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BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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ASLEF secretary

discussed guide-lines to future discussions.

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Mr Buckton added that the NUR drivers would support ASLEF despite their own union's instruction to drive the experimental train.

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instruction in the past and I am sure they will do nothing on Thursday to prejudice their colleagues' fight,' he said.

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yesterday heard union officials tell a meeting there would be no co-operation in the run-down and the men would not be allowed to take interviews for other jobs.

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'This could eventually include the use of industrial action,' said Fred Blake, a local

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'They say they can buy pig-iron cheaper elsewhere and I suppose they're thinking of producing in Europe,' he added.

The proposed closure of the blastfurnaces will be discussed at the meeting this Thursday and Friday of the Ford national joint negotiating committee in London.

Socialist Labour League

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3RD ANNIVERSARY
OF WORKERS
PRESS
BUILD THE
REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 3
7 p.m.

Everyman Theatre
LIVERPOOL

Speakers:

MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Committee)

JOHN HOWE
(Deputy AUEW convenor, CAV)

CONNIE FAHEY
(Wilmslow tenants' leader)

ALAN PEERS
(Young Socialists' national committee)
(Union and tenant speakers in a personal capacity.)
Details of other provincial meetings see p. 12.

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PRESS

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workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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A strong possibility of united struggle on jobs now appears to exist between London's 15,000 dockers and 20,000 transport drivers. After months of simmering conflict at container depots and cold stores, leaders of the two sections are demanding that the Transport and General Workers' Union calls a joint meeting of all their shop stewards within the week. Road-transport officials of the union seem to be broadly in favour of the idea, but those of the docks section are believed to be dragging their feet. And Jack Jones, T&GWU general secretary, is accused by the drivers' unofficial leader, of consigning to his waste-bin a previous unity call. Today the Vestey organization launches a new attack on the jobs fight by again asking the National Industrial Relations Court to stop the dockers' picketing. (A previous legal move by Vestey's led to the jailing of five dockers in July.) This makes unity even more vital. Here our reporters PHILIP WADE and DAVID MAUDE talk to drivers' and dockers' leaders about the situation facing them.

THE DOCKS

ERIC RECHNITZ leads London's 20,000 lorry-driver members of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Both in this capacity and as joint chairman of the T&GWU transport stewards' unofficial national committee he has been at the centre of the jobs row with the dockers.

But he insists that a waterside war between lorry drivers and dockers can only benefit powerful capitalist interests like the Vestey meat empire and split the working class when they most need to be united.

After agreeing with dockers to call for an official joint meeting of all shop stewards from both sectors, Rechnitz, a Communist Party member, talked to Workers Press about the background to the call. He also explained the particular threat to drivers' conditions arising from British entry into the Common Market.

Containerization, he said, has brought problems to drivers as well as dockers. For instance there is the growth in the number of owner-drivers who in the main do not possess their own trailers but just the motive units. These have been undercutting what Rechnitz describes as 'the bona fide operators with whom we have good trade union agreements'.

The T&GWU drivers accuse the majority of owner-drivers of breaking the Road Traffic Acts by working long hours and thus undercutting established rates.

Another threat is the formation of drivers' agencies, which supply men on an ad hoc basis to firms on a weekly or even daily basis. Some of the firms hiring from agencies employ no regular drivers.

Mileage rates

Generally agency drivers are paid on mileage—a direct encouragement to break the law.

'From the trade union point of view,' says Eric Rechnitz, 'this means that it has become more and more difficult to get realistic wages and conditions from the employers. And many employers have been driven out of business by these "cowboys".'

Then there is the controversial 'spy-in-the-cab', the tachograph.

Drivers are 'irrevocably opposed' to a machine which virtually reports to employers when you start, stop and even when you go to the toilet, explained Eric Rechnitz. The argument being used, he added, was that the tachograph would eventually help in doing away with illegal hours. But from the drivers' point of view that was by no means the only evil.

The Common Market means new attacks on drivers. In Britain the Road Traffic Acts specify a maximum of 11 hours working, ten for driving and the one for loading or unloading.

Firstly in Common Market countries the basic hours vary from 40 to 48. And in some countries there is a maximum on actual driving, but no limit whatsoever on the time a driver can spend loading, waiting for customs and so on.

Costs problem

Lorry drivers, of course, have the problem facing all workers—the cost-of-living. The wages freeze affects many drivers because we're going in for a very comprehensive agreement for higher wages and better conditions at the moment.

In the midst of all this we can do without a battle with fellow trade unionists.

We fully support the dockers' contention that the Hay's Wharf and Vestey's deliberately moved premises from the riverside for



The first steps to unity

Dockers' pickets turn away a T&GWU driver from Midland Cold Storage.

the purpose of doing away with registered dock labour.

We fully support those that say the dockers should have been employed there. Unfortunately, we clashed because of the tactics that were used to achieve this. It is not a trade union principle to solve redundancies at the expense of other people's jobs.

In fact, despite the contention of some dockers, of the promises from Jack Jones and other officials, that no one could be made unemployed, the dockers are not in the cold stores and the workers inside have been made redundant.



Eric Rechnitz, chairman of the unofficial London road transport stewards' committee and a member of the T&GWU commercial services group.

should officially enter into dispute, bringing into the fight road transport workers, dockers and the people who work in or used to work in these places.

This would be done at every single Vestey and Hays plant. Vestey is just as big a menace to us as to dockers.

For six months we have been trying to get some liaison and joint action with the dockers, but it has so far proved unsuccessful.

We did have the meeting at Poplar a few weeks back be-

couldn't accept it because it wasn't an official resolution from the dockers' group of the T&GWU. He said an approach should be made to the Jones-Aldington committee. It was a rebuff, to say the least.

Then shortly after our meeting with the dockers, picketing began at Containerways, Barking, a road transport depot, where there is some stuffing and stripping carried on. After that there was a breakdown and the decision by the meat drivers to drive through the picket lines.

Joint action

However, we've had this new approach and we still want joint action with the dockers. A waterside war can only benefit Vestey's, Hay's and the capitalist class in this situation.

Turning to the dockers' own problems, Eric Rechnitz thought that it would be wrong to say the dockers had gained absolutely nothing from the Jones-Aldington report. At least the temporarily unattached register (TUR) had been abolished, he said.

But the report was on the whole 'a temporary measure and doesn't resolve anything'.

He added: 'This surplus labour can't and won't be carried by the employers indefinitely. They won't pay people for doing nothing if there is no work for them.'

Common fight

Nationalization of the docks and transport industries, he said, was 'something we have to strive for'. But he added: 'Saying this without doing something in the first place to get a common fight, first under the Tories and then, if necessary, under Labour, doesn't amount to much.'

'I believe that there should be a political fight against the government. Every fight today is a political fight, although the rank-and-file don't always realize it.'

'But for the type of political fight to overthrow the Tories the working class requires political education. The big thing is to instill class consciousness into the working class.'

'There will be a chance to bring down the government. It will be more apparent when the working class fights on a common front.'

Let's hammer out common policy

DOCKERS who have been closely involved with the picketing campaign at container depots and cold stores talked to Workers Press at the weekend about the new unity move.

The key question, they all said, was a policy for action.

RAY HALSEY, Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward at Nine Elms Cold Store:

'We're pressing for an official meeting of all London shop stewards with the transport drivers, to hammer out a common policy. We want this to take place next Saturday morning at the latest.'

If Jones won't move himself and call this officially, we'll be up there lobbying Transport House this week. If need be, we'll have to get it called unofficially.

The split between the dockers and the transport drivers has been rubbish. They thought they were talking to all the London stewards when they were just

talking to the Royals.

Now that's been cleared up, we want a real campaign against the likes of Vestey's and Hay's: black everything.

The policy must be to force recognition of what is dockers' work.

But there must be no redundancies among either section. 'Them out and us in' is just a policy of frustration.

TED HEDGES, member of the T&GWU's Riverside No. 5 divisional committee and one of the seven



Ray Halsey

dockers Vestey's originally named in the National Industrial Relations Court for picketing Midland Cold Storage:

'It seems almost as if the union doesn't want us to get together,

because then they know they'd have a real fight on their hands.

But we've got to get a joint meeting, decide our policy and say to the Vestey's of this world: You wanted to take us on? Right, try that for size!

A joint policy would be registration for all workers in the transport industry, all ports to be brought within the Dock Labour Scheme and the nationalization of the docks and transport under workers' control.

We'll never get that under the Tories. We'll



Ted Hedges

have to get them out.

ALF WATERS, National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers steward at Tilbury:

'Nationalization under workers' con-

union leaders in trying to resolve the problem. Much more could have been done and should now be done to settle the question.

What I suggest is that an approach should be made to Vestey's and Hay's. And in the event of a further refusal to joint demands from us and the dockers, the trade unions

tween Royal group stewards and the road transport committee. A motion was passed calling for a joint approach to Jack Jones to get negotiations reopened with Vestey's for the jobs to be filled by dockers with safeguards for those working inside.

It never got past Jack Jones' wastepaper basket. It was said he

MR MACBEATH'S 'UNCLE' IS NOT TRUSTED ON FLEET ST

One thing being avoided—like the plague by rank-and-file trade unionists is the strike-breaking Working Together campaign launched by right-wing businessmen in April.

So far only two trade unionists have written pamphlets for this sinister organization. One is Frank Chapple, right-wing general secretary and president of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union.

The dubious distinction of being second has now fallen to Innis Macbeath, labour editor of 'The Times'. A member of the National Union of Journalists, he is rumoured to be one of two candidates in the election shortly for the key position of chairman of the Central London Branch of the NUJ which represents all Fleet Street journalists.

His name has now gone down with other authors of Working Together 'studies', as they are called, who include Nigel Vinson, managing director of Plastic Coatings Limited, Jack Lee, former president of the Institute of Personnel Management, and Michael D. Jones, employee relations manager, Gulf Eastern Company.

Working Together—a £1m campaign floated at the Savoy Hotel—is an organization with a distinct corporatist flavouring, as their objectives make plain to all.

INDUSTRIAL ANARCHY

They want to 'create a sense of awareness by management and workers of their mutual interests', 'reduce unofficial strikes', 'end industrial anarchy' and 'show that many companies are achieving good results by working together'.

And the 'rewards' for the realization of such objectives? Why, the 'creation of industrial harmony'.

Little room, if any, is left for independent functioning of the trade union movement in such a scheme.

Campaign director is Michael Ivens, also a director of the right-wing, anti-nationalization Aims of Industry.

Some of the remarks made at the opening Press conference revealed just a little of the anti-trade union and anti-working class nature of Working Together.

Sir Joseph Kagan, friend of Harold Wilson and millionaire head of Gannex Raincoats, had this to say, among other things: 'I have worked under Hitler and Stalin and I believe that the two philosophies are today contending for the soul of man and for the world.'

'The defence of the economy today is the defence of our very way of life just as in two world wars the army and navy have been.'

Committee member Frank Taylor (of the Taylor Woodrow building giant) added: 'If the 500 or 600 anarchists in Britain who say they are trying to take the working class to power succeed, it will mean communism and the end of our free way of life.'

A few months later Taylor's firm was locked with other employers in a bitter 11-week strike with building workers.

The campaign's massive publicity is being jointly handled by the former director of pub-



licity at Tory Central Office, Geoffrey Tucker, in conjunction with Harold Wilson's former press secretary, Sir Trevor Lloyd-Hughes.

Back to Innis Macbeath, ex-Father-of-the-Chapel at 'The Times', which he joined in 1957, and author of the best peoples' paper's guide to the Industrial Relations Act.

What of his 11-page Working Together pamphlet called 'Personal attitudes to work and leadership'?

In it there are a few revealing gems like his advice to management when they want to sack a few workers. The problem is posed thus:

'To persuade a worker that change will be good for him requires a lot more than showing that clean jobs in pleasant conditions will replace dirty jobs in nasty conditions, for example, especially if the total number of jobs is coming down.'

ENGROACHING REDUNDANCIES

How to resolve the problem? 'Leadership often consists of making change acceptable,' Macbeath writes.

On the struggle between management and journalists fighting for better pay and against encroaching redundancies, he offers this advice:

'Perhaps the management group and the work group are

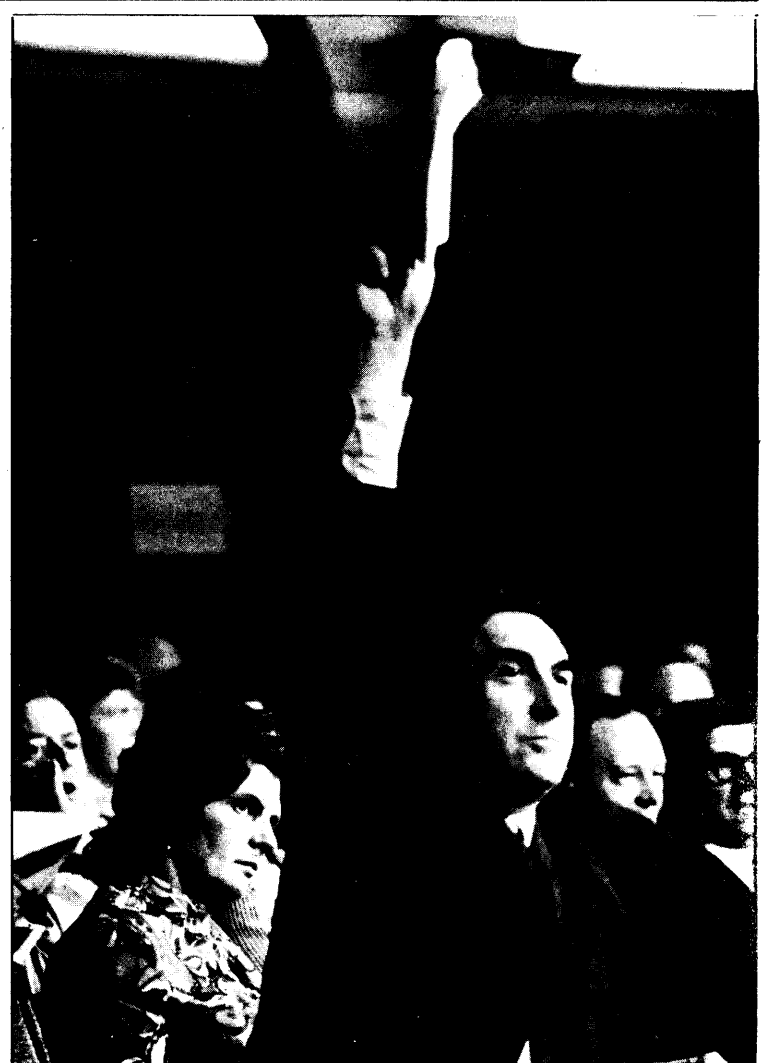
Press conference of the strike-breaking Working Together campaign. Right: Frank Chapple, one of the two trade unionists to write for the organization.

too stiffly divided. On occasions like this the person to look for is the "trusted uncle"—he may be from management, he may be from the shop floor, he may be from outside; his particular quality is that he is known, trusted and impartial. You can make this formal by providing for an agreed conciliator in a collective bargain; but even if there is no formal arrangement, it is surprising how often a natural conciliator is available if we have the wit to look for him.'

It is unlikely it will be considered a recommendation for chairmanship by provincial journalist members of Mr Macbeath's own union branch. They have been told that the second part of a pay deal agreed earlier this year is to be held up because of the Tory government's pay control law. Who's going to conciliate on that one?

Mr Macbeath may also have difficulty in finding an 'uncle' figure for Fleet Street journalists like those on the 'Sun' fighting speed-up and redundancies.

Or perhaps he could conciliate with Scotland Yard and call off the police currently hounding 'Sunday Times' reporters because they broke the big rail redundancies story?



MARXISM OR RANK- AND-FILE-ISM?

Michael Banda continues his analysis of the tactics and strategy of the International Socialism Group

Trotsky and syndicalism

No one in the early Communist International was more familiar with and more critical of syndicalism than Trotsky.

In the formation of the French Communist Party and in the course of its ideological and political purification Trotsky came into irreconcilable conflict not only with the elements of Freemasonry and right-wing social-democracy but also with the representatives of the 'absolute autonomy' of the trade unions from the party.

These syndicalists, like Robert Louzon, argued that the trade unions could not be subordinate to the political leadership of a revolutionary party because the trade unions represent 'the working class as a whole' while the party is 'only a party' and, therefore, the 'working class as a whole' cannot be subordinated to the party. The working class, wrote Louzon has 'its aim in itself', but the party can only 'serve the working class or itself'.

Trotsky's analysis of this extremely one-sided and formal argument is a brilliant example of the dialectical method:

'It is only in the course of long struggles, severe trials, many vacillations, and extensive experience, that insight as to the right ways and methods dawns upon the minds of the best elements of the working class, the vanguard of the masses. This applies equally to party and trade union. The trade union also begins as a small group of active workers and grows gradually as its experience enables it to gain the confidence of the masses. But while the revolutionary organizations are struggling to gain influence in the working class, the bourgeois ideologists oppose them and set up the "working class as a whole" against the party and the trade unions, accusing them of wanting to "annex" the working class.

"Le Temps" writes this whenever there is a strike. In other words the bourgeois ideologists oppose the working class as object to the working class as conscious subject. For it is only through its class-conscious minority that the working class gradually becomes a factor in history...

It seems to us that Comrade Louzon has not posed this question. "The proletariat has its aim within itself". If we strip this sentence of its mystical trappings, its obvious meaning is that the historical tasks of the proletariat are determined by the social position of the class and by its role in production in society

and in the state.

'This is beyond dispute. But this truth does not help us answer the question with which we are concerned, namely: how is the proletariat to arrive at subjective insight into the historical task posed by its objective position? Were the proletariat as a whole capable of grasping its historical task, it would need neither party nor trade union. Revolution would be born simultaneously with the proletariat. But in actuality the process required to impart the proletariat an insight into its historical mission is very long and painful, and full of internal contradictions.' ('Marxism and the Trade Unions'—SLL edition p.23-24 emphasis in original.)

In his appreciation of Rosa Luxemburg, written in 1935, Trotsky was unequivocally for Lenin's conceptions on spontaneity:

'There is no gainsaying that Rosa Luxemburg passionately counterposed the spontaneity of mass actions to the "victory-crowned" conservative policy of the German social democracy, especially after the revolution of 1905. This counterposition had a thoroughly revolutionary and progressive character. At a much earlier date than Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg grasped the retarding character of the ossified party and trade union apparatus and began a struggle against it.

'In these broad historical outlines, Rosa was proved right. For the revolution of 1918 was "spontaneous", that is, it was accomplished by the masses against all the provisions and all the precautions of the party officialdom. On the other hand, the whole of Germany's subsequent history amply showed that spontaneity alone is far from enough for success; Hitler's regime is a weighty argument against the panacea of spontaneity.' ('Writings of Leon Trotsky—1935-36'. Pathfinder Press p.111.)

These basic principles are as decisive for the victory of the working class today as they were when they were first enunciated. The task of the SLL, the YS and the ATUA and Workers Press is to carry forward the struggle begun by the Bolsheviks and the early Communist International by building a revolutionary party to liberate the working class from its reformist trade union consciousness and imbue it with the outlook of revolutionary socialism.

Revisionism: cover for idealist backwardness

This means a struggle not only against the Stalinists and Social Democrats but especially against those like the International Socialists (IS) who masquerade as 'Marxists' and



Mr T. Cliff, leader of the International Socialists. He uses mystical arguments to defend Stalinist betrayals

'Trotskyists', but in reality panders in the crudest way possible to the reformist politics and idealist backwardness of the spontaneous movement.

Marxism for these revisionists is a mantle to cover-up all that is weak, backward and false in the ideology of the working class, a means by which the working class is diverted from the struggle for state power and kept politically subject to the agencies of capital.

Probably the greatest falsifier of Leninism in this field today is Mr T. Cliff—leader and 'theoretician' of the International Socialism group.

Proceeding from the untenable and completely unscientific thesis that capitalism is expanding²—though rather spasmodically—Mr Cliff's chief aim is to show that there is no conflict between the party and the spontaneous movement of the class and to belittle the crisis of leadership in the class.

In a recent article in 'Socialist Worker' called 'The battle is won the war goes on' Mr Cliff makes it abundantly clear that for him socialist politics is an adjunct to the spontaneous pressure of the masses and that there is little prospect of an overthrow of Toryism.

The first half of his article Cliff devotes to what he calls the 'ineffectiveness of Tory oppression' i.e. the Pentonville events, the wage struggles etc. This section proves that Cliff is a consummate artist in telling workers what they already know—in the most pedestrian, if somewhat facetious way.

But when Cliff tries to explain the 'ineffectiveness' of the working class in forcing the Tories out, despite two years of strikes, he finds himself treading water.

Instead of a critical analysis of the real weaknesses of the working class—its reformist consciousness and its opportunist leadership—Cliff provides his readers with a completely non-historical, supra-objective interpretation which leaves no room at all for the intervention of the subjective factor—the conscious leadership of the revolutionary party.

Says Mr Cliff: 'The other side of the coin of the ineffectiveness of Tory oppression is the fragmentation and volatility of the workers' struggle.'

What is this 'fragmentation'? According to Cliff in a previous article in No 36 of 'International Socialism', April-May 1969, this new sociological category is an objective process beyond the conscious control of workers:

'The full employment (or near full employment) of the war and post-war period gave the workers new confidence,

but at the same time fragmented the working class...'

Not to despair though, because, as Cliff quickly reassured his troubled followers, history was working (at least in the palmy days of the French General Strike) relentlessly in the opposite direction:

'Now, with the new stage—the increasing similarities between the experiences of workers in the different fragments and the trend to break down the borders of fragments, a revolutionary agitation that is both general and specific can start having a greater impact than ever before.'

If this was true in 1969, why isn't it working any more? Is there any guarantee that even if there were no 'fragmentation' the spontaneous struggle of the class could secure the overthrow of the Tories? Of course not!

IS defends Stalinism

This unscientific and mystical argument answers nothing. The reason for the continued existence of the Tories is the anything but fragmented treachery of the trade union and Labour Party leaders.

The same argument applies to Mr Cliff's subterfuge about 'volatility' (he hadn't discovered this category in 1969). Strikes do not develop in a straight line nor appear all at once. They proceed dialectically. They arise out of the class struggle and not according to a preconceived plan. But the outcome of all these strikes is determined by subjective considerations; by the politics of their leadership.

As an example of this so-called 'volatility', Cliff quotes the example of the agitation against the Industrial Relations Act. When the TUC refused to give a lead in the struggle against the Bill, the militants, according to Cliff, 'made an immediate 180 degrees turn': 'The militants' slogan now was "Stop the Retreat". This volatility affects largely the advanced sections of the working class. It is rooted in (1) the feeling of the militant that quite often he cannot carry the majority of his own workmates with him and (2) his isolation from militants in other places of work and even more, in other industries.'

Cliff's method is here clearly revealed. Rather than make a concrete analysis of the tactics and policies of the 'militants' who led the unofficial movement against the Bill—and in particular their attitude to the 'lefts' on the TUC General Council—he presents his readers with the disembodied abstraction of 'volatility'.

By means of this sterile argument Cliff justifies the

worthless reformist-Stalinist policies of the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions and attributes the weakness of the movement to his favourite scapegoat—the working class.

The truth is that the Stalinists did not develop the initiative and militancy of the working class in the direction of a political struggle to force the Tories out. They confined the anti-Industrial Relations Bill movement to a gesture of protest and scrupulously avoided any action which would have embarrassed their left friends on the TUC. The so-called '180-degree turn' which followed the March 18 sell-out by the TUC was, in fact, a chaotic retreat rather than a defensive posture. That is why the Stalinists gave little or no support to the SLL demand for a recall of the TUC and eventually gave critical support to the TUC's talks with the government. (Under pressure from the workers they have now supported the demand for the recall of the TUC.)

Neither 'volatility' nor 'fragmentation' but Stalinism was responsible for the failure of the 'militants' campaign.

Mr Cliff cannot and will not present this analysis to his readers—because he and his fellow leaders in IS consciously participated in the fraud of protest, pressure and total opposition to forcing the Tories to resign and for a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

¹ Right-wing reactionary French newspaper.

² 'The main features of the immediate period are, to recapitulate: quick changes, fluctuations, economic, social and political, reflecting both the expansion of capitalism and its intermittent, unsystematic nature...'

'After World War II three options were opened to Marxists in the evaluation of the immediate future of capitalism:

a) to assume that the war changed the features of capitalism very little, i.e. that massive unemployment, very low wages etc will continue. (This, basically, has been the line of the SLL) [This basically, is a complete distortion of the SLL's line]

b) Capitalism has changed completely, is no more irrational and anarchic. (This was the position of Anthony Crosland and John Strachey).

c) Capitalism is as irrational as ever but now its irrationality (is) not so much in non-use of productive capacity, but in misuses—the permanent arms economy. [This is the perspective of the state capitalists i.e. that the conflict between property relations and productive forces—the basis of Marx's analysis of capitalism—no longer existed.]

(These extracts are from Cliff's article 'On Perspectives' printed in 'International Socialism' No 36—April-May 1969.)

CONTINUED TOMORROW



SHEIKH MUJIB'S OWN STATE PAY PLAN

The new Bangladesh Labour Code, put forward by the Awami League government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is designed to take away all collective-bargaining rights from the trade unions.

Sirajul Hossein Khan, secretary of the powerful Bangladesh Sramik (Labour) Federation, which is supported by almost a third of the Bengali working class, has described the code as a means of making the trade unions into nothing more than welfare organizations.

'The code is a complete betrayal of the working class by the ruling party,' he told Workers Press. 'This is especially so because of the leading role played by the workers in the struggle for the independence of Bangladesh.'

The Sramik Federation, which is linked to the pro-Chinese Banglar Communist Party, has organized protest strikes alongside other union organizations against the Awami League labour policy.

The Sramik Federation is particularly strong among jute, tea, textile, transport and machine-tool workers. The factory workers and the railwaymen are the best-organized sectors of the Bengali working class—the railway workers in particular have a long tradition of organization and struggle dating back to the days of the British Raj.

The highest basic wage for workers is about 150 takka (£5) a month and since independence the purchasing power of this pay packet has been reduced by a half or

even a third of what it was a year ago.

Mr Khan said the Awami League's new labour code is a pre-emptive strike by the government—which could be promulgated at any time and is hitting out at the workers before they hit out at it.

'The workers will pay the Awami League in its own coin,' Mr Khan said. 'The government has thrown away the bourgeois-democratic mask in favour of rule by decree.'

Even the Sramik League, led by Abdul Mannan, who is a close associate of Mujib, has been forced to sign a protest against the code. The Sramik League is the trade union wing of the Awami League.

The new labour code is an attempt to introduce the principle that the government should completely determine wages. It is being brought in at a time of rampant inflation which has driven prices up—in some cases by 400 per cent—since independence last December.

It establishes in each industry or commercial unit a management board comprising three representatives of the management side and the government (in the majority of factories the government is now the employer following nationalization) and two members from the workers' side.

These boards deal with productivity, efficiency and all other aspects of labour-management relations. The unions will have no opportunity of putting up demands on wages, service conditions and other matters outside the confines of the boards.

Wages will be fixed entirely by the government, Mr Khan said. 'The new labour policy assumes the workers will

petition the government when they want a wage rise and if the government magnanimously wishes to do the workers a favour it will put up their wages.

'Otherwise the workers will have to defy the government, and the Awami League has already banned strikes in the nationalized industries which comprise, on their figures, 85 per cent of the total industrial assets of Bangladesh.'

Mr Khan added: 'The working class has already rejected the order banning strikes and the new labour code. All the main trade union bodies have come out against it. In May the workers in the nationalized industries replied with a protest strike within two days of the ban on strikes.'

'The strike was successful in that nobody was arrested. It was a token stoppage to defy the government order.' When the government announced the new labour code, Mr Khan's organization, together with four other Bangladesh trade union bodies, held a joint day of protest on October 11.

Strikes and rallies were held throughout the country. After a few days the Sramik League—which had participated with the government in drawing up the new labour policy—was forced to come out against it and support the demand for its withdrawal.

Mr Khan said the government had by-passed the union leaders in drawing up its new policy, though it had earlier solicited their support. The Banglar Communist Party, he said, had offered its support to Mujib after independence on condition he adopted and implemented a 'truly socialist programme'.

But, he said, there was never

any actual co-operation between the Banglar CP and the government. Nevertheless, on April 3, the Sramik Federation, trade union arm of the Banglar CP, attended a national conference of union leaders called by the government which was opened by Mujib himself.

Presided over by the Labour Minister, the conference set up a national committee of two representatives from each of the seven national labour organizations. The committee was given the task of formulating a new labour policy.

Mr Khan said the committee was divided with eight out of 15 supporting the policy of the Sramik Federation and the rest, including the pro-Moscow Stalinist Trade Union Centre, supporting the government. Accordingly the government by-passed the committee completely.

The labour code, published in October, is 'out-and-out anti-worker', Mr Khan said. 'It also violates conventions Nos 87 and 98 of the International Labour Office on collective-bargaining, the right to strike and freedom of association.'

The Bangladesh government has been a member of the ILO for less than a year. Mr Khan said he was going to press ILO headquarters to take appropriate action, though he has little hope that this would bring any results.

'If the ILO doesn't take any action against the violation of its own statutes by a member government then the ILO will have no face to show in Bangladesh and the working class will consider it a tool in the hands of reactionary forces.'

Apart from appealing to the ILO, Mr Khan is vague about what other action will be taken. He considers that the resistance of the working class will make the law unworkable.

'I doubt the government can take any action under the code because the entire working class has definitely registered its protest and non-acceptance of the labour policy. If the government takes any action the government itself will be

Unemployed workers in Dacca. High unemployment is another sign of the desperate crisis in Bangladesh.

responsible for its effects on industry.

'The workers will in no case agree to this labour policy and government measures against the interests of workers. Whatever laws the government may promulgate in pursuance of the new labour policy, it will not have the sanction of the working class.'

Bangladesh is currently under a system of presidential rule and the law can be passed by decree without any reference to the National Assembly, a body which supposedly has the job of drawing up a new constitution in preparation for elections in March next year.

Neither the Bangladesh Sramik Federation nor the Banglar Communist Party have yet decided what their position will be in the forthcoming elections, Mr Khan pointed out. He refuted reports that they will ally with peasant leader Maulana Bhashani against the Awami League.

However, the elections are likely to see a stiff battle by the Awami League to hang onto power. The League represents the interests of the tiny Bengali employing class, which faces an increasing hostility from the workers and peasants of Bangladesh.

The Awami League government is a weak regime, heavily dependent on Indian assistance and ruling over a virtually bankrupt economy. Its plan to smash trade union rights is a sign of the desperate crisis in which the Bengali employers find themselves.

But as the experience of the British trade union movement against the Industrial Relations Act demonstrates, the unions cannot be defended with illusions that the government will not apply the law. What is needed in Bangladesh is the building of a revolutionary leadership within the workers' movement to prepare the overthrow of Bengali capitalism as the only way in which basic rights can be defended.



THE MAN WITH THE IRON BROOM

Yesterday polling began in West Germany in the most decisive elections since World War II. Nixon's measures of August 15, 1971, destroyed the basis of the so-called 'German economic miracle' and, by the same token, the politics of class-collaboration. Faced with a huge drop in the rate of profit in all the key industries and a sharpening trade war with Japan and the US, West German industrial and finance capital is compelled to abandon the policy of compromise with the working class. Instead it must now make direct attacks on the working class and its organizations. It needs a Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union/government to attack the unions and the

standard of living of the working class: based as it is on the working class and the trade unions. Chancellor Willy Brandt's Social Democratic Party has been unable to deliver fully these designs to the ruling class. There have been the most desperate attempts to oust the Brandt coalition government. In April this year Dr Rainer Barzel, leader of the CDU, and Herr Franz-Josef Strauss (CSU) tried to come to power through a kind of parliamentary putsch by buying off Liberal MPs. But a wave of political strikes that threatened to develop into a General Strike spread throughout the country and the right-wing factions in the Opposition were forced to retreat. The militancy and political consciousness of the working class alarmed not only the employing class and the CDU/CSU. Above all, it deeply troubled Nobel Prize-winning apostle of peace, Chancellor Brandt. On the

very day after the failure of the putsch he entered discussions with Barzel and Strauss offering collaboration on all political questions — action against left-wing groups and on every legal and organizational attack planned on the working class. The main product of this collaboration has been the wide-ranging legislation on 'Internal Security'. With the help of the notorious Free Democratic Party (FDP) Minister of the Interior Genscher, the 'man of action' Brandt pushed through the Act in record time. Under the legislation the Police Department (Crime) was centralized and provided with what Genscher described as 'a police nerve centre'. It is equipped with the most advanced computer-ware used by any police force in the world. 'With billions and billions of data', the head of the Crime Department, SPD member Horst Herold, wants to 'investigate the criminal in all the

ramifications of his heredity, his environment and his society'. A network of 500 data points to which every policeman is linked by radio ensures instant access to this data. The Crime Department's budget has been raised from £2.15m in 1969 to a proposed £15m next year. At the same time the border police who were previously on the same level as the ordinary police have been transformed into a para-military force. Ten thousand new special police have been trained for 'urban warfare'. The terrorist actions of the Palestinians at the Munich Olympic Games were used as an excuse to build special troop units throughout West Germany to 'defeat terror and revolt'. Despite the introduction of these instruments of repression on behalf of the ruling class, Brandt has not been able to appease his masters. The capitalist crisis in West Germany necessitates an open and brutal attack on the work-

ing class. Although he received a huge majority for his 'Internal Security' laws, in the vote on the Budget his coalition lost its majority with a tied vote. Parliament was dissolved on September 22. The election campaigning has been fierce because the stakes are so high. The pace has been set by Franz-Josef Strauss, head of the CSU, the Bavarian sister party of Barzel's CDU. If elected Strauss has promised to create unemployment—the price of economic stability'. And he has made no secret about attacks on the standard of living of the working class: 'I will come with an iron broom', he said. On this page we begin a two-part series on Strauss and his background.



HOW STRAUSS EARNED THE HATRED OF GERMAN WORKERS

BY OUR GERMAN CORRESPONDENT

If the Christian Democrats win the election, the new Chancellor will be Dr Rainer Barzel. But the power behind the throne will certainly be Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, head of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian wing of the CDU.

Commenting on a four-sided television discussion between the parties contesting the election, 'The Times' correspondent said last Thursday:

'But the most fair-minded among the minority of viewers who do not have a vote on Sunday could hardly dispute that it was Herr Strauss who really carried the Opposition banner.'

The West German capitalist class is going all out for Strauss in the election because they require a political representative without scruples. A brief look at his background demonstrates that Strauss has such qualifications.

From 1937, he was a member of the National Socialist Motor Corps, a branch of the NSDAP, and a member of the National Socialist Students' League. He soon became an 'ideological adviser' of the Munich NSDAP.

During the war he was stationed in Schongau on Lech (Bavaria) with the rank of First Lieutenant. After the war he immediately found his way not into prison but into the American military government where he worked as an interpreter. It was here that he got to know a certain First Lieutenant Ernest F. Hauser, an officer in the 'Military Intelligence Service' of the headquarters of the USFET (Rear) and head of a section of the Secret Service stationed in Schongau.

He cultivated this acquaintance.

Through Hauser's good offices Strauss was given the post of deputy District Magistrate for Schongau. In this position he automatically became examining magistrate for the tribunal which sat in judgement over the political past of former members of the NSDAP and its offshoots, as well as

In 1945 he became a founder member of the CSU and in 1949 its general secretary. It was in this position in 1950 that he figured prominently in the first major parliamentary scandal to rock the new Republic.

(Several members of a 'National Bavarian Party' which was a serious rival to the CSU in those days received up to £3,000 each so that they would vote for the CSU. This matter was, of course, never fully explained.

Strauss quickly made himself noticeable and Chancellor Adenauer soon invited him into his cabinet as Minister for Special Tasks. He fulfilled these special tasks so well that by 1955 he had advanced to the post of Minister for Atomic Questions, and finally in 1956 was named Defence Minister.

One of the first acts of the new Minister was the conclusion of a deal with the Swiss firm 'Hispano Suiza' (Spain-Switzerland) for delivery of about 11,000 HS30 armoured cars. The project was fixed at a cost of 2,500m DM (£300m), with 205m DM (£25m) to be paid in advance.

The only snags in the deal were that there was neither

a blueprint nor a model in existence for this so-called HS30, let alone a trial production run prepared, which was not really surprising since 'Hispano Suiza' had neither then, nor until the present day, built an armoured car.

Although Strauss continually misled parliament about the deal and the state of production with the HS30 and had covered up in order to try and save the business (it was 1959 before the first two prototypes had been delivered, both useless), finally he had to slash the programme to a deal worth only £35m.

Meanwhile, 'Hispano Suiza' had sub-contracted the production work to another firm—British-Leyland.

Ten years after the deal had been initiated, facts came to light proving what people had known all along but which Strauss had repeatedly denied, both publicly and in parliament.

Representing 'Hispano Suiza' in its dealings with Defence Minister Strauss was a certain Dr Otto Lenz, a member of the coalition committee and an election campaigner for the CDU/CSU.

Strauss knew that the firm had paid 18m DM (£2.2m) in sweeteners to a few people. On some pretext or other, he did not inform the state prosecutor, even though hostile reactions had come from third parties. Moreover, credit documentation disappeared mysteriously before a parliamentary commission was able to look into the matter.

While he was still Defence Minister, Strauss continued to dedicate himself with undiminished ardour to 'special tasks' and 'atomic questions', as the notorious Starfighter scandal showed.

In 1958, Strauss decided to equip the Luftwaffe with Lockheed Starfighters. He ordered 66 machines.

He later raised the order from 66 to 700, and carried out an important change: future German Starfighters were to be built as atomic weapons carriers and not for conventional bombing.

This meant that West Germany's part in atomic armament had already become an established fact at the end of the 1950s without any debate in parliament.

But this grandiose project also had a catch. Not a single Starfighter had been tested before the contract was made. It only became clear afterwards that Starfighters were not suitable to Strauss's purpose. Production stretched over ten years, after which the Bundestag stopped it because it cost too much.

How many billions of Deutschmarks had been invested will never be known in full. After the delivery of the planes, nearly 100 Starfighters crashed within a year; the total stands at 200 at present and 80 dead pilots.

But Strauss never forgets the human side of his great business. He asked the general director of Lockheed's, a good friend of his, for assistance. After a few weeks the Lockheed representative in Bonn called. It was Strauss' pre-war buddy Ernest F. Hauser. His income was £12,000 per year. After Strauss' resignation, Hauser left Lockheed and was convicted by the Bonn courts of breach of contract, falsification of sources and destruction of documents.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

BOLIVIA:

YEAR TWO OF THE BANZER DICTATORSHIP

Statement by the International Committee of the Fourth International

The Bolivian working class has a rich tradition of revolutionary struggle against capitalism and imperialism. The armed tin miners have been at the centre of the struggle of the working class of Latin America since the early 1950s. At the same time no working class has suffered more from betrayals of leadership, which have brought about first the Barrientos military dictatorship and now the Banzer dictatorship.

Today Bolivian workers fight on against tremendous odds. On October 30 workers held a massive demonstration in La Paz protesting against the 40-per-cent devaluation of the peso.

Carrying banners denouncing the government as 'fascist and anti-union', workers stopped traffic at the city's centre. One worker was killed and several wounded when the police fired into the crowd. Workers responded with a 24-hour General Strike and fighting was reported in the working-class quarters of La Paz.

The movement of the Bolivian working class today coincides with the deepening crisis of world capitalism. This in turn has made the already tenuous position of the Bolivian and other South American national capitalists completely impossible.

Crumbling

Inflation and unemployment rages throughout Latin America. A working class which has grown in size in the period of the 1950s and 1960s now moves to defend itself against these new attacks. The capitalist class, their American imperialist backers, and their petty-bourgeois followers must resort to brutal military regimes in a desperate attempt to hold on to their crumbling system.

The stage is now set for revolutionary explosions throughout Latin America. It is not a matter of a single country or the movement of isolated guerrillas. The explosions cannot be forestalled by Allende [Chilean president]-type popular fronts nor 'left'-looking military dictatorships as in Peru today, and Bolivia under Torres yesterday.

The critical need of the moment in Latin America is the construction of independent revolutionary parties of the working class, constructed on the international perspectives of the International Committee of the Fourth International. This means starting from the whole history of the struggle within the Fourth International for Marxist philosophy against revisionism. The Bolivian struggle itself is the clearest expression and proof of this.

Because the position of the capitalists has been so bankrupt for so long in Latin America, the position of Stalinism that the revolution must be a two-staged one requiring support to the 'progressive' bourgeoisie at this point has been widely rejected.

In these conditions there have emerged centrist tendencies which criticize Stalinism in the name of Trot-



Street fighting in Bolivia at the time of the coup which ousted Torres and brought Banzer to power in August, 1971

skyism but which refuse to go over to a revolutionary perspective based on the international strategy of the Fourth International. Such tendencies function as a dangerous and reactionary cover for nationalism and Stalinism at a time when the movement of the working class constantly surges beyond these leaderships.

Such a tendency is the Bolivian POR of Guillermo Lora. Lora, like the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP) in Ceylon, never started from the construction of the Fourth International. He has always rejected the fundamental proposition of Marxism that the construction of a revolutionary party in a single country can only proceed as part of the construction of the international party itself. This in turn is primarily a theoretical task which requires the conscious development of Marxist theory through the struggle to build the national sections and combat revisionism.

Shifted

Instead Lora has seen his role as one of reflecting the movement in Bolivia, of developing or influencing what the movement is. Thus in 1952 he supported the petty-bourgeois nationalist MNR of Estensoro Paz. Later, as the Paz government came into collision with the Bolivian working class, he shifted his support to the left wing of the MNR under labour bureaucrat Juan Lechin.

Still later, with the demagogic rise of Castroism, a form of radicalism of the petty bourgeoisie, Lora shifted once again to support guerrillaism. As guerrillaism receded from the scene because of its inability to take forward the struggle of the working class in any way against national capitalism and imperialism, Lora broke with Castroism, at least partially, and sought an alliance with the Communist Party of Bolivia and the forces around Lechin once again.

To Lora, the Fourth International existed to assist him in his adaptations.

In 1952 he fully supported Michel Pablo against the International Committee. He later broke but only in order to carry out his opportunism independently.

In the 1960s, in the midst of his adaptation to Castro, he fused with the Pabloites once more.

His attempt to affiliate with the International Committee in 1970 represented not a break from his past policies, but the desire for a new international cover for what was to become his greatest betrayal of the Bolivian working class. This the International Committee refused to give him, despite continuous pressure from the Organization Communiste Internationaliste (OCI) of France.

In August 1971 Colonel Banzer, supported by the MNR and the fascist Falange parties, overthrew the Torres regime in just three days. The unarmed working class faced a

modern army equipped by US imperialism with the latest weapons. Torres' army disintegrated and went over to Banzer. Torres refused to give arms in any number to the workers. The workers' parties, including Lora's POR, having left the working class unprepared and leaderless, went into hiding or exile.

Left cover

At that time we published an assessment of these events in the 'Bulletin', organ of the Workers League, and in Workers Press, organ of the Socialist Labour League. We stated:

'Lora, in collaboration with the Bolivian Stalinists and with the agreement of the Bolivian and international Pabloites, failed to fight at any point for the overthrow of the Torres military regime. Thus he, along with the rest of the Popular Assembly, acted as a left cover for Torres while the right-wing element in Torres' own army prepared and finally executed their coup.

'Lora,' we stated, 'must share responsibility in the recent rightist coup.'

The reaction of the OCI, however, was different. Immediately they issued an hysterical declaration, distributed publicly throughout Paris, solidarizing themselves in a completely uncritical way with Lora and denouncing the majority of the International Committee. They stated:

'At the head of the Bolivian

workers was the POR, armed with the programme of the Fourth International, steeped in dozens of years of determined struggle for the proletarian revolution against nationalism, against Stalinism, against Pabloite revisionism and against all forms of petty-bourgeois ideas, such as guerrillaism, deeply entrenched in the most combative section of the Bolivian proletariat. Because the party prepared this struggle, it was prepared for it, and was able to seize the occasion and, at each stage of the revolutionary process, it developed the conditions for the working class to take power...

'Today, the leadership of certain organizations of the International Committee, like the Socialist Labour League and the Workers League, lacking clarity precisely on the question of the strategy for the conquest of power and the reconstruction of the Fourth International, have given in to enormous pressure in attacking the POR.'

Those who collaborated to the end with the Stalinists, who never broke with Torres but in fact requested him to give the workers arms, are characterized as developing 'the conditions for the working class to take power', while we who condemned this betrayal, fellow members and supporters of the International Committee, were condemned for lacking 'clarity' on the strategy for the conquest of power!

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

ELATED

Rumours that Henry Ford II has decided to build his first factory in northern Spain has caused 'great interest in Basque financial circles'.

Down in the sunny south of Spain, financial circles have something more than a rumour about foreign capital coming their way . . .

After Ministry of Industry Lopez de Letona had bid farewell to Ford, he sped down to Algeciras to the opening ceremony at the Acerinox factory, which is a joint Spanish-Japanese venture.

The factory will produce stainless steel using the most modern processing techniques developed by Japanese industry and will be operated by a Japanese and Spanish labour-force.

With their usual efficiency, the Japanese extracted 30 Spanish workers from the Gibraltar area and gave them nine month's training in stainless steel plants in Japan.

Senor Letona has been further elated by the news that the Seat factory in Barcelona is to export the '850' model to Poland and the USSR. The Fiat company (the main shareholder in Seat) makes only the '124' models in its plants in Poland and the USSR.

Below: Henry Ford II



All roads to profit lead to Franco's police-state and the old man Franco is past-master at pleasing everybody who hates the working class.

NO RISKS

You might just squeeze into a Swiss bank as a sweeper-up if you're British. But you stand no chance of any more responsible job.

The reason is, the bankers say, that so many well-heeled Britons have secret, numbered accounts with them they can't take the slightest risk that even a single name will be disclosed.

Switzerland's strict banking laws have been eased recently as far as banking is concerned.

But the law still calls for up to six months in jail, or a fine of more than £5,000, if a bank employee discloses secrets. And violation of professional secrecy remains punishable even after an employee has left for another job or retired.

All of which just goes to show. The so-patriotic rich, it seems, have banking habits which are quite otherwise. And so confident are the Swiss that their fellow-countrymen will do the dirty, they won't have one of the breed on the payroll.

Perfidious Albion . . .

ON STALINIST WINGS

T.V. Review by Anne Blakeman

History rides on our backs and at the same time meets us face to face when we try to escape into the present: the People's Liberation Army of China is an embodiment of this in itself.

And Felix Greene's excellently-filmed programme, first in a three-part series called 'One Man's China', gave a vivid flavour of this tireless body of 3 million men.

He showed them going about the business of training tens of millions of Chinese for civilian defence, helping in the construction of a bridge over the Yangtse—an irrigation canal for agricultural purposes—teaching and engaging in community work, aside from maintaining their own self-sufficiency through cultivating food, making medicines and creating a full life in army divisions which know no barriers between officer and ranks and encourages 'officers to teach soldiers and soldiers to teach officers'.

This army has its roots in the first communist movements in China after the fall of the Empire in 1911; when the communists, driven from the cities by conflicts which culminated in Chiang Kai-shek's massacre in 1927, fled to south-east China, found themselves unable to establish a communist state there, so set out on the legendary Long March in 1935, moving west through Tibet and gathering strength on this gruelling trip.

Ideological vanguard

From this was born the Red Army. And although few of the originals remain (like the Chief of Staff), there was the experience for others, of the Korean War 1950-1953 and the driving of the US army back across the 49th parallel with the famous 'human wave' tactics; and again when the army played its essential role in the Cultural Revolution, when many of its officers became chairmen of the newly-formed Party Revolutionary Committees.

But the real force of the army lies in its capacity as the ideological vanguard in China, in which, as Greene mentioned, the technical achievements are subordinate to the political.

What Greene, a liberal pro-Maoist sympathizer, did not mention is the danger inherent in a body which historically carries with it all the tenets, and so all the lies and distortions of Stalinism, the foundation of Chinese communism from its inception.

However, in RTF's 'The Free Frenchman' it was clear that de Gaulle himself, as he so often implied, was French history personified, at least during the last three or four decades. The film, a memorial tribute (but aptly timed for a French government ever more dedicated to reviving Gaullist policies headed, as it is, by the General's former shadow, ex-banker Pompidou) poured forth a mixture of patriotic fervour, nationalism and victories of all sorts along with the Great Speeches and the Great Statesmen (Stalin, Churchill, Roosevelt, Eisenhower and the rest of the capitalist idols) with plenty of thunderous orchestral stuff to paper

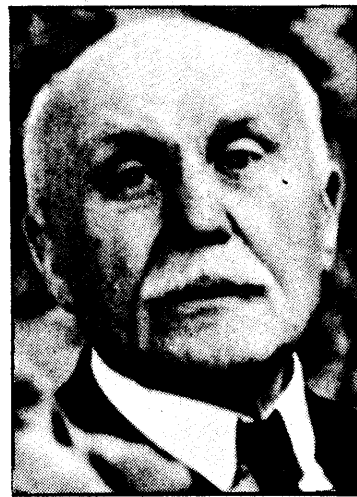
over any cracks of incredulity that might lurk when Max Bellancourt paused in his reverent narration.

In a period when France suffered enormous convulsions, with revolution and civil war ever-present, economic crises emerging from post-war devastation and post-war boom and the break-up of her empire, which contributed to all this and more, de Gaulle imposed his ruthless militarist opportunism and mystic nationalist pretensions to 'glory, honour and greatness'.

This amounted, in the cold light, to oppressive authoritarianism on a scale that often came close to rivalling that of Stalin. It not only contributed enormously to the destruction and exploitation but deliberately instigated slaughter and suffering in a virtually unprecedented manner for French history.

Under the banner of a self-styled 'revolutionary' de Gaulle laid his plans while in exile in England during World War II, broadcasting as 'We, de Gaulle, leader of the Free Frenchmen . . .'

He linked up with French Resistance wherever possible, cultivating heads of state in a constantly ambiguous fashion which made them all wish themselves rid of him. Finally he succeeded in grasping Equatorial Africa in order to establish himself in opposition to the Vichy government collaborating under Pétain, once de Gaulle's idol and friend.



Pétain. De Gaulle's idol

The film showed his triumphal 'liberation' of Paris in August 1944, but of course failed to mention that because France was almost entirely under communist rule (de Gaulle rapidly suppressed and bought them off as he was to do again in 1968) it was necessary for him to drive the country into civil war so that he could take absolute power. Thousands of Frenchmen died during 1944-1945 at the hands of other Frenchmen.

Also unmentioned was the sowing of the seed for the Algerian war with de Gaulle's Ordinance passed in Algeria in March 1944, dividing Algerians and resulting in the massacre of Setif—concealed for years afterwards from the French.

French imperialism

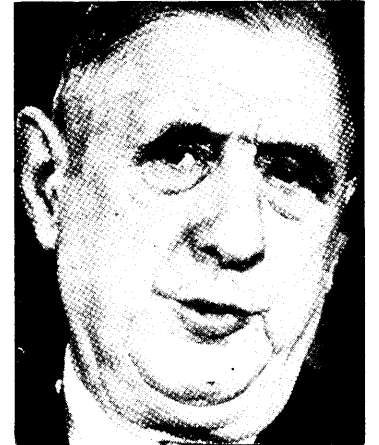
The gross miscalculations which led to war in Indo-China (Haiphong and Diem Bien Phu), the bloodshed in Tunis and Morocco as they fought for their freedom from French rule, the eight years' war in Algeria (the summit of de Gaulle's treachery when he was recalled from retirement

in 1956) with 200,000 dead, the FLN, Moslems, Arabs and French who were tortured and injured—are all crimes which stand at de Gaulle's door, perpetrated in the name of French imperialism and 'the French Union'.

The crucial role of the Communist Party and its leaders, like Rol Tanguy, Thorez, Waldeck-Rochet, Séguin and many more through the period 1939-1969, their sell-out and abject submission time and again to de Gaulle's treacherous manipulation, can never be underestimated.

De Gaulle literally flew on the wings of the Stalinists and at each abdication from a leadership which stood open for them to take, de Gaulle was there to pick up the pieces and go on.

Towards the end of what can only be called his 'reign',



General de Gaulle

de Gaulle's power was virtually unlimited ('my television' he called it). Nothing was beyond his grasp, not even the International Monetary System which he took into his own hands in 1967, badly inflaming economic problems still further than his policies had already done.

Like the thin tissue on the face of an enormous scar, the film on Friday night merely laid a veil over the 'sacred monster', as writers have called him.

'La canaille', as he contemptuously called the masses in France and Africa—when he wasn't in need of their vote—those dead in his wake, are the ones who should receive memorial tributes.

Those alive, betrayed by the French Stalinists even now as before, will not quickly forget his dictatorship.

In the Tuesday Documentary, 'The Price of Violence', a British soldier in Ulster said: ' . . . because they're British you've got to be polite to them or you won't get anywhere', which is a classic fundamental of British imperialist philosophy.

Some of the results of this 'politeness' were exposed again in a half-baked emotive piece which readily explored the maimed and the crippled, the dead and the despairing, all the tragedies which are made a game of by 'impartial' attitudes, which encourage the usual impotent confusion and never infer what the real issues are, or how they are being exploited by British intervention under Tory rule.

'The Red Chinese Army'. Narrated and produced by Felix Greene. Thursday November 9. 'De Gaulle—The Free Frenchman'. Directed by Michel Droit. Produced by Sanford Lieberson and David Putnam (RTF). Friday November 11.

'The Price of Violence'. Tuesday's documentary. Produced by Tony Broughton. Tuesday November 13.

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MACHINE TOOL CLOSURE IN MANCHESTER

Alfred Herbert, the machine tool manufacturers, have finally sold their Manchester subsidiary to a firm of developers.

As a result the 700 workers still left at the Churchill Machine Tool Company's Broadheath plant will be sacked when the plant closes next February.

The shut-down of the factory, which produced some of the most advanced grinding machines in the world, was announced in January.

Although 2,000 workers demonstrated through Altrincham, Cheshire, and gave Tory Chancellor Anthony Barber a rough time when he visited the area, Alfred Herbert were determined to see the closure through.

Herbert's, the largest machine-tool manufacturer in Europe, have been in severe financial difficulties. The slump in British industry has hit the machine-tool industry hard.

Firms who had lost confidence in the future prospects of British capitalism were soon ready to cut back on retooling. They could see no point in wasting money.

In August the firm announced losses of £2.28m for the first six months of this year. The previous half-year resulted in losses of £3.22m.

The figures showed that the value of sales had fallen by £5m, or almost a quarter to £15.8m. The order intake was also down £5m to £14.4m.

Herbert's have sacked almost one-third of their workforce in the last few years and



Barber. Rough time with 2,000 workers.

pruned the number of plants. The British machine-tool industry overall is in the midst of its worst slump since the 1930s. In real terms, the £71.5m worth of net home orders received last year was the lowest yearly total since 1950.

A sharp fall in orders for Churchill's products—both at home and abroad—precipitated the plant's closure.

The 22-acre site includes 360,000 square feet of factory and office space. In September, when the plant was put on the market, the asking price was around £1.25m.

It is now strongly hinted that the buyers are a firm of developers and intend to change the site into a warehouse.

Meanwhile the factory is being emptied of machinery which is being transported down the M6 to Alfred Herbert's Coventry factory.

INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY PLANS TO BRIEF WORKERS

One of the boasts of the Industrial Society is its work inside major British firms improving labour relations.

Its most lucrative efforts have been inside the big car firms like Vauxhall's and Ford's. The Society's annual report says that it has given its services to such firms as C. T. Bowring, British Ropes (a former director was Anthony Barber, the Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer), Legal and General Assurance Society, National Coal Board, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries and Whitbread.

FACE-TO-FACE

The work with the Ford Motor Company receives expansive treatment in the November issue of the company newspaper 'Ford News'.

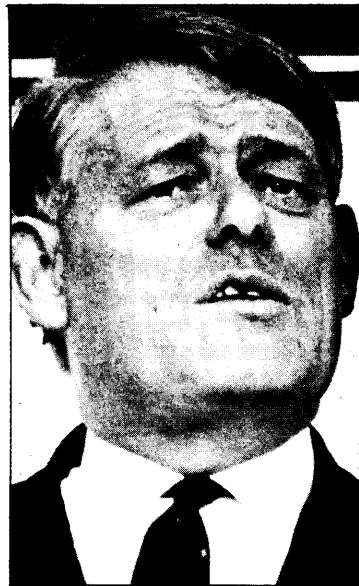
The article describes how the Society has successfully introduced a scheme whereby there is a greater circulation of information about the company among the employees.

'It is based on the common-sense idea of briefing which means that information is passed to employees through face-to-face meetings held at each level of the organization.'

A trial scheme was introduced in 1970 at the Dagenham, Essex, engine plant.

Robert Lindsay, the engine plant manager, told a reporter from 'Ford News': 'But I am convinced that everyone, at all levels in the plant, appreciate and welcome this method of being kept in the picture. Employees get information more quickly and more reliably.'

John Garnett, the Society's effusive director, who last week joined Jack Jones and



John Garnett, director

Enoch Powell in a radio discussion programme, commented:

'You [Ford's] have been successful down to foreman level. Now you must brief regularly to all employees if the full benefits of the system are to be achieved.'

LASHING DISPUTES

At the Society's recent annual conference Garnett claimed that the briefing system had been responsible for lashing disputes at a Merseyside motor works.

The same issue of 'Ford News' also reports that Ford's Basildon tractor plant is to try an even more astonishing means of avoiding labour disputes.

The Rev. Frank James is to set up an industrial chaplaincy inside the plant. 'My work should be a manifestation of the words "Love thy neighbour", said the reverend.

FILM LABS DWINDLE

A large number of film processing laboratories are frightened of being driven out of business in the not too distant future by the intense competition from Rank and Technicolor, the two largest film labs in the country.

At one time, both of them were concerned mainly with feature film production. With the slump in film-making, which made itself felt about two years ago, the giants began to look for other business. Television film, video, tape-to-film transfers, 8mm pictures and filmstrips, which were the mainstay of the smaller labs, are now being taken over by the Big Two.

Rank's 8mm and filmstrip executive, Peter Richardson, claims that they now control nearly half the national 8mm business, while the total annual filmstrip output is only equivalent to about one week's work for their newly-modernized laboratory. They also claim to have grabbed 50 per cent of cinema commercials and 25 per cent of 16mm work.

Both Rank and Technicolor are busily looking for partners in Europe and completing deals with some of the largest film-processing laboratories in France and Germany.

In the meantime, the intense competition between the different manufacturers of film is driving them to make ever new innovations, which are also causing headaches for the smaller labs. Kodak, for example, will shortly be marketing a new type of 16mm film which requires special handling. Unless the smaller labs can fork out huge sums of money to install completely new equipment, they will not be able to process it.

Smaller darkrooms, struggling to get by, are in no position to challenge competition from the Big Two. Without a regular and very loyal clientele, their business will just dwindle away—and loyalty does not count for much in the business world.

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BRIEFLY

LIBERATION gunners poured more than 2,000 mortar and artillery rounds onto South Vietnamese marines advancing towards the demilitarized zone from Quang Tri city yesterday. The US Air Force has stepped up its bombardment of the area near the border.

BASQUE militants have called off a 24-hour hunger strike in Bayonne cathedral, close to the Spanish border. They ended the strike following conciliatory moves by the authorities. The strikers were protesting against expulsion orders issued against militant Basque anti-fascists.

MAOIST youth threw tear-gas among 5,000 spectators at a Social Democratic eve-of-poll meeting addressed by chancellor Willy Brandt on Saturday night. They were expelled from the meeting shouting 'Only enemies of the people are standing for election. Don't give them your vote'.

French motor boss sets precedent Riot charges against carmen

NINE TRADE UNIONISTS representing carworkers at the Berliet factories in Lyons are to be brought before the French courts on charges of breaking the 'loi anti-casseur'—the anti-riot law passed on June 8, 1970, in the wake of the 1968 General Strike.

It has been used against 'left' groups and student demonstrators, but never until now against the organized trade union movement.

The five CGT (Communist Party) members and four CEDT (Socialist Party) members are charged by Paul Berliet, the general head of the Berliet factories, with:

- **DISTRIBUTING** a leaflet and organizing a demonstration during the current wages struggle now in its seventh week.
- **'UNLEASHING violence'** when demonstrators invaded the

reception rooms usually reserved for welcoming important clients and visitors. At the time Berliet was entertaining a delegation of British businessmen.

Berliet has also torn up all agreements allowing shop stewards to move around the factory with some freedom.

The firm plans a two-day lock-out this week as the latest step in hardening its position.

The Berliet factories are part of Citroën, which is now dominated by Michelin and the Italian car manufacturer, Fiat.

The crack-down against the

BY A FOREIGN
CORRESPONDENT

Lyons carworkers is linked to a reorganization of the monopoly in preparation for the European car trade war.

Berliet have ended investment in Lyons and will move to areas which have 'a tradition of greater social calm'.

Berliet made heavy losses during the first nine months of this year—100 million francs down on last year—and discussions have opened up between Daimler-Benz and Michelin-Fiat-Citroën, involving the future of Berliet.

The use of the anti-riot Act against carworkers is part of a determined offensive aimed at destroying the trade unions, which is the only way the monopolies can proceed to reorganize.

The Citroën group has been leading the way—with the support of the French Communist Party.

In September, the CP dominated CGT unions signed an agreement which recognized the 'purely economic role of the firm', that 'all political and philosophical ideas' should be discussed only outside the factory, thus guaranteeing 'social peace within the factories'.

The Stalinist response to legal action against its trade union members is to beg Pompidou's Ministers to intervene.

The executive of the engineering section of the CGT has written to the Minister of Social Affairs, Edgar Faure, asking him to change the attitude of the Berliet management and 'to prevent judicial procedures from going ahead and to get negotiations started on the men's demands'.

Faure received a similar letter earlier in the week from CGT secretary Georges Seguy protesting about police interrogations of trade unionists.

Such treachery is supported by extremely reactionary nationalism. The CP's solution to the Berliet rationalization is 'a national solution which would bring about co-operation between Berliet and Saviem, a branch of Renault [the nationalized car firm]'.



Castro

the 'Washington Post' put it editorially on Saturday: 'Handled properly it could lead through cultural exchanges, claims settlements, trade talks and political relations—the familiar route—to an American detente' with Cuba.

The paper assesses Castro's position quite cynically:

'In the dozen Castro years, the hemisphere has seen that neither the man nor his doctrine nor his disciples, certainly not his example in Cuba has excited "revolution" anywhere beyond his borders.

'Castro himself now makes no more than a ritual appeal for the cause which a few fearful Americans, but virtually no realistic Latins, identify with his name.

'Nor in a period of detente with the Soviet Union, and of intercontinental and submarine-launched missiles, does it make political or military sense to overdo the old worry that Moscow will make Cuba a "base".'

Hi-jack talks a smokescreen for deal

CUBA and the United States may hold anti-hi-jack talks following the seizure of a Southern Airways jet diverted to Havana just over a week ago.

Fidel Castro promised the plane's pilot that the hi-jackers would be jailed for life. Washington sent a message of thanks to the Cubans for the way they had handled the incident.

Cuba has been regarded as a haven for hi-jackers because the Castro government has no formal diplomatic relations with the US.

In fact, however, Castro's government has been quietly repatriating hi-jackers. They are simply put on a plane for Canada, where the Canadian police quietly run them across the frontier into the FBI's arms.

The Americans are not satisfied with this backstage traffic. They are pledged to keep it secret, for one thing, which means it has no value as a deterrent for potential hi-jackers. And so far the Cuban authorities have repatriated only those hi-jackers who show signs of mental disturbance.

Secretary of State William

Rogers has now agreed the Cuban request for direct negotiations between the two capitals—at present handled by Swiss diplomatic intermediaries.

The hi-jacking talks are seen as the beginnings of a political and diplomatic dialogue to bring Castro 'in from the cold' after a 12-year blockade.

Already the US has officially sponsored a visit by an oceanographic delegation to Cuba earlier this year.

The nationalist Castro regime was driven into the Stalinist camp by the hostility of the United States. This led the revisionists of the US Socialist Workers' Party to proclaim Cuba a workers' state. In reality it is a bourgeois-nationalist regime with close ties to the Soviet bloc.

Nixon's Moscow visit in May, the huge trade pact and the diplomatic manoeuvres over Vietnam now make it possible for Castro to settle differences with the US.

The hi-jacking question provides convenient smokescreen. As

TV

BBC 1

10.00 Tom and Jerry. 10.10 Scooby doo. 10.30 Silver Wedding. 1.15 News. 1.20 Pebble Mill. 1.55 Along the trail. 2.10 Silver Wedding. 3.25 Queen's gallery. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 5.35 Magic roundabout. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Long chase. 5.45 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 SILVER WEDDING.

7.15 Z CARS. Old Acquaintance.

8.00 PANORAMA.

9.00 NEWS. Weather.

9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'THE GENERAL'S DAY'. Alastair Sim.

10.25 MASTERMIND.

10.55 LATE NIGHT NEWS.

11.00 IRELAND. What We have, we hold. 11.25 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Rainbow. 9.50 Larry the lamb. 10.05 Mr and Mrs. 10.40 Anniversary. 1.30 Emmerdale. 2.00 Anniversary. 2.30 All our yesterdays. 3.00 Film: 'Remember the Day'. Claudette Colbert, John Payne. 4.25 Freewheelers. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 And mother makes three. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.

8.30 SEZ LES. Les Dawson.

9.00 KATE. A Nice Rest.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 LONGSTREET. The Girl with a Broom.

11.35 DRIVE-IN.

12.05 POINT OF VIEW. Ivor Mills.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.

7.05 CHILDREN GROWING UP. How Far How Soon?

7.30 NEWSROOM. Weather.

8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES.

8.50 CALL MY BLUFF.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.40-12.45 London. 1.05 News. 1.15 Emmerdale. 1.45 Yesterdays. 2.15 Anniversary. 2.45 Film: 'Victim Five'. 4.10 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Quiz. 6.45 London. 10.35 Royal wedding. 11.10 Name of the game. 12.25 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 London. 1.27 News. 4.05 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Danton. 11.05 News. 12.25 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.45 Report. 1.15 Emmerdale. 1.45 Houseparty. 2.15 London. 2.45 Film: 'Zebra in the Kitchen'. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.45 London. 10.35 Royal wedding. 11.05 News. 11.10 Theatre. 12.05 Farm progress. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.



Alastair Sim in Play for Today's 'The General's Day'—BBC 1.

9.25 NIGHT CLUB. Johnny Mathis, The Kessler Twins, Katya Epstein, The Tremeloes, Francus Brunn, Alan Campbell and Christine, The Irene Mann Dancers. **10.25 AMERICA.** The New Found Land. Written and narrated by Alistair Cooke. **11.15 NEWS ON 2. Weather.** **11.20 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.**

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 10.05 Women. 10.40 London. 12.45 Report. 1.15 Emmerdale. 1.45 Yesterdays. 2.15 Wedding. 2.45 Film: 'Sail a Crooked Ship'. 4.15 Bugs Bunny. 4.25 London. 5.20 Shirley's world. 5.50 London. 6.01 and 6.22 Report. 10.40 Film: 'It'. 12.30 Weather.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 10.05 Mr and Mrs. 10.40 London. 3.00 Enchanted isles. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Unknown. 11.30 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'The Feminist and the Fuzz'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.35 Name of the game. Weather.

ULSTER: 9.30 London. 1.30 News. 1.32 Cartoon. 1.40 Romper room. 2.00 London. 2.30 Film: 'Let's Be Happy'. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Smith family. 6.45 London. 10.35 Monday night. 10.40 Film: 'The Little Hut'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 12.45 Report. 1.15 Emmerdale. 1.45 Yesterdays. 2.15 Anniversary. 2.45 Film: 'Jazzboat'. 4.25 London. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.45 London. 10.40 Name of the game. 12.05 Yoga. 12.35 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Remember the Day'. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.40 What about the workers? 11.5 Film: 'The Mummy's Curse'.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'The Feminist and the Fuzz'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.36 Mr Knox. 10.46 Name of the game.

GRAMPIAN: 9.30 London. 1.15 Cat in the hat. 1.45 Lucy. 2.15 Anniversary. 2.45 Film: 'My Six Loves'. 4.10 Paulus. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Country focus. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.35 Royal wedding. 11.05 It takes a thief. 12.05 Meditation.

Socialist Labour League

LECTURES OXFORD

Thursday November 23
Opponents of Marxism
Thursday November 30
Marxism—the science of perspective
SOUTH OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE
Lake Street, 8 p.m.

LONDON

Sunday November 26
Basic Essentials of Marxism
Sunday December 3
A theory of knowledge
Sunday December 10
Opponents of Marxism
BEAVER HALL
at Mansion House tube
7.30 p.m.

Lectures given by
G. Healy
SLL national secretary

LIVERPOOL

Wednesday November 22
The Third International 1924-1929
Wednesday November 29
Stalinism 1932-1938
Wednesday December 6
Trotskyism and the founding of the Fourth International
COMMON HALL HACKINS HEY
off Dale Street, 7.30 p.m.
Lectures given by
Tom Kemp (SLL Central Committee)

All Trades Unions Alliance MEETINGS

BRACKNELL: Monday November 20, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre.
WEALDSTONE: Tuesday, November 21, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Station Road.

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign

CROYDON: Monday November 20, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, South Croydon.

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday November 21, 8 p.m. Balham Baths, Elmfield Road.

BARKING: Tuesday November 21, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, corner of Fanshawe Avenue/Longbridge Road.

SOUTH SHIELDS: Wednesday November 22, 7.30 p.m. Labour Club, Westoe Bridges. 'Support the Barbour's strikers.' Speakers: Joyce Patterson (Barbour's strike committee), Jack Grassby (secretary Trades Council), Hughie Nichol (ATUA).

DEPTFORD: Thursday November 23, 8 p.m. Engineers' Club, New Cross Road.

SWANSEA: Thursday, November 23, 7.30 p.m. Council of Social Services, Mount Pleasant Hill (next to fire station). 'Why we say: "Return a Labour government"'

PRESTON: Thursday November 23, 7.30 p.m. Waterloo Hotel, Friargate.

CENTRAL LONDON (Press and Entertainments Branch): Sunday: November 26, 3 p.m. Royal Shakespeare Rehearsal Rooms, Floral Street. The Fight for Shepperton'. Speakers: Yvonne Richards (ACTT), Roy Battersby (ACTT), Roger Smith (ACTT), Corin Redgrave (Equity), all leading members of their respective unions speaking in a personal capacity.

ACTON: Monday November 27, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road.

WEST LONDON: Tuesday November 28, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, King's Cross

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What we think

Wish and Reality

CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer Anthony Barber did some wishful thinking at the half-yearly meeting of the northern area of the Conservative Party in Carlisle on Saturday.

'The Conservative government has already notched up a number of major achievements which will govern our lives for many years to come,' he said. These 'great achievements' were entry into Europe, the Industrial Relations Act and taxation changes.

The latter consists of massive taxation cuts for the wealthy and the introduction of Value-Added Tax which will increase basic commodities prices by more than 10 per cent.

Barber added that 'everyone' knew the government was right to impose wage control. But this top Tory is crowing too early. One important and decisive factor still stands in the way of the government's plans—the working class.

The 1972 strike struggles and angry outburst at the Tory rent increases show workers are prepared to fight and are capable of defeating the government.

It is one thing to put reactionary legislation on the statute book, it is another to carry it out in practice in the teeth of working-class opposition — as the Tories found out when they jailed the Pentonville Five.

And it is one thing to talk about controlling wages and another to control them—as the miners proved earlier this year.

Tory 'successes' are paper victories so far.

The next stage—actual implementation of these policies—will be decisive.

The strength and determination of the working class is beyond doubt—but, by itself, it is not enough.

The working class faces grave dangers as it enters the second half of the Tories' scheduled term of office under the leadership of reformists and Stalinists.

Labour Party leaders have shown they will not go beyond the polite limits of Westminster. Indeed right-wing pro-Tories are elected to Shadow Cabinet positions.

Victor Feather, Jack Jones, Hugh Scanlon and company continue to prostrate themselves before the employers and their government even after wage control has been introduced.

The Stalinists wine and dine the UCS liquidator and an assortment of Glasgow church leaders and police chiefs.

The revisionists, like the International Socialism Group, cling desperately to the coat-tails of the Stalinists and stubbornly oppose the struggle for Marxist leadership within the working class.

The construction of a revolutionary leadership is vital. It must be done through the widest possible fight on wages and prices geared to the political demand to force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies—particularly nationalization under workers' control and without compensation.

The whole working class must be mobilized to prevent the Tories from completing their term of office. The demands then placed on a Labour government returned through the direct action of the working class will force the right wing to split and open the way for the revolutionary alternative in Britain.

Two unions face NIRC

BRITAIN'S two biggest unions face threats from the National Industrial Relations Court this week.

Today the Vestey organization will ask the court to stop dockers picketing its Midland Cold Storage depot in east London, while tomorrow is the last day the engineers' union can voluntarily

pay the £5,000 fine imposed on it by the court for contempt.

Both the Transport and General Workers' Union and the smaller National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers are expected to be named in Midland's application to the court.

The engineers' section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has said it is pre-

vented by policy decisions of its four-section national conference from paying the fine. If the union stands firm it will be up to James Goad, who is being denied access to the union's Sudbury branch because he worked during a strike, to appoint commissioners to seize the union's funds and levy the fine.

Steelmen's demands lost

A MASS meeting of 300 maintenance workers from Arthur Lee's steel company, Sheffield, voted unanimously on Saturday to end what the local Press had called 'the most damaging strike ever in the company'.

'We've been out on strike for six weeks and we've got nothing,' said one striker as he walked out of AUEW house.

At the meeting Communist Party member and AUEW district secretary George Caborn presented the men with a 13-point formula for a return to work which included no satisfaction on demands for an immediate substantial rise in bonus to compensate for erosion as a result of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' pay deal.

The management have promised 40p a week in February and £3 on the basic rate by next August, making £31 for 40 hours, which is not to be eroded from the bonus.

Both of these concessions are subject to government pay policy.

In return management is going

to negotiate on productivity.

Men will receive a minimum £1 'co-operation money' while work study experts are in the factory.

Alan Bentley, the convenor, told Workers Press:

'We are going to utilize the time to negotiate a proper bonus structure. Lee's are going to bring in the Engineering Employers' Federation advisory service to work out a scheme. I am not entirely satisfied, but in the present climate we've gone as far as we can. The freeze has definitely strengthened the employers.'

The meeting decided unanimously to call on the local and national committees of the Confederation to call out their entire membership if AUEW funds or property are sequestered by the NIRC.

COLLEGE staff at St Anne's, Oxford, return to work today after the temporary re-instatement of shop steward Frank Keen. Fired over two weeks ago in what the college call an economy drive, workers say he had been victimized for union activities.

SOUTH SHIELDS Labour-controlled council has threatened evictions and court actions against any of the town's 16,000 council tenants who refuse to pay the rent increases after 12 South Shields tenants' associations planned action starting today.

TWO LABOUR councils who refuse to implement the 'fair rents' Act—Camden, north London, and Conisborough, Yorkshire, could now be defaulted by the Tories and the councillors made to pay the missing rent. Their one-month warning letters from the government expired over the weekend.

TENANTS and trade unionists marched through Glasgow on Saturday on a 3,000-strong demonstration against the Tory rent Act. Factory contingents came from Chrysler, Massey Ferguson, Babcock and Wilcox, and Prestcold. Dundee, Clydebank, Edinburgh and Glasgow trades councils were out in force.

PROVISIONAL IRA chief of staff Sean MacStiofain was arrested in Dublin yesterday and taken to Bridewell police station. The swoop came only hours after Tory leader Heath's warning in Belfast that all parties would have to work harder to bring peace to the Six Counties.

Storm blows around OTO's jobs-cut ballot

BY DAVID MAUDE

THIS WEEK will decide whether the overseas telegraphists' grade in the Post Office is to be cut by a third over the next three years. Union leaders expect to know by Friday whether a secret ballot has given them the go-ahead for a pay-and-productivity deal which will achieve the cut.

Voting has been surrounded by a storm of controversy, first because of the grave issues involved and second because the deal has in fact already been signed by the two union chiefs principally involved.

Tom Jackson, general secretary of the big Union of Post Office Workers, claims he had to sign in a bid to beat the Tories' pay-control deadline. But he told Workers Press categorically last week: 'If the members turn it down, it's no go.'

The deal covers a total of 4,600 overseas telegraph operators (OTOs) across the country.

Most OTOs—the men and women who send out, receive and relay telex communications between Britain and the rest of the world—work in London. The bulk of these are to be found at the overseas cable headquarters off the Strand, Electra House.

If a majority of them vote in favour, they will receive the first of six half-yearly, flat-rate payments.

Top operators (OTOs I) will get £47.50, second-liners (OTOs II) £37.50. Additional amounts will be paid after the first year for any future measured improvements in productivity.

In return the Post Office will get UPW co-operation on streamlining the work flow and work-study techniques.

But the main points of the deal allow management to proceed with three major changes it has been pressing since 1970:

- Division of Electra House into separate managerial units.

- Introduction of a new computer for correcting telex messages.

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- Automation of all relaying work through a computer system known as the Telegram Retransmission Centre.

Jackson and the UPW executive claim that no one will actually be made redundant as a result of these far-reaching changes.

But they admit that during the first stage alone—subdivision of Electra House and introduction of the revision computer—500 jobs will be lost. What they are not saying publicly at the moment is that they are in possession of Post Office estimates that the final result of the TRC programme will be the destruction of 1,700 jobs nationally.

The argument that there will be no physical redundancies is, according to many UPW activists, a complete sham.

Its opponents say that in the first place it betrays the principle of the fight against unemployment, since a shrinkage of 500 or 1,700 jobs in any sector of industry makes it so much more difficult for the 800,000 jobless to find work.

In the second place, they say, 'natural wastage', a ban on recruitment into the OTO grade and a six-month campaign of disciplinary sackings, particularly at Electra House, have been used by the Post Office to create the impression no one will actually go. But this impression is false, since the grade has already been eroded.

At a meeting of over 500 London OTOs last week, there was uproar when Jackson's assistant secretary responsible for telecommunications, Kim McKinley, attempted to sell the deal.

The Electra House contingent was particularly incensed by the knowledge that on the day the deal was signed (October 26), without reference either to them or their branch committee, the branch had agreed a policy of no redundancy, no speed-up or work-study and a shorter working week.

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

£651.43 AND 11 DAYS MORE

WE NEED £1,098.57 by the end of November to complete our Fund. This means we must raise approximately £99.87 a day to complete our £1,750 target. We are sure that with your magnificent support, we could complete our target, and possibly go over the top.

This month it is more vital than ever to raise our Fund. As thousands of workers are drawn into wages struggles, they come face to face with the Tories' state pay plan. A huge movement must now emerge to make this government resign.

In this political situation, all our plans to expand must go ahead. New readers are being won all over the country. We need extra resources to help us expand our circulation, increase our sales and improve our news coverage.

We are confident that you will back us up all the way. Help us, therefore, with a major effort for the last lap of our Fund. Try and make it a record month. Raise everything you can and post immediately to:

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

CELEBRATE 3rd ANNIVERSARY OF WORKERS PRESS (See p. 1)

NEWCASTLE
SUNDAY DECEMBER 10, 7 p.m.
County Hotel

Speakers:
MIKE BANDA (SLL Central committee)
DAVID JONES (YS national committee)
BOB MAINS (Unemployed)
VINCENT FOY (secretary Jar-row Trades Council. In personal capacity.)

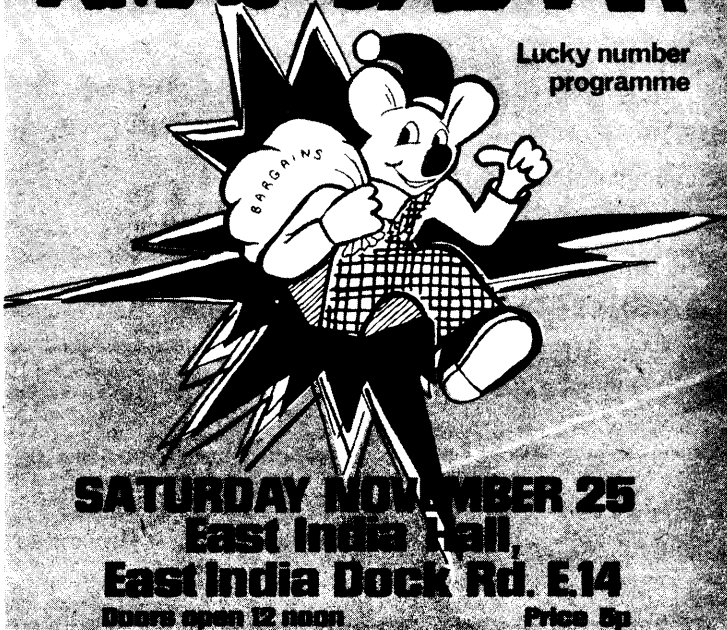
GLASGOW
SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 2 p.m.
Woodside Halls
St George's Cross

Speakers:
MIKE BANDA (SLL Central committee)
JOHN BARRIE (YS national committee)
WILLIE DOHERTY (chairman Paisley Tenants' Action Committee. In personal capacity.)

BIRMINGHAM
SUNDAY DECEMBER 17, 7 p.m.
Assembly Hall
Digbeth Civic Hall

Speakers:
G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)
WILLIE AITKIN (YS national committee)
PETER SMITH (Rover shop steward. In personal capacity.)

YOUNG SOCIALISTS XMAS BAZAAR



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 25
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East India Dock Rd. E.14
Doors open 12 noon Price 5p