

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3, 1972 ● No 911 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Behind the TUC-Heath talks

WHO WILL DRAW THE

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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The actors in the drama meet in separate rooms, then they meet in the same room on separate tables. They break and eat game pie, then they talk once more. But the obstacles remain.

The difficulties appear irreconcilable. Not even the most servile TUC bureaucrats has the power or independence to deliver the ready goods. If concessions were made, the Tories would understand them as paper promises. The fight with the working class over wages and rights would still lie ahead.

But the stalemate only mirrors the exact balance of class forces within capitalist Britain today, and the delay indicates only that the Tories still hesitate to resolve that balance by confrontation.

What are the real issues that dominate these talks?

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● On the other stand the monopolies that make up the capitalist fraternity of the country.

Two things are happening on this front. First we have the mad merger scramble. Yesterday it was P&O bidding for Bovis. Now the massive investment and property conglomerate Trafalgar Investments wants to swallow Bowaters. So the big boys too are preparing for battle, ganging up to weather the storm of crisis and struggle with the working class.

The other move is to Europe. Vast capital sums are flowing across the Channel to the Continent. Capital exports from Britain for the first six months of this year have already exceeded capital exports for all of 1971—itsself a record year.

This is not a haphazard development, it is quite deliberate. The Finance Ministers of capitalist Europe are now working out a plan for joint control

of capital movement and investment.

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As the economic crisis gets worse the political equilibrium cannot be maintained. That is why the Socialist Labour League fights to develop revolutionary leadership in preparation for the momentous struggles ahead.

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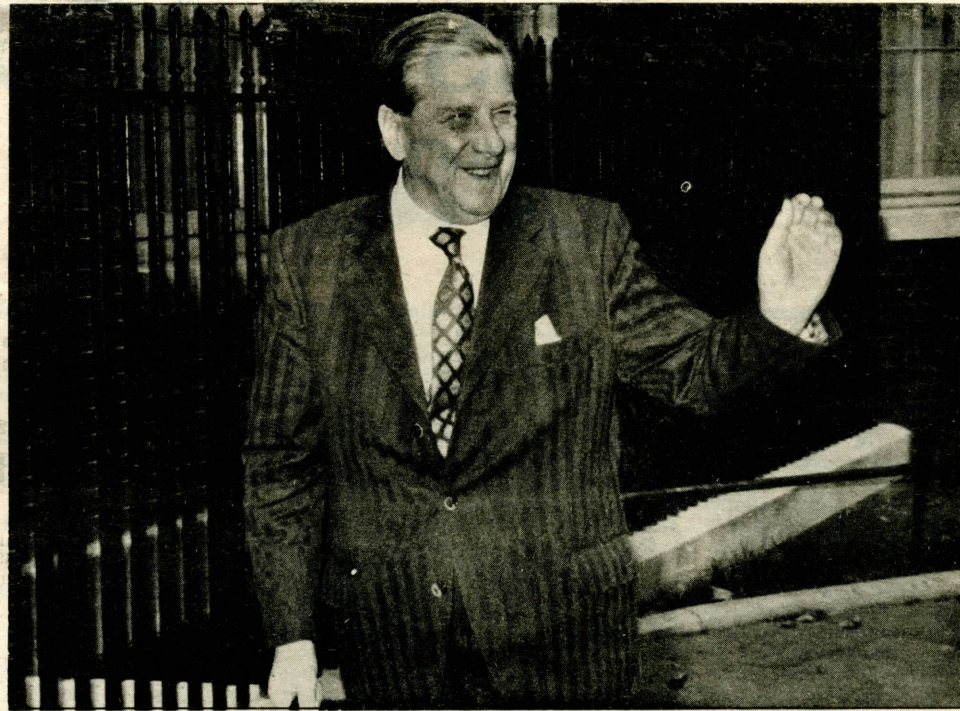
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Workers Press has been following the Society's activities with great attention, particularly since it began to hold seminars to discuss industrial relations.

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The director is John Garnett whom the Tories invited to sit on the miners' arbitration panel earlier this year. The society is currently raising £200,000 to pay for the conversion of its sumptuous headquarters in Carlton House Terrace.

The appeals committee consists of Eric O. Faulkner (Lloyds Bank), Sir Norman Kipping (Pilkington Brothers), Sir Maurice Laing (John Laing Construction), Sir Ian Lyle (Tate and Lyle), Lord Mancroft (Cunard Line and ex-Tory junior minister), Lord Robens (Vickers) and Victor Feather of the TUC.

Among the donors to the fund are Sun Life Assurance, Shell, GEC, Abbey National Building Society, Ford, IBM, British Oxygen, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, Valor Group, Decca, Bank of England, Lloyds Bank, Midland Bank, National Westminster, Barclays, Marks and Spencer, Pilkington Whitbread, Imperial Tobacco, Watney and Whitbread.

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The soft-talk at Downing Street is one thing. But deep in the bowels of Whitehall the real plans are being laid. These involve rule by decree on wages, a renewed legal offensive against the unions and the destruction of entire areas of industrial Britain after entry into Europe.

The Tories postponed this battle in the summer when the five dockers were released from jail. They cannot dodge the issue again.

This means the working class must be mobilized now. Talks with the Tories only help the class enemy prepare for battle. They must be broken off immediately.

Workers must press ahead with their wage struggles and they should be backed by all other unions.

The TUC Congress must be recalled to debate the main question—how to create the conditions to force this government to resign and elect a Labour administration pledged to socialist policies.

A week in the life of the

Sunday, October 22, 7.45 a.m.: IT'S EUSTON station. Hundreds of people are milling around the entrance to platforms 13 and 14. There are two charter trains each able to take 500 passengers. The faces are mainly young.

Some of them have been up since 4 a.m. arranging for buses to pick up visitors and get them to Euston on time.

There are shop stewards counting their delegations and handing out credentials. Older trade unionists, many with their wives and families, watch the gathering throng with quiet satisfaction.

Just after 8 a.m. the two trains pulled out for Birmingham, on the way to the national conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance.

London had produced a record contingent, but how would the other areas fare? No doubts remained when we walked from the station up the steep hill to the town hall. Queues stretched outside. It took over half an hour for us all to get inside and seated.

Delegates and visitors came from all over the country, from all industries. Dockers, engineers, car workers, cleaners, railwaymen, actors, miners, building workers, students, electricians, television technicians, Post Office workers and journalists.

In the opening contribution Comrade Gerry Healy, the national secretary of the Socialist Labour League, presented the conference document which called for the building of a revolutionary party in Britain.

There were 25 other speakers in the debate; a further 40 applications to speak couldn't be taken because of lack of time. It was a free and democratic debate. There were speakers who put the point of view of the Labour Party and the Communist Party.

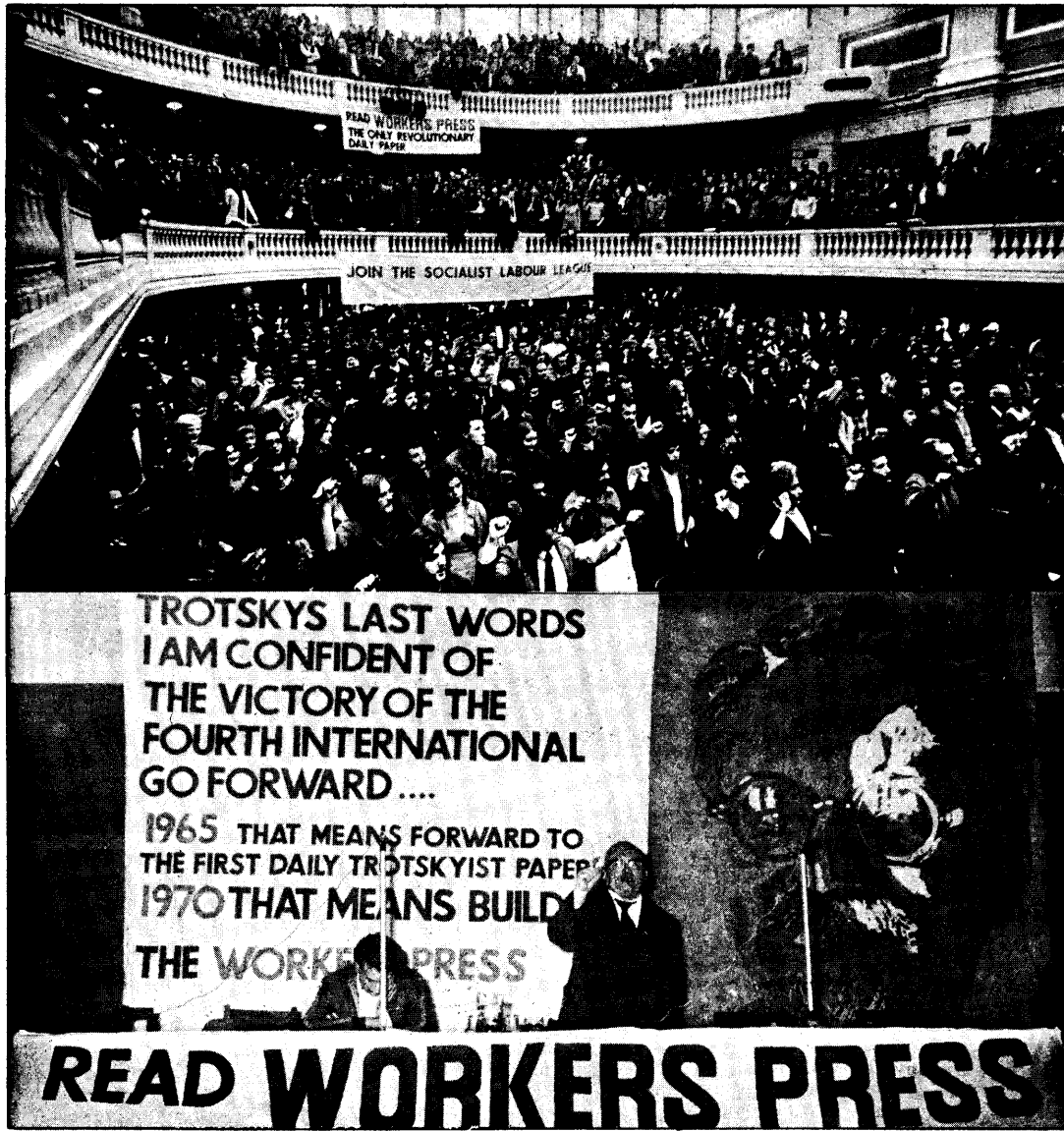
At the climax of the day a vote was taken on the document. It was a unanimous vote charging the ATUA and the SLL with the immediate responsibility of preparing for the transformation of the League into a revolutionary party. Thus the conference gave a mighty vote of confidence in the leadership and political perspectives of our movement. A collection raised £537.47.

Monday, October 23: IN A front-page article Workers Press warns of the trap being sprung in the Heath talks at Downing Street. Stephen Johns wrote in his article headed, 'End all talks with the Tories': 'Already union leaders have given the Tories a crucial breathing space by continuing talks and postponing important wages struggles.'

'If there is to be a fight now, it must be one which can unite all the workers with pay claims in action to force this government to resign. This is the only alternative to the Tory plan to control wages.'

Tuesday, October 24, 8 p.m.: CONWAY HALL, Red Lion Square, at ten minutes to eight there's scarcely a person there except two sellers of the Workers Press. Fifteen minutes later the place is packed with young workers of all races waiting to hear a reply to Joseph Losey's film 'The Assassination of Trotsky'.

We have been the only tendency in Britain to take up the fight for historical truth in relation to this film. Each night since it opened in the West End we have distributed our leaflet 'The



Top: A section of the 2,000-strong ATUA conference. Above: The Conway Hall meeting with SLL national secretary Gerry Healy answering Joseph Losey's film 'The Assassination of Trotsky'.

Socialist Labour League

Second Assassination of Trotsky.

Comrade Healy spoke to a packed audience of over 500 about the falsifications which Trotsky had fought all his life. He spoke of Trotsky's lasting struggle in defence of Marxism, but against the Stalinist bureaucracy. He spoke of Trotsky's main legacy, the building of the Fourth International.

Opponents of the SLL, the Communist Party and the International Socialists, came to the platform to make their points in a free debate. A collection raised £79.67.

Wednesday, October 25, 8 p.m.: A RECEPTION was held at a private house in London to mark the publication of 'Trotsky', a documentary by Francis Wyndham and David King.

Published by Penguin in a paperback edition at £1.50, this book is a timely and very welcome publication. It will create interest among tens of thousands of new readers whose understanding of Trotsky's life may have been arrested by a visit to the Losey film.

Among those present were distinguished writers, critics, film-makers, photographers and journalists.

At this point 'Private Eye' enters our life. This gutter rag says the following in this week's issue:

'By paying for the booze the SLL hoped to give the impression that they were responsible for the book.'

Only an idiot and/or read-

ers of 'Private Eye' could believe such patent rubbish. As everyone knows, the book is produced by Allen Lane the Penguin Press. The SLL did not pay for the reception or even make the invitations. It was handled by the Paperbacks Centre which is a new bookshop in Charlotte Street. When these new premises were opened, the Centre held a similar reception. Playwright David Mercer conducted the official opening. Since its recent opening, the Paperbacks Centre has built up a wide clientele among people interested in books on the left. The 'Trotsky' book has already proved an immensely popular seller at the Centre and the reception was called in recognition of the work of the author and art director.

'Private Eye' goes on to report that 'two Scottish engineering fitters, with an eye to the free booze' were told to 'get out' by a Workers Press reporter. It is clear that the leak to the 'Eye' came from these honourable figures. As he was leaving, one of the 'two Scottish engineering fitters' kept saying 'I'm in IS. I'm in IS.'

It is well known that 'Private Eye' is part of the IS milieu. Until recently Paul Foot was on the editorial board of both the 'Eye' and 'Socialist Worker'. Now he has left the 'Eye' to work full-time for 'Socialist Worker' and the 'New Statesman' and other 'left' publications.

But in his place at the 'Eye' moves Martin Tompkinson, the ex-LSE student rebel who is now an IS member and 'Socialist Worker' film reviewer.

We can safely assume, therefore, that the 'fitters' rushed off to their Greek Street headquarters to tell of their frightful mauling at the hands of the SLL and to embellish their account with additional slanders. They were not told to 'get out'. They were asked to leave. They weren't invited. They are known to be absolutely hostile to the SLL, the building of a revolutionary party in Britain and to Marxism.

'Private Eye' uses this grubby little piece of gossip for very specific reasons. The 'Eye' crowd are angry about our reception. Why? Because they wish to stand in the way of building the closest possible political ties between middle-class intellectuals and the working classes. These reactionaries always ridicule any 'trendy', as they call them, who takes an interest in working-class politics.

The SLL fights continuously to win over the best elements in the middle class to the struggle in the working class for state power. The production of the Workers Press, the staging of plays, the making of films are a testimony to the success of our campaign in the middle class.

When 'Private Eye' sees this development, it rushes into print to attack and deride those who are becoming serious about political questions facing the working class. In a form of bullying and blackmail, they finger journalists, actors and writers. Their object is to intimidate these men and women into ending their political associations with the working-class movement.

These attacks appear in a journal whose fascist concepts

are well known to Workers Press readers. We made this point in a detailed political study of 'Private Eye' in a three-part series earlier this year.

Throughout this year one can detect even more venomous attacks on the working class. The cover of August 25 'Private Eye' made fun of the police who attacked a docker picketing in Lincolnshire. In the issue of August 11 the paper used this 'satirical' item:

'Kray Brothers released—intervention by Official Solicitor'. 'Amidst emotional scenes unsurpassed since D-Day, Ronald and Reginald Kray the popular East End knee-breakers, were released from prison today. There was community singing as the Krays were shouldered by their work-mates and carried to a waiting flowered-deck tank.'

'The release of the Krays followed a surprise intervention by the Official Solicitor, E. Tharg. In the light of the Industrial Relations Act it was the court's view that the Krays had purged themselves and many others. Mr. Tharg added that the release of the notorious "Mile End Road Two" could well help to bring peace to London's strife-torn dockland.'

This item appears alongside a 'satirical' advertisement for gold medallions of 'The Pentonville Martyrs, Vic Turner and Derek Watkins'. The intention of this 'fun' is clear. The jailed dockers are equated with the Kray twins who are convicted murderers.

The working class moved en masse to secure the dockers' release are portrayed as fellow criminals.

Despite these deeply reactionary items—others have quite racialist overtones—the International Socialists still allow their members to work for this paper: Foot moves out, Tompkinson moves in.

Earlier this year we had the spectacle of 'Socialist Worker' advertising for new readers in 'Private Eye' which was further confirmation of the joint milieu they had created.

It is no accident that after an IS member attempted to gate-crash the book reception, a filthy little paragraph should appear anonymously in 'Private Eye'.

By not denouncing the 'Eye's' politics and not severing all connections with it, the IS group helps to foster this wretched political manifestation.

Thursday, October 26, 9 p.m. THE EDITORIAL board of the Workers Press, and members of the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work national committee were given a preview screening of the 40-minute colour film made about the five national Right-to-Work marches which were staged right across the country in February and March this year.

The marchers converged on the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 12 for a monster rally attended by 8,500 trade unionists and youth. It was the largest rally ever staged by the Trotskyist movement in Britain.

Friday, October 27: THE POUND drops to its lowest value in history and the Bank of England was forced to enter the markets.

At 10 Downing Street talks go on. Workers Press says: 'No talks with the Tories.' Our monthly appeal fund is low; there is £642.19 to raise in just four days. By the following Tuesday, October 31, we had raised a magnificent £1,882.97.

It is this kind of success which angers the revisionists and their dubious allies at 'Private Eye'.

Thornycroft buyer is becoming top Europe group

ENGLISH and Continental Property, which bought the 50-acre site at the Thornycroft plant, Basingstoke, are set to become one of Europe's biggest property groups.

The Thornycroft workers—who have just ended an 11-week sit-in against the sale of the factory by British-Leyland—will remember that E&CP paid £2.5m for the land earlier this year.

It was the same group which leased the factory site for three years only to the Eaton Corporation of America, making the Thornycroft men more suspicious than ever about Eaton's intentions.

The site has been favourably mentioned in property journals as ripe for some form of commercial 'redevelopment'.

Now E&CP—said to be worth about £120m — has arranged multi-million pound financing deals from the insurance companies.

The 51 per cent stake in E&CP by the Crown Agents has been reduced. Crown Agents are a semi-official government body mainly involved in fixing up property deals for former British colonies.

It was in 1971 that E&CP sprang into prominence with the £8m purchase of Cunard House, the shipping group's city headquarters.

This year it concluded Britain's biggest single property deal to date with the £22m purchase of the massive Bush House office complex in the Strand.

The group's immediate plans are to go public and be quoted on the Stock Exchange, probably early next year.

● See p. 4 & 5: 'Catch 22 in Leyland Jobs Deal'.

Fighting the Tories' rent Act

Sth Shields tenants plan rent strike

SOUTH SHIELDS tenants on the north-east coast are preparing a rent strike against the Labour council which last month decided to implement the Tory Housing Finance Act.

They plan to begin on November 20 when the first increases are due.

At a stormy meeting on October 4, 11 Labourites joined hands with the Tory opposition to force through a motion for implementation.

In a life-and-death issue for tenants, the Labour group had seen it fit to allow a 'free vote' in the council.

Outside hundreds of tenants jeered when the result became known. Those Labour councillors who collaborated with the Tories had to be protected from the crowd by the police.

Since that day 12 tenants' associations have been formed in South Shields to support a rent strike. And over 1,000 tenants have already said they will not pay the increase.

The tenants — who have already been promised support from the local trades council—plan a protest meeting the day before the increases start.

IMPATIENT pro - Common Market MP Dick Taverne yesterday pressed Labour's Chief Whip, Robert Mellish, to move the writ for the Lincoln by-election this month. In a letter to Mellish he says:

'I am sure you would recognize that the main consideration must be the interests of the people of Lincoln. With their many problems, particularly unemployment, it is obviously desirable to hold the election as soon as possible.'

Taverne resigned as Labour MP for the seat last month—to fight the by-election as a pro-Market 'Democratic Labour' candidate — after local opposition to his vote for Tory EEC policy. These same policies are creating the unemployment problem in Lincoln and nationally.



South Shields tenants demonstrate outside the Town Hall.

CAV black begins to bite

LUCAS WORKERS in the north-west will be laid off today because of the occupation at the group's CAV factory in Fazakerly, Liverpool.

Over 280 workers at Lucas Industrial Equipment which shares the same site with the occupied CAV plant have been told that there is no work for them because of a ban on supplies by the occupying workers.

Stewards see the speed at which management announced the

closure as a bid to split up the Fazakerly men.

The ban on supplies coming through the site gates came into effect on Wednesday and one shop steward at Lucas Industrial Equipment told me that normally work would have continued for up to a week.

The ban is part of a tightening up of the occupation by the CAV workers. They now strictly control access to the site with their own pass system.

This led to a rather farcical situation yesterday when foremen at

Lucas Industrial Equipment refused to accept the passes on orders from management.

But they were left standing outside the gates when some managers accepted visitors' passes.

Others, however, including the personnel director for Lucas' north west operations and two other directors, refused the passes.

They are now holding out with the rest of the Lucas top management at British Vacuum Flask, a group subsidiary at Huyton.

Meanwhile attempts to spread the solidarity with the occupation are continuing.

The Liverpool Trades Council is calling a meeting of Merseyside shop stewards on November 7, three days before the one-day protest strike planned by Lucas employees in the area in support of the occupation.

The CAV workers have also written to Liverpool dockers' leaders asking them to black Lucas products and to meet the occupation committee.

Jacqueline appeal?

JAILED Jacqueline Paddon (19), wants to appeal against the 21-month sentence for taking a friend's baby for 15 minutes. Mrs Martha Paddon (54), said yesterday she would like to get her daughter home 'so that I and my friends can help her'. Mrs Paddon also wants Jacqueline's own two-year-old child.

'Nationalize banks' MP in credit card protest

THE MIDLAND Bank's 'irresponsible' inertia selling of its Access credit - card scheme is a clinching argument in favour of bank nationalization, says Labour MP Hugh Jenkins.

The Access cards sent to his wife and himself have been cut in

half and returned in a letter to Midland's chairman.

'I wish to protest on two grounds,' says the Putney, London, MP.

'Firstly, you have no right to use the fact that I bank with the

Midland to inflict a piece of flagrant inertia selling on me. It is grossly discourteous and a breach of proper banking practice.

'Secondly your action is grossly inflationary.'

Young Socialists

Grand Xmas Bazaars

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

Corn Exchange
Leeds
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This selection is now being reviewed every day on page 8 by Tom Kemp. Be sure of your copy of Workers Press by telephoning our circulation department at 01-622 7029 or filling in the form on page 11.

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CATCH-22 IN LEYLAND JOBS DEAL

BY PHILIP WADE

The ending by union officials of the 11-week sit-in at the British-Leyland gear-box subsidiary in Basingstoke, Hants, leaves the 750 workers without any real guarantees of job security.

British-Leyland chiefs appear to have got what they want, and so too have the new buyers, the Eaton Corporation of Ohio, who take over next January.

For Lord Stokes, the deal with the plant and the land has raised another badly needed £5m to assist Leyland's push into Europe. They have also rid themselves of the responsibility for the Thornycroft factory.

As far as Eaton's are concerned the position is clear, despite all the ballyhoo contained in the final agreement sold to the occupying engineers. They have three years to learn about Leyland's products and will then be in a position to close the whole plant down.

For the Thornycroft men who occupied the factory for 11 weeks the settlement is a set-back, but not a defeat.

Their heroic and defiant struggle inspired many workers throughout the Leyland combine, 23,000 workers striking in their support on August 28.

They rejected a no-strike deal and rebuffed union officials. Their fight set a precedent throughout the Leyland combine which can be built on if the lessons are learned.

UNUSUAL LEASE

Although over 300 men took redundancy payments during the occupation, over 740 men are still left in the plant to take up the fight which, with a correct leadership, can win the day.

And the urgency of learning the lessons can be seen when the fight opening up for the Thornycroft men and all Leyland workers is examined.

Firstly there is the fact that Eaton's only have a three-year lease on the land on which the plant stands. The landlord is the English and Continental Property Company, which bought the 50-acre site for £2.5m.

The question of the three-year lease is of vital importance. A spokesman for a leading London firm of estate agents told Workers Press in itself it was an unusual phenomenon.

'The usual thing in these deals is for a 21-year lease with rent revision every seven years. What seems to be happening here is that E&CP wants to develop the land and it will take about three years to get all the necessary permission for their plans.

'In all probability there'll be a clause to this effect in the lease. It means Eaton's won't be able to renew it even if they wanted to.'

English and Continental's purchase of the site has brought forth eager comments from the men in the know. 'Possibly one of the choicest sites for redevelopment to emerge thus far along the new M3 motorway slicing through the south of England,' was the way 'Property for Business' described the purchase.

'Located half a mile from

the M3 and an equal distance from the Basingstoke town centre, the site could be sensitive planning-wise due to its improvement position at one of the town's entrances,' it added.

So the first thing to say is that Eaton's seem to be moving into a position where they could, if they wanted, leave Basingstoke altogether. The factory is old—it was built in 1898—and Eaton's have a far more modern plant bought off the government at Bolton in Lancashire.

And in addition—contrary to reports in the Tory Press—the Thornycroft workers have been offered no real guarantees, even for the three years being talked about.

In itself the agreement makes clear that neither Eaton's nor British-Leyland are committed to anything in essence. Leaving out the parts dealing with redundancy payments and hardship money for those who sat in, the key clauses in the agreement are numbers 4 and 5 together with the addendum.

But before examining them, the first task is to examine British-Leyland's parlous financial state and the state of the commercial vehicle market for which the Thornycroft gear-boxes are used.

With that overall picture of Leyland's present state and its future intentions, the clauses in the Thornycroft agreement will be shown for what they are really worth and not just a form of words.

Towards the end of last year, the only British-owned motor manufacturer had current debts to suppliers and others of £239m. It had also borrowed to the tune of £88m from the banks, mainly Barclays. BLMC also owed another £32m in short-term loans.

The interest burden was massive, running at about £17.5m a year. The banks were—and still are—worried about their money and Leyland had short-term liquidity problems.

With the Common Market on the horizon, Leyland desperately needed cash to finance operations inside Europe. Some £25m has almost been realized through hiving-off activities like the one at Basingstoke.

The Innocenti plant in Milan has been bought outright and plans are laid down for development of the assembly plant at Malines in Belgium, especially as far as commercial vehicles are concerned.

So with rising debts and a growing loss of confidence by the banks and the stockmarket, Leyland is in a precarious position. And that is just as true as far as the commercial vehicle section is concerned.

British-Leyland is the largest commercial vehicle producer in Europe at about 200,000 units a year, accounting for almost 80 per cent of total output in Britain.

But because of intense competition in foreign markets, exports of commercial vehicles from Britain are actually falling. In the first seven months, just over 86,000 were sold abroad—an annual rate of about 150,000.

This compares unfavourably with exports in 1971 of almost 195,000. Even in 1969 exports totalled 181,000.

The existence of a 20-per cent tariff barrier operated by the EEC countries has severely restricted exports. And as this will be the case for at least



two years until the tariffs are removed, any sort of headway made in Europe will be carried through only by intense competition and price wars as far as the British are concerned.

At the moment Europe has hardly been penetrated either by Leyland or any other UK commercial vehicle producer. Most of Leyland's commercial section exports go to countries like South Africa, Australia, Nigeria and New Zealand.

In a list of exporting markets, Belgium only ranks, for example, in fifth place, followed by Denmark. The rest of the Common Market countries account for very little.

As far as the heavy truck business is concerned, the British market slumped 14 per cent last year and in France and Germany the market has stalled for some years.

Earlier this year, in a determined bid to integrate its truck division to take on Mercedes and Fiat in the EEC, Leyland introduced the new 32-ton Buffalo range.

At the same time the combine began a ruthless rationalization of the entire range of trucks from 16 tons to 32 tons. The perspective is to have 21 models instead of the 32 on the market at the moment.

Production has been simplified and streamlined. The current range now all use the same basic fixed-head 500 engine, the same cab and not more than two gear-boxes, axles or clutches.

This rationalization is being carried out throughout the Leyland truck range, that is with Albion and AEC. Yet there is still some way to go.

Take Mercedes. Every one of its trucks is built at a single modern plant at Worth, close to the French border. The entire range is based on a single-engine design built up from four to 12 cylinders of standard size covering the power needs of trucks from six to 40 tons. The trucks share a small range of standard cabs and gearboxes and are built on a single assembly line.

Mercedes exports half its production and has captured 10 per cent of the French market.

TOUGH COMPETITION

So competition in Europe is going to be tough. At the moment there is already a surplus of output over demand. Until recently Leyland kept out of European truck markets, opting to sell in the Commonwealth.

Given that context, its determination to hive-off, liquidating assets to raise cash to finance these operations, it will not be committed one jot by the 'guarantees' to the Thornycroft men.

Now examine the clauses 4, 5 and the addendum:

'British-Leyland undertakes to place orders with Eaton for

the Basingstoke plant, subject to market conditions, so that Eaton can honour a commitment to avoid any compulsory redundancy of employees during the period to January 14, 1976.' (Clause 4.) (My emphasis.)

Then 'for clarification' you turn to the addendum to find that, apart from market conditions which are themselves revealed to be perilous, there is talk of redundancy again before 1976.

The agreement talks of work-schedules and then warns that 'if at any time in the three years, the level of these schedules should be too low to ensure that redundancy could be avoided BLMC will meet the national trade union officials to discuss the position following domestic discussions between Eaton's and union representatives.'

In other words, if the schedules for some curious reason do not live up to expectations, the sound of the factory gate closing on workers leaving for the last time will be as common as ever.

The Eaton company only makes the vaguest statement on its future intentions at Basingstoke. It only expects the Basingstoke facility 'could' play a role in any future expansion plans. (Clause 5.)

It will give 'full consideration' (a judicious phrase at the best of times) to Basingstoke as a 'possible manufacturing location for the potential new products'.



Top left: Seller, Lord Stokes of British-Leyland. He's raised another £5m to assist Leyland's push into Europe. Top right: Occupation. Above: Workers at Leyland's Cowley plant vote on August 28 to support Thornycroft occupation.

Leyland has now got rid of the subsidiary and Eaton's is in a position to learn how to make Leyland gearboxes, run the factory down and move all gear-box production to Bolton.

And as a final, overriding and objective factor in the situation, there is the crisis within capitalism itself. As already shown, exports from Britain are falling and the move into Europe will require desperate measures by Leyland and all other sections of big business.

Leyland is undoubtedly preparing wholesale rationalization throughout the combine, shifting capital directly into Europe. This will lead to massive attacks on every Leyland worker in the coming period.

In this situation, nothing but unemployment can be guaranteed by any employer in Britain—let alone Leyland or Eaton's.

As far as Basingstoke was concerned, national officials of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers led no fight to mobilize the whole Leyland combine in defence of the Thornycroft workers.

The only stoppage called was by the British-Leyland combine shop stewards' committee, which, although powerful, is an unofficial body.

Over 23,000 workers participated on August 28, including those at Bathgate (Scotland), Leyland (Lancs), Tractor Transmission (Birmingham) and Morris Motors, BMC Service and the KD export plant (Cowley, Oxford).

Significantly, however, factories led by Communist Party stewards like the one at Longbridge (Birmingham) and others in the Midlands failed to strike because of a lack of a determined fight for the principle of the stoppage.

The reformist leadership of the AUEW only paid lip-service to the hiving-off deal and was content to force home the settlement on the basis of the vaguest 'guarantees' as the price for ending the embarrassment of the sit-in.

COMBINE IN DEFENCE

Without the mobilization of the whole combine in defence of their right to work, the occupation committee leadership finally split in favour of the deal with Leyland and Eaton's.

At Basingstoke—and everywhere else where workers are fighting for jobs—there was and cannot be any in-between solution in defence of the right to work.

The massive hard-core unemployment which undoubtedly will soar with devaluation and inflation with Common Market entry is a political question posing—as the Thornycroft men did by occupying the plant for 11 weeks—the question of power, of who runs the country and for what purpose.

The crisis of the capitalist

system—and its sharp reflection in the weakest link of all in Britain—can only be met by a political fight to open the road to socialism.

At the centre of this struggle for the Thornycroft men and all others was and remains the continued existence of the reactionary Tory government which is preparing the road to dictatorship in Britain to carry through their task of trying to destroy the basic rights of the working class, its standard of living and its determination and ability to fight.

While the Tories remain in power no question facing the working class can be solved. As Basingstoke showed—despite the militancy and determination—no amount of pressure and resultant negotiations can guarantee anything.

The no-politics lesson has to be learned. The first step now to the taking of power by the working class is the resignation of the Tory government by the mass mobilization of the strength of the working class.

A Labour government must be returned, pledged by the mass movement to socialist policies at the centre of which must be the demand for the nationalization of combines like Leyland and all sections of big business under workers' control and without compensation.

At Basingstoke the demand must be for no more sackings until the Leyland empire is finally nationalized in this way.



Left: Lord Reith, the BBC's first Director-General. Above: Rex Palmer, the first London Station Director broadcasting in 1923. Below: The BBC Victory broadcast in 1945—'talk of national interest when they mean class interests'.

Above: Churchill making one of his wartime broadcasts. Below: The Queen giving a Christmas day broadcast. The BBC 'is most important propagandist for the monarchy, the armed forces, and the concept of nationhood'.



THIS IS THE BBC, HOME SERVICE...

Leslie Stewart looks at 50 years of the BBC

The BBC is celebrating 50 years of broadcasting. The actual anniversary—but this is not stressed in the official handouts—is that of the setting up of the British Broadcasting Company in November 1922.

This original BBC was a cartel of set manufacturers. Six main companies were involved, Marconi being the most important because it owned the bulk of the radio patents. Other members were Metro-Vickers, Western Electric and Thomas Houston.

The main aim of the cartel was to protect the radio industry in Britain from foreign competition, chiefly from America and Germany, who were importing radio parts into Britain.

People who had learned about radio communications in the armed forces or were simply interested in the possibilities of wireless for communicating with each other bought these parts and made their own sets. This the manufacturers resented.

The second aim of the cartel, therefore, was to force people to buy sets manufactured in Britain and sold under licence by the cartel.

The BBC, in its original form, was not interested in broadcasting or in programmes. Indeed it felt that too many people were already communicating with one another on an amateur basis. What did concern the Company was profits, the only hope of which lay in extending a closely-controlled market for wireless receivers.

The Company duly received a licence from the Postmaster-General and a government promise that the industry would be given protection over a period of years against foreign competition.

In spite of this a Company spokesman told a government committee that there was 'no monopoly in the business resulting from broadcasting for any single British firm or group of firms, and if there is any monopoly it is one for British firms as a whole as distinct from foreign firms.' As a piece of double-think this is hard to beat.

The British Broadcasting acquired as its general manager, a young man called John Reith.

He was a son of the manse from Glasgow who had trained as an engineer at Beardmore's, worked as a manager in American arms factories after being wounded in France, and returned to peace with no job but an immense ambition.

He was a personification of the Protestant capitalist ethic, puritanical, conformist, authoritarian and respectful of authority. In his autobiography, Reith suggests that he got the job because of divine intervention. The facts were simpler.

POWER

He wanted a job that offered power and public attention. He tried the political parties in turn. The Labour and Liberal Parties turned him down. A Conservative MP took him on as a personal secretary and campaign manager.

Reith, who was without political principles, worked well. When the MP became a member of the board of the BBC, being himself the representative of Siemens on it, he had Reith appointed general manager. Reith then proceeded to use the BBC as an

instrument for his ambitions.

By 1925 his desire for power and status coupled with growing interest in communications had led him to decide that broadcasting should be taken out of the hands of the radio industry. This was the period when the concept of 'public service broadcasting' began to take shape in his mind and in the mind of civil servants in the Post Office.

There was even talk about moving towards 'a strengthening public control', with representatives of 'the public' sitting on a Broadcasting Board or Commission. By 'the public' they meant reliable representatives of the ruling class with perhaps a tame Labourite thrown in for good measure.

In other words they wanted to create a situation in which an 'independent' BBC could be given the function of seeing that broadcasting was safe and 'balanced'. There would, if Reith had his way, be a certain amount of 'controversy'; but his idea of controversy was the harmless airing of pros and cons that cancelled each other out. The BBC was to become one of the main exponents of bourgeois ideology.

At this point the radio manufacturers themselves had lost interest in protection and did not wish to become involved in commercial broadcasting, their profits from the booming markets in sets being perfectly satisfactory.

They did not resist, therefore, when a government committee in July 1926, set up the British Broadcasting Corporation, licenced by the Postmaster General and furnished with a coat-of-arms and a Royal Charter empowering it to develop broadcasting 'as a means of education and entertainment . . . in the national interest'.

It is true that the 'Westminster Gazette' saw in the creation of the Corporation a dangerous step towards socialism. Indeed some Labour MPs actually saw it as a step in that direction. But 'The Economist' had a truer view of the new Corporation, believing that it was 'a trustee and steward for the public in the maintenance and development of a new element in national life of great social and economic value'.

'The Economist' knew what it was talking about because the old BBC had given evi-

dence during the General Strike in the early summer of that same year of its reliability. The General Strike plays an important part in the ideology of the BBC to this day. The claim is that by getting Baldwin's support against Churchill's attempts to take over radio and use it as he used 'The British Gazette'—that is to say as an open propagandist weapon against the strikers and the working class—and by transmitting a certain amount of news from TUC sources 'provided they were objective', Reith established the principle of BBC 'independence'.

But this was not his own view of what had happened. When the Strike was over, he sent a confidential letter to all his heads of departments spelling out with remarkable clarity his view of the role of the BBC in a class society.

INDIVIDUAL

'Since the BBC,' he wrote, 'was a national institution, and since the government in this crisis were acting for the people . . . the BBC was for the government in the crisis

too; we had to assist in maintaining the essential services of the country, the preservation of law and order and of the life and liberty of the individual and of the community.'

How Reith interpreted his impartiality is seen by the fact that throughout the strike he was in constant touch with a link-man appointed by Baldwin to oversee broadcasting, with whom Reith discussed important decisions, and by the fact that no Opposition speaker—far less any representative of the strikers—was allowed near the microphone.

So it was with a firm conviction of the BBC's reliability that the government allowed it to be set up. The representatives of 'the public' appointed to sit on the first Board of Governors included a coal-owner, an ex-Comptroller of the Bank of England, the headmaster of Winchester public school, and the wife of Philip Snowden, the right-wing and deeply reactionary Labour MP. They would protect 'the national interest'—that is to say, the interests of the ruling class of this country.

The BBC has lived up to expectations. It has consistently supported and operated

in terms of the parliamentary consensus through which the Labour Party functions as the reformist element supporting the capitalist system.

It has been one of the main channels for the attempt to maintain the power of the church. It is one of the most important propagandists for the monarchy, the armed forces, 'pageantry', 'tradition' and the concept of 'nationhood'.

It has, by its policy of 'impartiality' tried to prevent the viewing and listening public from making connections between the 'impartial' facts they hear and see on radio and television and their own daily lives in factories or homes, because to make connections might mean understanding the true nature of our society and beginning to wonder whether it might not be changed.

Fortunately the General Strike, while it may have reassured the ruling class about the reliability of the BBC, left in the minds of the working class a residue of distrust of it as a class instrument.

It was a distrust reinforced by the BBC accent and its patronizing tone towards ordinary people.

DIRECTIVES

That role is clearly understood by the men and women who run the BBC. They do not require government directives or government supervision to make them discharge it. They do it 'independently'. Their job is to act as one of the main mouthpieces for the ideology of the ruling class.

Practically it means that in any broadcast they will try to blunt issues and to contain political discussion within the limits of the parliamentary consensus and deny expression

to any revolutionary or even radical views.

It means that news bulletins will dismiss anti-imperialist movements as merely 'terrorists' and pickets as 'trouble-makers' or 'militants'.

It means that speakers and commentators will constantly talk of 'national interests' when they mean class interests. It means that they will attempt to drive a wedge between 'the public' or 'the working class' or 'the trade union movement as a whole' and the active elements in the working-class movement.

It is the only trick that Trotsky described in his article on 'Communism and Syndicalism'—the trick whereby 'the bourgeois ideologists . . . set up "the working class as a whole" against the party and the trade unionists.'

It is a stratagem we have seen and heard a lot of in these weeks as the Tory government has tried to impose a curb on the unions through collaboration with the reformists on the TUC. In a moment of class crisis the role of the BBC becomes more transparent. The BBC is 'for the government'—to quote Reith again—in this crisis too.

WRITINGS OF LEON TROTSKY

A review by Tom Kemp. Part three 1935—1936

The volumes of Trotsky's writings so far published for the period after 1935 differ in several respects from the two already reviewed. They are printed on a large format page and consist mainly of facsimile reproductions of articles which appeared in the Trotskyist Press and other journals in the United States, together with a few items translated into English for the first time. The selections are grouped under headings according to country or subject rather than being in chronological order. This makes it possible to follow through Trotsky's thought on a particular topic, such as the Moscow Trials. On the other hand, the notes do little more than indicate the source of the articles, thus leaving the reader to find out for himself about the many persons, organizations and events which are referred to. In addition, there is no index. Apart from the faults of editorship, these volumes are still to be highly recommended because they bring together writings which are otherwise virtually inaccessible or, in certain cases, have never been available in English before.

The volume for 1935-1936 covers the period from the time of Trotsky's arrival in Norway from France in June 1935, until the end of December 1936. This was a vital period which included the first Moscow show-trial of old Bolsheviks, the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War and the May-June sit-in strikes in France following the electoral victory of the Popular Front.

Unfortunately, a number of important articles on the last two of these events are not included on the grounds that they are available elsewhere.

In 1935, at the 7th (and last) World Congress of the Communist International, the Stalinists put on formal record the rightward turn which followed after the significance of the German defeat began to become apparent.

The proceedings of the Congress had nothing in common with those of the Third International in Lenin's day. The reports were long and dull and laid down a policy which became mandatory for the communist parties throughout the world, a policy which conformed with the interests of the Soviet bureaucracy as interpreted by Stalin.

In delineating the new turn, Trotsky pointed out that the theory and practice of the 'third period' could not be entirely and painlessly liquidated, but remained alive among the rank and file and in the working class.

He saw contradictory tendencies inside the communist parties and on their periphery. While the official line now became opportunist, turning towards a coalition with the parties of the Second International and the 'left' bourgeois parties, in the working class the old slogans were still very much alive.

This was shown, for example, in France, in the struggles which took place in the arsenals of Toulon and Brest where strikers fought pitched battles with the police. It was confirmed, again, in 1936, both in France, where the big occupation movement took place against the wishes of the Stalinist apparatus, and in Spain, where the revolutionary upsurge was held in check.

Trotsky vigorously attacked the resolutions of the 7th Congress which rested on the lie that socialism had been achieved in the Soviet Union and that peace could be se-

cured by abandoning class struggle in the capitalist countries and creating coalitions with the radical parties of finance capital.

'The humiliating and truly servile dependency of the Communist International upon the Soviet upper crust is expressed in a particularly glaring light in connection with the recent declaration of Stalin, approving the national defence of French imperialism', wrote Trotsky in an 'Open Letter for the Fourth International'.

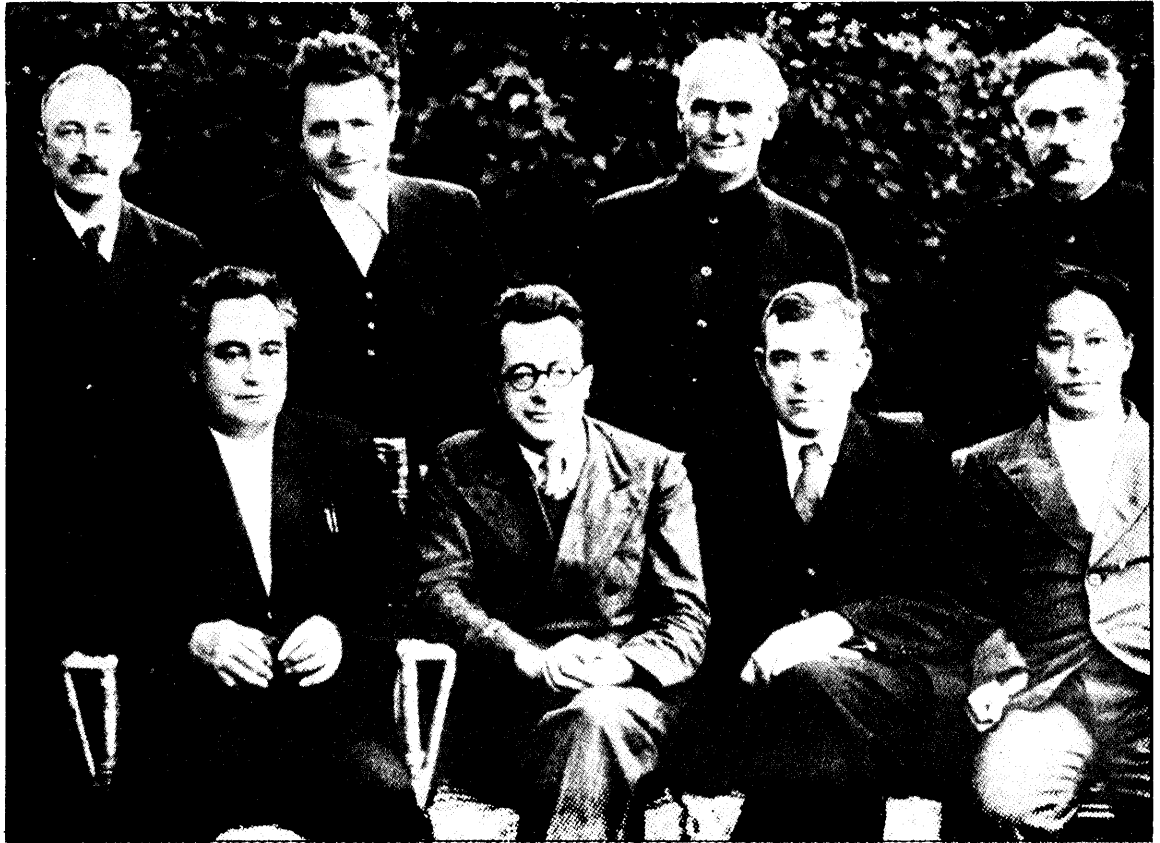
He was referring, of course, to Stalin's statement approving French re-arming after the signing of the Franco-Soviet pact in 1935. This gave the signal for a patriotic turn on the part of the French Communist Party which overnight adopted the tricolour and the 'Marsaillaise' and dropped its activity in the direction of the conscript army.



Stalin: approved France rearming

The alternative for which Trotsky fought in opposition to this rightward, patriotic turn was spelled out in the same 'Open Letter' with its theme: 'Marxists at all times and under all conditions openly say what is.' He called for the formation of new parties and a new International on revolutionary Marxist foundations. This task was made difficult not only by the hold which the Stalinist and reformist parties exerted on the working class, but also by the centrist currents which were trying to find a way between reformism and revolution.

Trotsky called centrism at this time 'an inevitable transitional stage even for progressive working-class groupings', but many of his sharpest polemics were directed against their leaders, some of whom, for a time, veered towards the Fourth International. Criticism of centrism and warnings against its dangers are repeated themes in all these volumes.



Top: General staff of the Comintern at its Seventh Congress in July, 1935. Front—Dimitrov (Bulgaria), Togliatti (Italy), Florin (Germany), Chen Shao-yo (China). Rear—Kuusinen (Finland), Gottwald (Czechoslovakia), Pieck (Germany) and Manullsky (USSR). Above: barricades set up by French workers, 1936.

The question of centrism was closely linked with that of the 'French turn', i.e. the entry of the Bolshevik-Leninists in France into the Socialist Party (SFIO). This was strongly opposed in Europe and echoed in the United States by those who opposed a similar entry tactic. Sectarian trends appeared in a number of Trotskyist organizations, some of which split off to form separate groups.

In advocating entry in the United States, Trotsky took account of its positive effects in France where the supporters of a Fourth International were able to secure a strong position in the youth organization and prepare the way for the June strikes in 1936. Pointing this out he wrote: 'Our French section during recent years has placed the General Strike in the centre of its propaganda. In distinction from all other parties and groups speaking in the name of the working class, the French Bolshevik-Leninists appraised the situation in time as a pre-revolutionary one, correctly understood the symptomatic significance of the strike outbursts at Brest and Toulon and despite the ceaseless attacks of the opportunist

ists and social-patriots (SFIO, CP, CGT) and the opposition of the centrists (Marceau Pivert, etc.) prepared by their agitation for a General Strike. On fertile soil a handful of seed gives a big yield. Thus, under the conditions of social crisis and of the indignation of the masses, a small organization, poor in material resources, but armed with correct slogans, has exercised an undoubted influence upon the course of revolutionary events. The furious persecution of the Bolshevik-Leninists by the whole capitalist, social-democratic, Stalinist and trade unionist Press, together with the repressions of the police and judges of Leon Blum, serve as an external confirmation of this truth.' (pp. 32-33.)

Sectarian

Analysing the events of 1936 in France, Trotsky pointed out that their immediate effect was a rapid growth of the old organizations and particularly of the trade unions.

'The June strikes', he writes, 'show how false are the ultra-left, sectarian theories that the trade unions have "out-lived" their time and must be

replaced by other organizations or that it is necessary to build new, "genuine" trade unions alongside the old conservative ones.'

And he sums up: 'A revolutionary party which is incapable of carrying on systematic and successful work in the trade union organizations will be yet more incapable of creating its own trade unions. All such attempts are doomed to failure.'

This is one of many examples where a study of the writings yield lessons for today. From all these experiences, moments of victory, but mostly of defeats for the working class, Trotsky drew important conclusions from which much can be learned.

Trotsky followed so closely the development of the sections of the Left Opposition that he could be said in a full sense to be participating in their work. During the high point of the events in France, he wrote constantly about the tactical problems which they raised and corresponded with members of the French section. Represented here are, in fact, only the public articles of the period.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

3,000 MILLION

Dr Smith is very worried about pollution. It's not smoke or chemicals that concern him, but people. There are too many of them and they are 'polluting' the planet, he says.

Dr Alistair Smith is a lecturer in geography in Glasgow University. He recently enlightened the Church of Scotland Youth Fellowship on his views on our future.

The conference was called 'pot, porn and pollution', subjects of increasing concern to certain sections of the middle class and religious fraternity.

Dr Smith decided that perhaps by the year 2,000 we might be thinking of sterilizing 60 per cent of girl babies born. Another more direct solution might be the elimination (he didn't specify how) of a modest 3,000 million of the earth's population.

'It sounds horrific, but are not such means necessary to prevent a more horrific end which might be our lot?' asked Dr Smith.

You will be pleased to know he has already considered the political methods by which such a vast pogrom could be carried out.

'... it will not be done under a democracy but through autocracy. I do not eliminate the idea that in the year 2000 the governments of the developed nations who have grouped together may decide to eliminate 3,000 million of the earth's population.'

Dr Smith ought to be careful. It might enter the heads of the 3,000 million 'unfortunates' to get together and eliminate him instead.

IN DANGER

Ray Gunter, the former Minister of Labour under the Wilson government — who later went on to become a director of Securicor, Britain's largest private army — has not yet stopped travelling.

The other night he turned up in Hull to address a meet-

ing of the Economic League, the right-wing outfit of businessmen who contribute thousands of pounds to the Tory Party and whose propaganda is vehemently anti-communist.

It is reported that he received 'tumultuous applause' for his speech at the Hull branch's annual dinner. This is not surprising, considering the attack he made on workers.

The claims of the trade unions for a higher standard of living contained 'an element of envy', he said. In advice to management in handling workers fighting unemployment he advised they selected people who could talk their way out of situations.

'How could you get over the necessity for change or tell them they were going to be made redundant so that the industry could be made more competitive?' he asked the gathering of Hull big business.



He said this 'revolutionary scene' in Britain put freedom in danger. Society had a right to defend itself against shop stewards and all those who 'imperilled freedom and society. There is nothing wrong with some framework of the law to contain the threat.'



US NATIONAL CONFERENCE DEMANDS:

BUILD A LABOUR PARTY!

Reprinted from the 'Bulletin', weekly paper of the Workers League.

CHICAGO — Over 325 trade unionists and youth, attending the National Conference for a Labour Party Now! on October 21-22 agreed unanimously to carry forward a campaign for a labour party as the only way to defend the American working class.

The following motion was passed: 'The Conference resolves to take up a battle for the trade unions to form a labour party. This fight will be based on the programme in **The Case For A Labour Party** and will be part of the defence of the working class as a whole.'

The conference also elected a Continuations Committee of 23 trade unionists including auto workers from Delco in Dayton, Local 3 in Detroit and Local 25 in St Louis. Also represented on the Continuations Committee were steelworkers, teamsters, members of Communications Workers of America (CWA), the International Association of Machinists, Local 1199 of the Hospital workers, the International Longshoremen's Association, Letter Carriers, teachers, taxi drivers, and the Social Service Employees Union Local 371 welfare workers.

Greetings were received from Rudi Sulento of Local 216 at Southgate, California and a member of the United National Caucus of the United Auto Workers.

The conference opened with a report by Tim Wohlforth, national secretary of the Workers League. He explained that despite the calm, the routine and the general lack of interest in the elections, it was the most critical election in recent history.

'This is because it is dominated by what is to come. The world capitalist system is in deep crisis, compelling the corporations in each country

to push back their workers as part of a worldwide trade war. At the same time, the inflated dollar threatens to collapse, bringing down world trade as a whole.'

The collapse of the Democratic Party, Wohlforth noted, is not an episode nor simply related to McGovern. It started with Humphrey in 1968 and is of historic significance.

'We are witnessing an event as important as the break-up of parties on the eve of the American Civil War. This is because we face a new "irrepressible conflict," a period when compromise between capital and labour is no longer possible, when there is no economic basis for reform, where therefore the party of reform, the Democrats, is torn apart.'

He insisted that Nixon's preparations for new intensive attacks on workers demanded a political answer. This is the labour party. Never before have workers felt so powerless, without any real weapon to defend themselves with against Nixon. This creates the conditions for building a tremendous movement in the trade unions for a labour party.

The central problem facing the working class is the crisis of leadership, Wohlforth stated. Fitzsimmons and Gleason openly endorse labour-hater Nixon, Meany is bankrupt proposing nothing in the election, while Woodcock supports McGovern and at the same time sabotages the movement for a national strike against General Motors.

Wohlforth explained how the labour bureaucracy was aided by radical forces within the rank and file which sought to hold back the working class from coming to a political consciousness.

'The Communist Party is the major force seeking to hold back the working class. It not only has taken the lead in trying to continue the ties of the trade unions to the capitalist Democratic Party

but at the same time it must act to break the movement of the ranks in the plants for union action against speed-up. It does this by backing up the national and secondary UAW leadership and acting against a national GMAD strike.

'The traitorous role of the CP in the unions flows from Stalinism. They support the labour bureaucrats while they support the bureaucracy in the Soviet countries, which opposes the policies which led to the Russian Revolution. The only way the interests of the workers can be defended today is through workers taking up a fight for Trotskyism against Stalinism, and seeking to learn from the history of the workers movement. This is the fight carried forward only by the Workers League.'

Wohlforth explained the role of the Socialist Workers Party in refusing to fight for a labour party, in covering for the Stalinists.

Wohlforth ended his speech with a discussion of consciousness.

He explained how trade unionists must understand that the cause of the attacks they face lies in the capitalist system itself and that they must master Marxist theory to understand how these attacks come about and how they can be fought.

Marxists in the trade unions must come into conflict with the thinking of their fellow workers who recognize the attacks but do not see these attacks as rooted in capitalism itself and requiring new methods of struggle in order to be combated.

He urged all those present to prepare for this new period by taking up a fight for the 'Bulletin' which will lead not only the fight for a labour party but for revolutionary leadership in the trade unions and among youth.

The discussion at the Conference will be reported in tomorrow's Workers Press

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

CORBY: Sunday November 5, 7.30 p.m. Trades and Labour Club.

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

BIRMINGHAM: Monday November 6, 8 p.m. Lecture Room 5, Digbeth Civic Hall.

LEICESTER: Tuesday November 7, 8 p.m. Southfields Library.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Tuesday November 7, 7.30 p.m. The Molyneux Hotel, Molyneux Street.

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday November 7, 8 p.m. Balham Baths, Elmsfield Road, SW12. 'Inflation—A deliberate Tory policy'.

PRESTON: Wednesday November 8, 7.30 p.m. 'Oddfellows Arms', Mount Street.

PRESTON: Wednesday, November 8, 7.30 p.m. Oddfellows Arms, Mount Street.

LIVERPOOL: Wednesday, November 8 7.30 p.m. Mitre Hotel, Dale St (near the tunnel).

WILLESDEN: Thursday November 9, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW10. 'Common Market conspiracy'.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday November 9, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road (opposite New Cross station). 'Stalinism and the fight to force the Tories to resign'.

MANCHESTER: Thursday November 9, 7.30 p.m. Milton Hall, Deansgate.

CLAPHAM: Thursday November 9, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4.

WIGAN: Sunday November 12, 12 noon. 'Dog and Partridge', Wallgate.

TYNESIDE: Sunday November 12, 7.30 p.m. 'Robin Hood', Wallsend High Street, WALLSEND. 'The Crisis in Shipbuilding'. Speaker: Stephen Johns (Workers Press).

ACTON: Monday November 13, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3. 'Transform the SLL to the Revolutionary Party'.

NORTH KENT: Monday November 13, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue, Rochester.

PAISLEY: Wednesday November 15, 7.30 p.m. Paisley Town Hall.

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. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 2.30 A chance to meet. 3.05 Incredible hummingbirds. 3.50 Children talking. 4.00 Clangers. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Magic roundabout. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Help. 5.15 Michael Bentine time. 5.45 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 **BARNEY BEAR.**

6.55 **THE PINK PANTHER SHOW.**

7.15 **THE VIRGINIAN: MEN FROM SHILOH.** Jenny.

8.30 **DAD'S ARMY.** The Desperate Drive of Corporal Jones.

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

9.25 **CANNON.** Death Chain.

10.15 **ANNIVERSARY BANQUET.** Gathering in London's Guildhall to mark the 50th anniversary of the BBC with speeches by The Prime Minister, The Lord Mayor of London and The Chairman and Director-General of the BBC.

11.05 **FRIDAY TALK-IN.**

11.50 **LATE NIGHT NEWS.**

11.55 **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.** A Kind of Wild Justice.

7.30 **HAWAII FIVE-O.** Journey Out of Limbo.

8.30 **DORA.** The Jet Setters.

9.00 **NEW SCOTLAND YARD.** Evidence of Character.

10.00 **NEWS AT TEN.**

10.30 **POLICE FIVE.**

10.40 **FILM: 'NIGHT OF THE DEMON.'** Dana Andrews, Peggy Cummins, Niall MacGinnis. Black magic in the modern world.

12.10 **BEYOND INSTITUTIONS.**

12.15 **SPYFORCE.** The Escape.



In 'The Desperate Drive of Corporal Jones', tonight's BBC 1 'Dad's Army' episode, the Corporal sets out to rescue the rest of the platoon from a dangerous situation—situation comedy that is. As far as comedy goes it's fair, but there must be better vehicles for the talents of people like Clive Dunn.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.

6.35-7.00 **IRELAND.** Green, White and Gold.

7.30 **NEWSROOM.** Weather.

8.00 **MONEY AT WORK.** A Nation of Taxpayers.

9.00 **HERITAGE.** HM The Queen

holds an Investiture.

9.25 **DOCUMENTARY: '1936 THE TURNING POINT.'** French film analysing the uneasy alliance that formed the French Popular Front.

10.40 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

10.45 **FILM NIGHT.**

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.05 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Let's face it. 3.00 Film: 'Mr and Mrs Bo Jo Jones'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Odd couple. 6.35 London. 7.30 FBI. 8.30 London. 10.30 Report special. 11.30 News, weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 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. 5.25 Crossroads. 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: 'The Criminal'. 12.25 News. 12.35 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 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: 'Hilda Crane'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Dora. 11.00 Now it's your say. 11.30 On the run. 12.30 Weather.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 3.00 Junkin. 3.20 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: 'Love With A Proper Stranger'.

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: 'Rain-tree County'.

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 Film: 'Break-away'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 Merrie melodies show. 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: 'Blood Kin'. 12.35 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: 'See You in Hell Darling'.

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: 'Pay or Die'. 12.25 News. 12.40 Epilogue.

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, weather. 6.05 Thompson at teatime. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hogan's heroes. 8.00 McCue's music. 8.30 London. 10.30 Partners. 11.00 Job look. 11.10 Film: 'Crowhaven Farm'. 12.30 Meditation.

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Lake Street, 8 p.m.**

Socialist Labour League

Leeds

LECTURES

**THE THEORY AND
PRACTICE OF MARXISM**

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Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central
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**Building the revolutionary party
Monday November 6**

**GUILDFORD HOTEL
The Headrow, 8 p.m.**

PAISLEY

Saturday November 4.

Dialectical Materialism.

**PAISLEY TOWN HALL,
10 a.m.**

Lectures given by
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Rent Act: Defiant Glasgow has £500,000 arrears

GLASGOW corporation's decision not to put up the rent last month has led to arrears totalling almost £500,000.

Because the Labour-controlled authority refused to implement the Scottish Housing Finance Act, the city's 150,000 council tenants were spared 70p a week increases.

And when the Tories tried to move on Wednesday that all housing projects should stop because of the £500,000 deficit, they were defeated 18 votes to five.

Cllr Patrick Lally said there were 50,000 people on the council's waiting list for homes

and new projects were urgent.

The housing committee decided to spend £10,000 on issuing about 30,000 leaflets explaining the possible implications of the council's policy.

On November 20, the Secretary of State for Scotland will open a public inquiry into

Glasgow's failure to implement the Act.

At the end of the day, he will be able to make a decision about taking over all the corporation's housing powers, putting up the rents and cutting housing subsidies in addition to surcharging councillors.

Tighten productivity employers are urged

EMPLOYERS were yesterday urged to tighten the screws on productivity agreements with their workers.

In some trades workers have been paid more for doing less, claims an article in the magazine 'The Accountant'.

The article is commenting on a scheme put forward by the Engineering Employers' Federation earlier this week for deciding firms' ability to meet wage claims.

The EEF scheme is based on the idea of determining what value is added to goods by productivity.

The 'Accountant' article says that over all sections for which figures were produced by the federation, average wages and salaries rose by 22-29 per cent between 1968 and 1970. Except in the case of metal manufacture, it claims, this rise was not matched by increases in added values.

The greatest disparity was in vehicle-building, the article says.

There average wages and salaries increased by 25.4 per cent over two years. Added values went up by only 2.2 per cent. 'Figures such as these give the lie to a number of specious ad hoc "productivity agreements" of recent years.'

In 1970 more than 83 per cent of the total available for wages, salaries, administrative expenses and profit in ship-building went on wages and salaries alone. Within the foreseeable future vehicle-building might be in the same situation, the percentage of added value absorbed by wages and salaries having risen from 57 per cent in 1968 to nearly 70 per cent in 1970.

'The inescapable inference is that the future for certain trades is bleak unless added values can be improved,' says 'The Accountant'.

Published in the midst of the TUC's talks with the Tories about state control of pay, the article clearly slots neatly into the employers' propaganda war against workers' living standards and conditions.

In the motor industry in particular a number of big combines are already moving to turn 'The Accountant's' jaw-jaw into war-war.

Landlords get bigger hand-out

A NEW Bill published by the Tory government yesterday gives better financial assistance to landlords who want to modernize property.

The Housing (Amendment) Bill raises the grants from a maximum of £1,000 to £1,500 in development or intermediate areas and extends by one year until June 1974, the date by which the work must be completed.

Original grants were made under the now notorious 1969 Housing Act passed by the Labour government.

In places like London, the Act has led to a field-day for big landlords and property companies who have taken as much as 80 per cent of all grants going in some areas.

The result has been that many sitting tenants have been driven out, their property modernized and sold at enormously inflated prices.

Now the Tories—feeling the Act was a good thing for men of their ilk—are pressing home the advantage with new hand-outs to their friends.

Act stays 'hot'

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE TORY government has no intention of putting the Industrial Relations Act 'on ice' or, as the TUC now wants, making it 'non-operational' by ministers.

Moving instead on the basis of the continued retreat by the TUC on the Act, the Tories instead plan to use it to drive home attacks on the trade union movement.

This much was made clear by the government in the House of Commons on Wednesday during the debate on the Queen's Speech while TUC leaders were locked in collaboration with the Tories and the CBI on how best to inflict state control of wages on their members.

The Act would neither be repealed nor put on ice, Robin Chichester-Clark, Minister of State for Employment, arrogantly told the Labour benches.

'There must be a readiness on the part of the TUC... to

look objectively at the evidence, and for it to be accepted that some framework of law is necessary,' he said.

In a scarcely hidden reference



Heffer: Protest

to the engineers' decision not to attend the National Industrial Relations Court next week, he said 'a direct challenge to the law and the courts strikes at the basic freedoms of the country'.

Protests from Labour 'lefts' Eric Heffer and Stanley Orme hardly ruffled Tory feathers.

Since the Industrial Relations Act came into full operation last February it has been strengthened time and time again by the courts. Now the law is clear and the Taff Vale judgement is the starting point for the NIRC and Sir John Donaldson.

Demands to put the Act 'on ice' do not frighten the Tories one bit. They see such requests as pleas from craven trade union leaders who in the last analysis—like those in Transport and General Workers' Union—will knuckle under.

And from what Chichester-Clark was saying in parliament, it is clear the engineers will either have to wage an all-out fight against the government or also recognize the Act and its whole enforcement apparatus.

Higher Post Office charges forecast

PLANS announced yesterday for a £4,000m investment programme by the Post Office will mean higher charges for the public and more speed-up for postal workers.

Price rise forecasts were made by Bill Ryland, Post Office chairman when he outlined the 'growth and investment' plans.

Capital debts of £200m incurred by the Post Office are to be written off and borrowing limits are extended under the

Post Office (Borrowing) Bill published by the Tories yesterday.

The present limit of £2,800m on borrowings is increased to £3,800m to finance expansion mainly in the profitable telecommunications side of the business. Borrowing can be extended, if necessary, to £4,800m.

Ryland said the increase in borrowing limits would have to be matched with a like sum internally from profits and

depreciation. 'On present trends this will mean that charges will have to go up,' he added.

But he also explained that rising costs and the financing of the expansion programme would have to be tackled by improvements in efficiency and productivity.

For example, about £44m will be devoted to mechanizing work in sorting offices. The sorting of parcels, now done manually in over 1,000 offices, will be concentrated in 27 centres and done mechanically.

Speed-up and job-cutting will find strong resistance among Post Office workers. That is why Ryland, in talking about concentrating letter-sorting at 'strategically located offices' said he would need the co-operation of Union of Post Office Workers' leadership to carry the plans through.

About £4,000m is to be spent in the next five years on the telephone service, nearly half on new exchange equipment and buildings.

US-Japanese bids for Soviet gas

JAPANESE and United States businessmen are making a joint bid for contracts to develop huge fields of natural gas in Soviet Siberia. Company executives from the two countries met separately with Soviet officials earlier this week.

The deal has already reached the stage of planning possible routes for pipelines to carry the gas and the next stage of negotiations is planned for mid-November.

It involves US and Japanese finance to develop the Yakutia gas fields in return for deliveries of gas from Yakutia to Japan and across the Pacific to the west coast of the United States.

Gas deliveries are not expected to begin for at least six to eight years if the deal is concluded. The scheme is one of three major oil and gas projects being considered by Japan and the US in the Soviet Union.

The others involve the shipment of Siberian crude oil to Japan and a second natural gas project for the US east coast, based on huge fields in north-west Siberia. All the deals require the granting of thousands of millions of dollars in bank credits to the USSR.

Both the US and Japan have long had an eye on the Siberian oil and gas fields—the US will

need more fuel over the coming years and considers Soviet gas is likely to be more reliable than Middle-East oil.

Japan is almost entirely dependent on imported raw materials and is making strenuous efforts to corner sources of fuel and ores in Asia. They have told the Russians they would be prepared to buy 15,000 million cubic metres of gas a year by 1978.

Car marriage breaking up

FIAT, the Italian car giant, is involved in a bitter dispute with the French tyre firm Michelin over their joint interest in Citroën, the third largest French car firm.

Fiat wants to integrate its own production and that of the Citroën factories as part of a major rationalization scheme. But the Michelin management is not prepared to see this happen.

Fiat took out a 49 per cent share of the Citroën holding company four years ago, linking up with Michelin which has a slightly larger interest. But the marriage has not entirely been a happy one.

Fiat chief Gianni Agnelli told a Press conference in Turin on Tuesday that he was 'not optimistic' that he could persuade Michelin to agree new co-operation terms.

Agnelli wants to use the French connection to overcome the basic problems facing Fiat in Italy. Despite an investment of £300m and a 25 per cent increase in the number of workers over the past four years Fiat's share of the world market has slumped by a fifth.

Together with other Italian industrialists, Agnelli complains bitterly about workers' militancy and wants tighter discipline over the working class. At his Press conference, he fulminated about increasing absenteeism,

particularly among young workers.

He claimed that out of 91,000 workers 13,000 to 14,000 are absent from work each day. This is more than three times the absentee rate 12 years ago. He said he didn't know what could be done to recall these workers 'to their duty', apart from having a face-to-face talk with them.

Agnelli said that despite Michelin's attitude, time was on Fiat's side. The future belonged only to the very big car companies and sooner or later they would have to go beyond mere technical collaboration and merge their production set-up to meet the challenge of foreign competition.

'Strikers walk out on Allende

STRIKING lorry owners have rejected compromise moves from President Allende. Leon Vilarin, a leader of the employers' Transport Federation, walked out of talks with Allende and his Ministers on Tuesday evening and announced that talks had broken down 'just as we were on the point of signing an agreement'.

Without stopping to elaborate, he went to meet army commander-in-chief, General Carlos Prats, to discuss the situation with him.

Allende has thus been thwarted in his attempt to end the strike. He has also met with no success in forming a new cabinet including army officers to convince the right wing that

he has the 'militants' under control.

He has not been able to convince his own Socialist Party of the correctness of such a policy.

The Christian Democrats are organizing demonstrations against the shortage of food and the rapid rise in the cost of living which are likely to lead to violent clashes in Santiago.

CIRCULATION

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IT LOOKS like a good start for our November Fund. We are determined this month to raise our £1,750 target early and not leave it to a last-minute rush at the end of the month.

While the union leaders hold secret talks at the Palace and continue their discussions at Downing Street with Heath and the CBI, the union members remain ignored.

Thousands of workers, feeling the pinch of huge price rises and rent increases, are becoming more determined than ever to fight back and defend their standard of living.

Workers Press speaks out for all these workers everywhere. We have never turned our back like this cowardly reformist trade union leadership. Our paper alone continues to expose their treacherous role and instead fights to build a revolutionary alternative.

We know that all your support is behind us. Let's therefore not waste a moment in the fight for our fund this month. Raise as much as you can and post to:

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

Club raid: 11 held

ELEVEN men—four of them claimed to be high-ranking members of the Provisional IRA—were under police interrogation in Belfast late yesterday afternoon after an army raid on a city drinking club.

The raid, which took place late on Wednesday night, was the third in a series aimed at rounding up IRA leaders.

It came just 24 hours after the so-called Ulster 'opposition', the Social Democratic and Labour Party, announced that they would go on talking to Tory supremo William Whitelaw about the release of existing detainees.

Army reports said that the raid on the drinking club followed 'information received'. Among those taken is the suspected commanding officer of the Ardoyne battalion, Leo Morgan (24).

After pressure from the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association and the Loyalist Association of Workers, Whitelaw had decided not to hold the first local government elections in the province for five years until some time in 1973.

The much-vaunted border plebiscite, which is supposed to give the people of Northern Ireland the chance to decide on whether they want to be part of the United Kingdom or not, is also unlikely to take place before next year.

● The Ulster Vanguard movement yesterday afternoon issued a veiled threat of further attacks across the Eire border by militant Protestants.

WEATHER

SOUTHERN England and South Wales will have fog patches in places at first, with a few bright spells later. Northern England and North Wales will be mostly cloudy but dry. Northern Ireland and southern Scotland will be cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle. Northern Scotland will be mainly dry with a few sunny spells. Temperatures will be near normal in most areas. Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Dry in most places. Fairly extensive mist or fog. Temperatures near normal generally.

Upsetting the Nixon scenario Hanoi denounces US double-dealing

BY JOHN SPENCER

NORTH VIETNAM and the National Liberation Front yesterday denounced American delaying tactics over the draft Indo-China peace treaty. Speaking to reporters at the Paris conference their delegates accused the United States of consolidating the puppet Saigon regime and mystifying world opinion.

They demanded that the United States immediately honour its pledge and sign the nine-point deal which was originally scheduled for signature on Tuesday. Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh, leader of the NLF delegation, charged Nixon with putting into question a document he himself had recognized as complete and satisfactory.

Hanoi Radio on Tuesday said the US would not sign because it 'is still intent on negotiating from a position of strength, continuing to prolong the war of aggression and maintaining the yoke of US neo-colonialist domination in South Vietnam'.

Hanoi published the draft treaty last week when it became clear the Americans were not going to sign on the agreed date. Since then the United States has been pressing, through its envoy Henry Kissinger, for further talks.

The Kremlin has also advised the North Vietnamese to keep talking. Meanwhile the puppet Nguyen Van Thieu is stumping South Vietnam denouncing the deal as a sell-out and saying he will have nothing to do with it.

The American presidential election is just four days away and Nixon undoubtedly calculates that if the 'peace' atmosphere can be maintained until next Tuesday night he will be back in the White House on Wednesday.

The Soviet leaders are making every effort to make this scenario work. They favour Nixon's re-election as the man who came to Moscow and negotiated the recent trade deal.

The 'New York Times' last week quoted one Soviet newspaper reporter as saying: 'We have had our talks with Nixon and Kissinger and we have made our agreements. We've already picked our man and so we'll stick by him.'

The Stalinists of the Kremlin—and their counterparts in Peking—see the Indo-China revolution as an obstacle to better relations with US imperialism. They are the chief

danger to the struggle of the Indo-Chinese people because they are the friends of its enemies while they pose as its friends.

Yet while Nixon poses publicly as a man of peace—while carefully avoiding any firm commitment on the question—he is privately the hawk to beat all hawks.

Jeremy Campbell, writing from Washington in the London 'Evening Standard' describes a private talk between Nixon and one of his favourite conservative columnists:

'...the visitor...was surprised to discover that what Mr Nixon said for private consumption was tough, hard-nosed and hawkish beyond anything that those who only know the public Nixon can imagine.'

'Spicing his sentences with hells and damns, vowing never to "bug out" of Vietnam, talking about playing his "blue chips" in a poker game of power politics with the Russians, Nixon gave the impression that the central fact of his life is the safety of America in a world

fraught with peril.

"His off-the-record conversation," the columnist concluded, "is even more hawkish than his public remarks. He knows that talk of victory can be twisted into accusations of chauvinism and he tones down his rhetoric in an open forum. In private he is tougher than Spiro Agnew."

Campbell's article shows that Nixon's talk of an honourable peace is strictly for election-eve consumption. In the Pentagon the Air Force generals have already laid plans for four more years of air war.

This is the man the British Stalinists are now trying to 'pressure' into signing the draft treaty with protest vigils outside the US embassy and appeals from Labour MPs. In this way they too sustain the illusion that Nixon will soon bring peace in Vietnam.

The diplomatic charade of Kissinger's secret talks is not only a preparation for another four years of Nixon as president, but also for another four years of bloody, counter-revolutionary war in South-East Asia.



NLF negotiator Madame Binh

BRIEFLY

OVER 600 white-collar workers at the ICI Fibres Plant at Pontypool, South Wales were yesterday offered the 'chance' to transfer to Harrogate, Yorkshire—over 200 miles away. In addition a further 200 weekly-paid workers at the plant now fear they will lose their jobs under the plan to centralize research and development at Harrogate.

DRIVERS strike at the Rubery Owen factory at Darlaston, Staffordshire, hit production of the Mini at the Austin-Morris factory at Longbridge, Birmingham, yesterday.

STRIKERS from the Robinsons and Willey gas-fire manufacturing factory, Liverpool, are now mounting two pickets over the sacking of three shop stewards. One is at the gate of the factory where 100 of the 400 employees are still working and the other is at the Islington headquarters of the Transport and General Workers' Union which is refusing to make the strike official.

TWO HUNDRED Liverpool engineering workers at Manesty Machines yesterday called off their 19-week pay dispute. They will return to work on Monday after accepting a management offer of a new £25 basic, plus a group bonus guaranteeing at least £1 a week.

AIRCRAFT sabotage becomes an offence punishable by life imprisonment under a new Bill published yesterday. This is a similar penalty to that already in force for hijacking. The Protection of Aircraft Bill enables the UK to ratify the Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation.

CRAFTSMEN voted yesterday morning to continue their sit-in strike at the International Nickel Corporation plant at Clydach, South Wales until they have won a substantial increase in wages. Management has withdrawn work-study proposals.

CBI cost-cutting offensive

BY PHILIP WADE

MAJOR employers are going to launch a cost-cutting offensive both before and after Britain's entry into the Common Market.

These new plans for attacks on the working class were revealed by the Confederation of British Industry in its quarterly survey of business trends.

Their publication was timed precisely—whether by accident or design—to coincide with the time when TUC chiefs entered 10 Downing Street for further talks about the state pay plan.

At the same time, the survey reveals that big business has made no concessions to TUC pleas for a cut in unemployment.

In fact, the vast majority of those replying to the CBI's questionnaire say they have little intention of re-employing those made redundant in the last two years.

Undoubtedly the risk of runaway price inflation ruining any chance of competing in western Europe dominated the thinking of big business in October.

Almost 60 per cent thought that if export chances were damaged it would be because of rising costs.

The CBI reports that most firms said there had been an upturn in new orders and output in the last quarter and expected the trend to continue.

But these levels are measured not in volume but in value and therefore take account of inflation. Although many firms are still working below capacity, the numbers have fallen, says the CBI.

A slight improvement is also thought to have taken place in the level of manufacturing industry.

'However,' the survey continues, 'it is to be remembered... that the recovery is from a low level.' It concludes that the 'short-term outlook for exports is satisfactory'.

VAUXHALL Motors announced yesterday that all car prices were to be increased from midnight, in almost all cases by 5 per cent. Bedford truck and van prices were increased too, again in general by 5 per cent. On Wednesday Chrysler UK announced price increases of about 5 per cent.

NATIONAL Union of Railwaymen has asked the locomotive union ASLEF to lift its ban on driving British Rail's new high-speed diesel train. Their move follows a request from British Rail who say production of the new 125-m.p.h. train is being held up by the ASLEF boycott.

Secret Palace talks

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Many of these firms are also staunch financial backers of the Tory Party.

But the most interesting donors to the fund are Lord Cooper's General and Municipal Workers' Union and the country's biggest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Jones sits on the Society's presiding council alongside people like Sir John Partridge, ex-CBI chief and chairman of Imperial Tobacco, G. A. H. Cadbury, deputy chairman and managing director of Cadbury Schweppes, Sir Keith Joseph, the millionaire minister in charge of social security, Peter Laister, managing director of British Oxygen, Henry Marking, CBE, chairman of BEA, and W. O. Campbell Adamson of the CBI.

Two months ago the Society announced details of a new conciliation and arbitration service which would be available for small-scale disputes, particularly those at plant level.

But looking at the crowd at the top of this organization few shop stewards are likely to avail themselves of this 'independent' service!



Two of the guests, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon

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

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.