential services running.

'Indeed, some important posts will be manned by the strikers themselves on a voluntary basis,' the statement said.

BSA still losing cash

SERIOUS PROBLEMS still remain to be overcome for Birmingham Small Arms, the Midlands motor cycle manufacturer, says the chairman Lord Shawcross in his annual report.

The annual accounts revealed that the embattled BSA group suffered losses and write-offs amounting to £3.3m in the year ended July 1972.

The previous year losses totalled £8.2m. Shawcross had promised to eliminate company losses by this year, but he admits that he failed—a 'great disappointment'—because of lack of finance.

He said the company needed more risk capital. But he adds that 'interest charges on borrowed capital represent too large a prior charge in a business of this kind'.

A good deal of further capital was needed, he said, to replace outdated plant and in retooling for new advanced products.

BSA was rescued from liquidation a year ago when Barclays Bank rallied with a £10m loan.

Forecasting that losses would not be reduced until next year Shawcross said the motor cycle division remained the most difficult. Nine-tenths of output is exported and the home market is threatened with tough Japanese competition.

Tories send round fact sheet to discredit powermen

THE TORIES have launched a carefully prepared public relations exercise aimed at discrediting the powermen's pay claim.

This week Tory backbenchers were circularized with a 'fact sheet' which sets out information for them to use at public meetings.

The statistical information will be used by the Tories in speeches up and down the country in a bid to isolate the powermen's struggle.

The accuracy of the document is immediately under question because Frank

Chapple's name is spelt incorrectly.

The document is being supplied by the Department of Trade and Industry headed by John Davies.

Recently Davies took on a 'political secretary', a unique appointment for a Minister. He is Mr John Pope, previously personal assistant to Anthony Barber when he was chairman of the party in the run-up to the 1970 General Election.

It is understood Pope was

responsible for suggesting and preparing the 'fact sheet'.

In the 'battle for minds' another Tory appointment is worth mentioning. Maurice Trowbridge, political correspondent of the 'Daily Express', has just joined party headquarters as deputy director of publicity.

These appointments reflect the growing concern in sections of the Tory Party that the government is not communicating well enough with

the public.

In the miners' strike and the railwaymen's dispute the Tories failed to substantially shift the middle class and influence public opinion.

One of the first backbench Tories to attack the power workers was Norman St John Stevas, MP for Chelmsford, who is a close friend of Heath.

Speaking at Wallington on Wednesday he said it would be wrong to regard power-workers as among the low paid. He also attacked the union claims about increased productivity.

Registered electrical engineers

in strike over salary structure

SENIOR ENGINEERS and technicians in the electrical power industry struck work throughout Britain yesterday. It is the first major strike in the history of their association, founded in 1920.

The one-day strike involved between 10,000 and 12,000 members of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association who are protesting against the present salary structure for headquarters staff at electricity generating boards.

Association chairman, Mr Bob Blackburn, told Workers Press yesterday:

'The object of this strike is not to hit the consumer one little bit. It is just a demonstration to our employers that the nego-

tiating machinery is not working properly.'

Negotiations on the salary structure have been going on since 1966, Mr Blackburn said.

'At present,' he continued, 'there are lots and lots of different grades of engineers who, unless they do secure promotion, remain on a certain salary grade for a large number of years.'

'What we want to do is first to increase the size of the annual increments and to raise the salary ceiling for top expert engineers. We want a more flexible pay structure and better prospects of promotion for the top grade engineers.'

Yesterday's strike by EPEA members was the first strike by a registered trade union since the introduction of the Industrial Relations Act.

Official justifies £2 return at

Babcock's

THREE HUNDRED workers at the Babcock and Wilcox tube factory in Dumbarton are to return to work on Monday after a 17-week strike for a £6-a-week pay demand.

On union advice, they have accepted a long-term deal giving them £2 a week now and another £2 in 18 months' time.

Ian McKee, district secretary

of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, says that neither he nor the shop stewards are satisfied that the deal fully meets the claim.

But he justifies the decision

to recommend acceptance on the grounds that 'the men were out for so long and because of the economic situation of the country'.

This is the third strike in the West of Scotland area recently to be wound up by union officials because of the Tory-TUC talks and the threat of a statutory incomes policy.

Vanguard backs Craig's 'shoot-to kill' speech

ULSTER Vanguard yesterday gave full backing to their leader, William Craig, for his 'shoot-to-kill' speech last week.

The extreme right-wing loyalist movement also stressed they had complete confidence in the Vanguard leadership as a whole—a move clearly designed to indicate there is no split at the top over Craig's now-repeated warning of civil war.

Soon after reports of the speech—made to members of the far right Tory Monday Club—reached Belfast last week, a deputy leader, Captain Austin Ardill, described the remarks as 'unfortunate.'

Since then, however, Vanguard has explained that the initial reaction was based on misconceptions of first reports.



'Shoot-to-kill' Craig

The Rev Ian Paisley said yesterday that after his latest meeting with Prime Minister Edward Heath, he believed it probable that a multi-religious Home Guard would be set up in

Northern Ireland and the army removed.

Paisley, Protestant Unionist MP for North Antrim at Westminster, and leader of the Province's Democratic Unionist Party, said:

'It is not for me to judge how Mr Heath reacted to our proposals, but I think that they will be the basis of a reform of the defence of Ulster.'

Speaking at Heathrow Airport before flying to the United States 'to do some preaching', he described his meeting with Heath as 'a forthright and full discussion'.

● Northern Ireland faces a half-hour strike by protestant workers today in support of Londonderry bus drivers. The drivers have refused to take their vehicles into the former Republican no-go areas of the city's Bogside and Creggan. The 80,000 strong Loyalist Association of Workers claimed yesterday that the drivers had been threatened with dismissal.

Right wingers sit in polling booths

SUPPORTERS of the right-wing British Campaign to Stop Immigration were on duty at the Lancashire cotton town of Rochdale yesterday as electors registered their votes.

Seven members of the campaign had been granted permission from the town hall to sit in polling stations throughout the constituency. They were concentrated at polling booths in immigrant districts, noting the numbers of immigrants voting.

Mr Jim Merrick, the anti-immigration candidate who is

also the campaign's national chairman, said he had made the move because 'in his experience' immigrant electors voted more than once or under assumed identities.

Mr Merrick stated in his election address that, if elected, he would support Enoch Powell, the right-wing Tory MP for Wolverhampton.

Other candidates in the by-

BOOKS

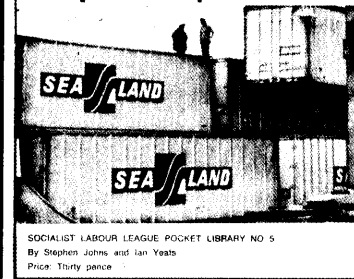


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Leeds

LECTURES

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM

Given by
Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee member)

Building the revolutionary party
Monday November 6

GUILDFORD HOTEL
The Headrow, 8 p.m.

CLASHES between the Chilean army and right-wing demonstrators yesterday and Wednesday were the most violent since the beginning of the lorry-owners' strike over two weeks ago. Tear-gas and water-cannon were used against groups of demonstrators who were stoning shops and buses. Army patrols drove through the street of Santiago, the capital, on the look-out for snipers.

LATE NEWS

WEATHER

GOVAN LAY-OFF

(See this page)
The strike was called off last night. Further wage talks will take place next Tuesday.

Bitter return in PA strike

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

CLERICAL STAFF and copytakers at the Press Association news agency returned to work on Fleet Street yesterday in a mood of bitterness and despondency, convinced management have successfully victimized their militant leader John Lawrence.

Mr Lawrence (57), the father of the NATSOPA chapel at PA, was left standing in the street after the strikers voted 40 to 20 to return to work.

Their decision was taken under a management threat to sack them if they did not immediately report for normal duty.

'There is nothing I can do. What is there to say about a strike when it's been defeated,' said Mr Lawrence.

As they went back to work each of the strikers shook hands with Mr Lawrence who was fired on the second day of the strike which was over pay. Negotiations on the pay claim began yesterday.

There is also great anger over the role of the full-time union officials, led by branch secretary John Lewis. The union sent out a communiqué urging other Fleet Street workers to give the strikers neither moral nor financial assistance.

This effectively blocked the considerable sympathetic action which was building up in the early stages of the dispute.

The NATSOPA leadership also failed to challenge PA's threat to fire the strikers and they have insisted that Lawrence's case is not one of victimization.

I understand the PA chapel will be organizing a delegation of protests to demand action over his case.

Trouble began at PA after journalists agreed



John Lawrence: Left standing outside

to a pay deal which offer minimum increases of £4. The only management offer to the NATSOPA members was £1.50 and on October 17 they decided unanimously to strike.

But the battle soon became one over alleged victimization when PA management moved in and fired Mr Lawrence on October 19.

They claimed he had 'wilfully' ceased to do the work for which he had been employed.

The crunch point came on Wednesday when the strikers received a letter from management giving them 48 hours to report for work or get the sack.

Militants on Fleet Street consider that an important battle on principle has been lost at PA. The role of NATSOPA has caused shock and anger.

All the evidence suggests that Mr Lawrence was sacked for leading a strike. Now he has lost the right to work.

Lay-offs at Govan

GOVAN Shipbuilders—the company which inherited the bulk of the bankrupt UCS shipbuilding consortium — laid off 1,500 men yesterday because of a strike by 50 boilermakers' foremen.

The dispute, which is the first to hit the company since it went into operation last month, is over pay. The foremen have rejected a £2 wage offer.

Discussions on the dispute are being led in London by James Murray, the boilermakers' Scottish officer, with the Shipbuilding Employers' Association.

In the agreement negotiated at Govan by the Stalinist-dominated shop stewards' co-ordinating committee, the unions undertake to recognize the importance of avoiding 'unconstitutional' action by workers while national procedure is in progress.

Govan Shipbuilders is based on the old UCS divisions of Scotstoun, Linthouse and Govan. The company became operational on September 18. Three days ago they launched their first ship—a 16,000-ton bulk carrier.

IT WILL be mainly cloudy with rain at times in most districts of England, Wales and western Scotland, but some brighter intervals are likely over Wales, south-west England and the Midlands during the day. Eastern Scotland will be mostly cloudy with perhaps some rain later in the day. Temperatures will be near normal.

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Rain at times, some sunny periods. Rather cold.

10-15 per cent fares rise—BEA claim

British European Airways and other airlines are to go ahead with plans for big increases in domestic air fares. The airlines applied to the Civil Aviation Authority yesterday for rises averaging between 10 and 15 per cent from November 1.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, right-wing Tory chairman of the CAA, made great play of adjourning the hearing for an hour after urging delegates to give 'very great weight' to the proposed 5-per-cent government price ceiling.

But James Scarlett, commercial relations manager of state-owned BEA, told the authority: 'The BEA and the British Airways Board regard it as BEA's duty to ask for the fares which it believes to be in its own commercial interest.'

'My instructions are to go ahead with the proposals as put in without any amendment.' Scarlett's boss, BEA chairman Keith Granville is a Tory and merchant banker.

FORMER Labour Party chairman Anthony Wedgwood Benn warns that simultaneously with their talks with the TUC the Tories were 'preparing the ground for a further assault on the unions'.

Writing in today's issue of 'Labour Weekly', he says that if the talks policy breaks down it could give way to a 'Who governs Britain?' campaign in which the unions would be blamed 'for every failure such as unemployment, inflation and an alleged breakdown in law and order'. Non-political trade unionism could not succeed against such a political campaign, Benn says.

CHRYSLER of Coventry laid off 1,400 production workers yesterday because of a strike by 129 workers at the Ryton on Dunsmore car assembly plant five miles away. The strike is over manning proposals.

Trepper libel case heard in absence



THE POLISH government has refused permission for Leopold Trepper, former head of the Soviet spy ring in western Europe, called the 'Red Orchestra', to leave the country to take part in a libel action he is bringing against a high French official.

Security chief Jean Foché, had accused Trepper of cooperating with the German counter-intelligence when he fell into their hands in 1942 and betraying members of his espionage net. Trepper claims that he deceived the Germans and was thus able to escape. He has cited ten witnesses in the case, including the author of the successful book 'The Red Orchestra', Giles Perrault. The hearings began in Paris yesterday.

Steel tubes carve-up: Ballot result today

BY DAVID MAUDE

A SECRET ballot among just over 1,000 Walsall tube workers will this morning give its verdict on a plan to speed up half their factory, shut down the rest and send 300 out of the gates with a promise of first option on any future employment there.

The plan has emerged after lengthy negotiations between the Stainless Tubes factory's parent company, Tube Investments, union officials and the shop stewards' action committee set up to fight earlier plans for a total shutdown.

It was being put to a secret ballot, convenor Alan Colpitts told Workers Press yesterday, because voting at a mass meeting had been so close the stewards could not get a clear decision.

'There was nothing else we could do', said Colpitts, a Communist Party member.

Of the 1,400 workers originally threatened with the dole, 190 have already left the factory 'voluntarily', 200 have been placed in alternative work nearby and 278 have been offered alternative work.

Under the TI plan between 350 and 400 would be kept on and given a £4.50 a week pay increase in return for measured increases in productivity.

This would leave 300 workers without a job. These would be placed on what the stewards describe as 'extended lay-off', paid an average £23.50 a week for up to 12 months and put first in the queue if any new employer opens up on the site.

If there was still no work for them at the end of 12 months 'that would be a matter for separate negotiation', Mr Colpitts said yesterday. He thought the stewards would demand a lump sum payment.

The 300 workers would have to collect their money from the factory each week 'so we would not lose contact with them'.

Mr Colpitts said yesterday that the plan was 'not what we would have liked to have seen', but made clear that he and his stewards are giving no firm lead against it in the ballot.

'It will depend on the membership whether we continue the fight', he said. 'We are prepared to fight if we've got the forces to fight.'

He claimed the outlook for finding a new employer to start up in the closed-down half of the factory was 'very hopeful'.

Two firms were interested: one a small tube firm, the other a motor components manufacturer.

Earlier this year the Communist Party was claiming a membership of 20 in the factory.

AN ORDER in Council is to be introduced soon to provide for an independent procedure to consider, among others things, the cases of people now interned and detained in Northern Ireland. This was announced by the under-Secretary, Northern Ireland (Mr David Howell) in a written Commons reply yesterday to Mr Albert Stallard (Lab St Pancras North).

THE SOVIET Union may already have begun to deliver fresh military aid to Egypt, according to a statement made by Prime Minister Aziz Sidky on his return from Moscow. Sidky said that he was given a pledge that the Soviet Union would honour its commitments and strengthen Egypt militarily 'within its capabilities'. Soviet military advisers were evicted last July after his failure to persuade Moscow to supply more offensive weapons.