

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 1972 ● No. 942 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TAFF VALE—1972

AUEW IS FINED £50,000



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UNIONS and the government are on the brink of a new showdown over the £50,000 fine slapped on the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

The National Industrial Relations Court yesterday gave the AUEW one week to pay up or face sequestration. But it seems certain that this latest attack by the court will cause outbreaks of industrial unrest throughout the engineering industry.

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BY STEPHEN JOHNS

manding an all-out strike if more fines are levied. Even more militant calls have come from shop stewards' bodies which are pledged to strike action with or without an official lead.

On Thursday, for example, the north London shop stewards quarterly meeting voted unanimously to withdraw their labour if more fines were levied.

The man at the centre of the storm once more is the president of the NIRC, Sir John Donaldson. In his judgement yesterday he said that the contempt of the union caused by its persistent refusal to allow Suffolk engineering worker James Goad into branch meetings was the most serious to come before the court so far.

He warned that the fine would have been greater than the £50,000 made against the Transport and General Workers' Union earlier this year, but for the weak financial state of the AUEW.

'Any fine will have to be paid out of those assets or from contributions from the members,' said Sir John.

He concluded: 'We trust that the union will review its policy at once. An unlawful policy is no credit to the union and the necessity for taking action against the union is no source

THE Oxford district AUEW shop stewards' quarterly meeting on Thursday, passed a resolution congratulating the AUEW executive on its stand against the Industrial Relations Act and called upon it to use industrial action if any further action was taken against the union.

of satisfaction to the court. We are bound to uphold the law and will do so, but our real satisfaction comes from bringing the parties together in settlement of industrial disputes. This is impossible so long as one party refuses to attend.'

If the union do not pay up in seven days commissioners will be sent in to seize contributions or assets.

The fine marks the crisis point for the union's leaders. So far they have taken no steps whatsoever to defend their members' money.

There is no doubt that the rank and file of every union is solidly behind the engineers, who must be given full support by all trade unionists.

Any industrial action will immediately raise the question in the TUC of supporting the engineers in their battle against the Tory anti-union laws.

This could be the starting point of open conflict between the union and the Tory government.

A STATEMENT from the AUEW yesterday declared that the Executive Council had decided unanimously not to pay the fine. The general secretary would be contacting the members to inform them of this decision and, in particular, pointing out that

Mr Goad could have used the union's machinery.

The Executive Council was calling on the membership to 'defend the policy of the union'. However, it had not considered any industrial action and the National Committee was not to be recalled.

Angry Brigade remark angers Sir John

REMARKS comparing the engineering union's leaders with the Angry Brigade were sharply rebuked by Sir John Donaldson in the National Industrial Relations Court.

Mr Peter Perrins, for Sudbury, Suffolk engineer Mr James Goad, said the union clearly backed the action of the Sudbury shop stewards who were keeping Goad from branch meetings.

'The events of the last 24 hours make it abundantly clear



Sir John... what are you talking about.

that as far as the rule of law is concerned, Mr Hugh Scanlon and his officials are just as much anarchists as the members of the Angry Brigade,' he said.

Sir John intervened immediately:

'I don't know what you are talking about,' he said to Perrins and went on to rule that Thursday's events, when workers at the CAV factory

where Goad works forced management to suspend him, had nothing to do with the case.

'I cannot see the slightest justification for referring to the union in language which connects them with criminal activities,' he said.

But he went on to accept that a sworn statement by Goad over events last Friday when he was kept out of a branch meeting at the Bear Hotel, Sudbury, was evidence to show that the union had committed a second breach of the court's order to give Goad full rights.

'It is perfectly open to this court to infer, because of the fact it is a second breach, that this is now not the isolated action of two shop stewards, but is the action of which the union does not disapprove—an action which is consistent with the policy of the union in not recognizing the Industrial Relations Act, whether it be a tribunal, this court, or the Court of Appeal,' said Sir John.

Goad has already caused the union to be fined £5,000 for contempt. Workers oppose his admission to branch meetings because he worked during a strike, then refused to pay a fine for this behaviour to a charity.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS XMAS BAZAAR



SATURDAY DECEMBER 9
Corn Exchange
Leeds

Doors open 12 noon

Price 5p

workers press

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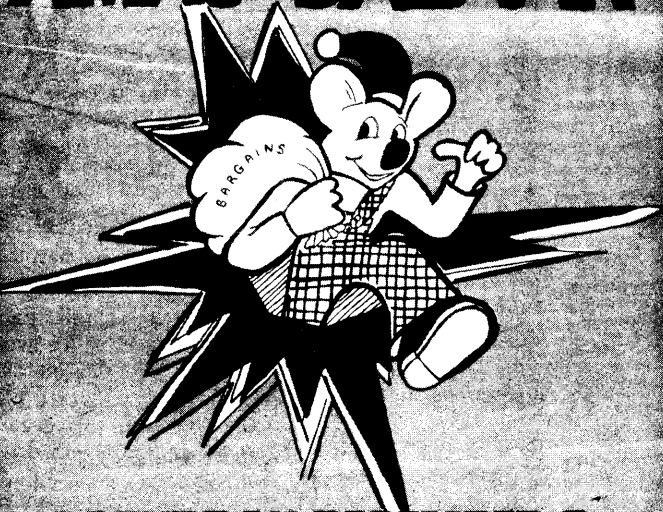
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MONEY WOR&D

Half-hearted anti-inflation moves

French cut back VAT

FRENCH Finance Minister M. Valeri Giscard d'Estaing has introduced an anti-inflationary package intended to pass the burden of the economic crisis onto the working class. Rapid price rises had sapped the franc's strength in recent weeks and pushed up the cost-of-living to new heights.

In view of the elections due in March, the French government is unable to impose an immediate wage freeze. In fact, with the Communist Party and the main trade union, the CGT, holding back the working class and preventing a full-scale wage struggle, it is concentrating on temporary measures which it knows cannot grapple with the problem.

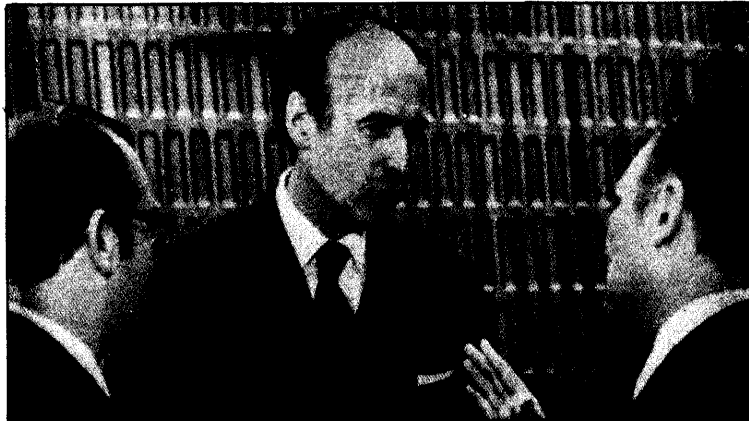
These consist of a reduction in the rates of Value Added Tax, an increase in the rate of interest on national savings and the flotation of a big loan on very advantageous conditions for the subscribers.

Loans of this kind are an old stand-by of French finance ministers. They give an impression of action while placating middle-class savers. In fact, very little new savings generally result. All the loan does is to help bridge the government's budget deficit.

In addition Giscard d'Estaing appeals to employers and the trade unions to maintain wage and price stability and to work out 'a new wages policy' for 1973.

While criticizing these measures, the Communist Party daily, 'L'Humanité', says mildly: 'Rising prices are a grave problem. No government which wants to last for any length of time can now evade it.'

It is thinking of the possible coalition government of the CP, the Socialist Party and the Radicals, which might result from the March elections. It sees the reduction in VAT as 'a homage



French finance minister Giscard d'Estaing (centre).

paid to the correctness of the programme of the left

It says that such a government would go further—it would 'carry out a democratic reform of the tax system'. The programme to which the CP is committed does not go any further than this because it has to be operated within the framework of capitalism.

The French Stalinists directly play the government's game by holding back the working class and are completely unable to wage any kind of fight against the anti-inflation package—despite pointing out that it is aimed at the working class and favours the rich.

The comment by CGT secretary Henri Krasucki on the Messmer government's new measures shows the treachery of the French Stalinists.

Instead of calling for a national struggle for wages and to defend the rights of the working class, he says that purchasing power must be defended by bargaining

on a plant and industry basis.

He does not call for the overthrow of the government, but criticizes its cost-of-living index and calls for a better one. The whole CP reaction is a lot of demagogic froth on top to disguise actual collaboration with the government in holding back the working class.

● In HOLLAND, where the General Election showed a swing to the left, with the Labour Party emerging as the biggest party in the lower house, a new anti-inflation policy has also been announced.

The Dutch unions have signed an agreement with the government and the employers to limit wage increases in the coming year to 3.5 per cent.

The agreement includes profit margins and prices. It intends to limit price increases to 5.75 per cent with the average profit per unit remaining constant. Its main effect will be to enable the trade union leaders to hold back working-class militancy.

Sterling drops lower and angers Britain's EEC 'partners'

STERLING dropped 11 points against the dollar yesterday morning on the London foreign exchange market, reaching a low point of \$2.3389 to the pound.

The British currency has been slipping for several days, reflecting mounting discontent with the Tory government in financial circles.

Optimistic speeches from Edward Heath and Anthony Barber over the weekend about the prospects for the economy appear to have cut little ice with the international financial fraternity.

Confederation of British Industry chairman Michael Clapham of Imperial Chemi-

cal Industries punctured Heath's pretensions earlier this week with a sharp warning that the government's boasted target of 5 per cent growth was entirely based on inflation.

He said what was required was cuts in consumption to create resources for investment—money must be taken out of the pockets of the working class to pay for the crisis.

The downward slide of sterling also reflects the weakness of the Tory government relative to the new Nixon administration in the United States, which is planning vigorous action to foil the economic crisis onto Europe.

The continued fall in the

British currency is bound to worsen relations within the Common Market.

It will tend to give British exporters a competitive edge on entry.

There have been rumblings of discontent from the existing EEC countries as sterling has floated downwards.

With three weeks to go to entry, the Tory government has made no pledges about when the pound will be stabilized.

The continued fall makes it unlikely, however, that the currency will be fixed as high as \$2.35, which would represent an effective 10 per cent devaluation on the pre-float parity.

US anti-dumping measures are aimed at EEC

THE UNITED STATES Treasury has announced a new set of anti-dumping regulations which will come into effect on January 8, just a week after Britain formally enters the Common Market.

The American government proposed the new regulations in April and there were sharp exchanges about them when the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade met later in the year.

The British and other governments strongly objected to what they termed the harsh and harass-

ing manner in which the US Treasury has been applying the anti-dumping laws already in force.

They complain that the American officials compare the prices of foreign imports with those charged for the same goods in all other countries rather than just in the country of manufacture and take action against all suppliers in a particular country rather than an individual company.

The measures against dumping (selling goods at cut prices to gain a foothold in foreign markets) are an integral part of the growing trade hostility between the US and the EEC.

Largely in retaliation for the tough American stance, the Common Market recently imposed huge fines on the US-owned Chance glass company for violations of the complex EEC anti-trust laws.

As the date for opening multi-lateral trade negotiations draws nearer the atmosphere between the capitalist powers is growing increasingly tense.

Czech Speed-up

WORKERS in Czechoslovakia were called upon to increase productivity and to produce more at the plenary meeting of the Communist Party held in Prague this week.

Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal said that there were many unused reserves in the economy which could be brought into play through better labour productivity and the lowering of production costs.

Why Thieu played for time

THE BREATHING space provided by the delay in the peace negotiations has been used by the Saigon regime to strengthen its position in parts of South Vietnam held by the guerrillas.

Any guerrilla army depends upon concealment and the ability to mingle with the civilian population. A cease-fire means that its positions have to be revealed.

The National Liberation Front (NLF) may have banked on a peace settlement being concluded early in October, making its maximum effort at about that time.

By encouraging President Nguyen Van Thieu to hold up the settlement, the Americans have given him the time to move government propaganda groups and troops into

many hamlets which the NLF had hoped to take over.

At the same time massive quantities of military supplies have been furnished by the US to Thieu's regime, together with thousands of civilian and technical advisers

through which it intends to retain its grip on South Vietnam.

It is also intended to keep 40,000 troops in the country 'for a period of months and perhaps longer after a Vietnam settlement', according to James P. Sterba, writing in the

'Advisers' move in

ONE HUNDRED foreign officers have been alerted for temporary assignments in South Vietnam following conclusion of a peace agreement, State Department officials said in Washington yesterday.

They said that the officers would be needed to perform 'traditional diplomatic functions' in the immediate post-war period such as political reporting and consular work.

The US diplomatic mis-

November 25 'New York Times'.

Knowing this, the Soviet and Chinese bureaucracies, as part of their deal with Nixon, have forced Hanoi and the NLF to agree to the US peace terms.

By rationing the North Vietnamese and the NLF with military equipment, they prevent the revolution from being carried through to the complete defeat of the corrupt and discredited Thieu regime.

Thieu meantime is rounding up his political opponents and liquidating the political prisoners he holds, with the blessing of the US.

In Paris on Thursday, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, the NLF representative at the peace talks, called on the US and Saigon to guarantee the security and lives of these prisoners and demanded their release.

Both Madame Binh and the Hanoi negotiator Nguyen Minh Vy called on the US to abide by the peace agreement reached between Le Duc Tho and Dr Henry Kissinger early last month.

Socialist Labour League

**CELEBRATE
3RD ANNIVERSARY
OF WORKERS
PRESS
BUILD THE
REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 10,
7 p.m.
County Hotel
NEWCASTLE**

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

**NEW
FILM**

**THREE
YEARS
OF
WORKERS
PRESS**

Showing the developments and gains since the first issue of Workers Press, September 26 1969

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 DOCHERTY (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.)
CORIN REDGRAVE (Equity. In a personal capacity.)

ANGRY BRIGADE

AFTERMATH

Enter Commander X

COMMANDER BOND, the new head of the Metropolitan CID and the man who, as Commander X, headed the Angry Brigade bomb squad, believes that 'terrorism is here to stay'.

As long as capitalism remains in existence, Bond is not telling us anything we didn't know. Capitalism is a system based on violence and terror.

In the interests of capitalism, two world wars have been fought this century resulting in the loss of 100 million lives, the greatest mass slaughter in history.

Today in Vietnam the peasants and workers are bombed, strafed and have their land destroyed by the most bloodthirsty military machine ever created.

In Northern Ireland the SAS and the Special Branch murder, torture and imprison without trial.

'There are terrorists in evidence,' says the commander. He's right again. Pick up any newspaper and read about the terrorism of the racials in South Africa and Rhodesia and the military junta in Turkey. Read about the vicious attacks on workers and students in fascist Spain and the crowding of political prisoners in Portugal.

'It must follow,' says Bond, 'that we should take measures to counter terrorism.' Bond, of course, is not talking about an attack on the real terrorists of capitalist society—the ruling class.

When you hear him use the word 'terrorist', you must read 'the left wing' and those groups in the labour and trade union movement who are resisting the attacks on the unions and the crushing of the standard of living of the working class.

In this context workers should note the outrageous comment made by James Goad's lawyer in the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday. 'The events of the last 24 hours make it abundantly clear that as far as the rule of law is concerned, Mr Hugh Scanlon and his officials are just as much anarchists as the members of the Angry Brigade.'

Instead of talking arrogant and arrant rubbish to the Tory Press about 'terrorism' the new head of London's 2,000 plainclothes detectives should perhaps examine the situation in his own ranks. Already this year two of his senior heads have left their jobs under extraordinary circumstances.

● **Commander Kenneth Drury**, head of the Flying Squad, resigned after newspaper revelations that he and a strip-club owner had spent a holiday with their respective families in the Mediterranean. Drury's friend had previously served a term at Dartmoor. The Press was told Drury and his playmate were in fact on earnest inquiries into the whereabouts of Ronald Biggs, the Great Train Robber!

● **Detective Chief Inspector Victor Kelaher**, head of the Drugs Squad, was removed from his post and last month was suspended from duty. He faces summonses in the court in January for alleged conspiracy.

The CID is in revolt over the new regime of Commissioner Robert Mark and his plan to 'clean up' the plainclothes branch of the Yard.

(On Thursday a Yard Special Branch officer, Colin Stuart [32], was fined £50 at Uxbridge Court for stealing a tie from a Heathrow airport shop and Sergeant Hugh Nobes [32], was jailed for four years for stealing from a flat when he was investigating a burglary.)

The situation in Bond's own department is so critical that last year police officers were removed from security duties at their top

Bond of the bomb squad to examine his own ranks?

BY ALEX MITCHELL

secret headquarters at Tintagel House on the South Bank.

Instead, private police from Securicor, the firm of which Home Secretary Robert Carr was a former director, were brought in to ensure the safety of information in the computer and library files.

None of these issues are mentioned by Bond at his unusual Press conference. But at

the same time officers from his department were at Thomson House, home of 'The Sunday Times', warning the editor that he faced prosecution under the Official Secrets Act.

This follows the publication on October 8 of an article which revealed details of the Department of the Environment's plan to slash the rail network from 11,000 miles to 7,000 miles. The

huge reduction in track will mean the loss of a further 20,000 jobs in British Rail.

The police swoops on the 'Railway Gazette' and 'The Sunday Times' are damning evidence that the CID, under Mark and Bond, will assume a more 'political' role. Their action amounts to nothing more than political intimidation of journalists and members of the civil service.

As an institution of the ruling class the police force is bound to reflect the same sort of crisis that we are witnessing in the Tory Party itself. The amiable Dixon of Dock Green created by Lord Willis is quickly going to be replaced by a different type of policeman. Enter Commander X.

'Free the four' march to Holloway



Angela Weir (centre) and Kate McLean (observed by raised arm), two of four acquitted in the Angry Brigade trial, protesting outside Holloway jail on Thursday.

ABOUT 300 supporters of the four jailed in the 'Angry Brigade' trial on Thursday marched from the Old Bailey to Holloway jail where Anna Mendleson and Hilary Creek are serving their sentences. A continuous chant of 'No political trials! No political prisoners! Free the four!' was kept up throughout the four-mile march. When the demonstration reached Holloway, shouts and cheering could be heard from inside the jail.

An impromptu meeting decided to call for a mass demonstration on Saturday December 16 to Wormwood Scrubs where John Barker and Jim Greenfield are jailed.

Sack Prentice say dockers

THE 1/37 (docks) branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union has written to West Ham Trades Council demanding action against Mr Reg Prentice, Labour's Shadow Minister of Employment.

Prentice attacked the five dockers who were jailed by the Tory government earlier this year and he has also made a statement implying that 400,000 unemployed would be an acceptable figure.

The branch's letter reads: 'We, the above branch, move through the Trades Council for the removal of Mr Reg Prentice from the parliamentary panel of the Transport and General Workers' Union and that no further assistance be given to this MP during the election period.'

The chairman of 1/17 branch is Vic Turner, one of the dockers who was jailed.

West Ham Trades Council has expressed its 'agreement with the sentiments' of the letter.

Pauline Jones freed

PAULINE JONES was yesterday enjoying her first day of freedom after being released from Styal Prison, Manchester, where she spent 13½ months for taking baby Denise Weller from outside a shop at Harlow, Essex, last year.

She was in one of five cars which sped out of the prison last night, but her whereabouts are not yet known.

Nobody appeared to be at the home of her father, Mr Richard Jones, in Lower Bury Lane, Epping, Essex.

Pauline, now 24, was jailed for three years at Essex Assizes in October last year after pleading guilty to stealing little Denise 21 weeks, from her pram.

This sentence was later reduced to 21 months as 'a measure of mercy' in the Court of Appeal.

Pauline, from Hull, first went to Holloway and then absconded from an open prison, but was found after 15 hours' freedom.

Free Sean MacStiofain demand

WEST HAM Trades Council has condemned the recent Lynch anti-IRA legislation and demanded the release of Sean MacStiofain. Its resolution, passed unanimously and with no one speaking against, declares:

'This meeting of West Ham Trades Council condemns the legislation of the Lynch government. We are of the opinion that this Bill is the first step to dictatorship and goes hand in hand with the requirements of British Toryism.'

'We express our solidarity with the Irish television and radio workers and call for the immediate release of Sean MacStiofain, Kevin O'Kelly and all political prisoners in Eire and Northern Ireland.'

'While we have basic differences with the Provisionals, we are of the opinion that these measures will be used against the working class tomorrow.'

Writings of Leon Trotsky

1933-1934	£1.43
1934-1935	£1.43
1935-1936	£1.25
1937-1938	£1.25
1938-1939	£1.25
1939-1940	£1.05



These extremely vital writings by Leon Trotsky between the years 1929 and 1940—his third and final exile from the Soviet Union—are now available in Britain from the Paperbacks Centre (see advert below).

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HOME, SWEET HOME

How about a living room whose splendid carved chimney piece and fine oak panelling has a shot-shattered bit where, during the Civil War, a Royalist was fired at while escaping?

Unfortunately the country house which came complete with this little episode of the Cromwellian revolution has just been withdrawn from sale, probably because no one could afford to buy it.

Nevertheless, for all those facing overcrowding, soaring rents and impossible mortgage bills, there is still a great deal of worthwhile property going at the moment.

SUPERB

How about Tirweston House, Bucks? Described as a 'superb, late Georgian, stone-built manor house', it is set in five acres, with a small lake and fine views over the River Great Ouse.

For those with big families, the manor house has eight rooms on the ground floor and nine rooms on the first. If you like sport there are two tennis courts. A large orchard, greenhouse and sunken rose garden are also thrown in.

After restoration the whole house with extras will cost you a mere £100,000. The people to contact are Peter Gilbert Associates (Country Properties) Ltd. They are a new company specializing in the search for and restoration of such nice bargains.

Another one-off job is to be found at Toot Baldon, Oxford, which should please many Cowley workers at the British-Leyland plant.

Once ecclesiastical and later belonging to the Queen's College, Oxford, it is a splendid example of early Jacobean stone architecture.

WONDERS

Restoration has redeemed the original attractive face of the house, and, from close examination of the old rough timbers, and remnants of buried windows, the present facade looks much as it did in the middle of the 16th century.

The re-positioned front door incorporates a stone doorway brought from a demolished manor house in Rutland. The asking price is reasonable enough at £80,000.

Without any doubt at all, the coming to power of the Tory government has done wonders for the housing problem. No one can now say there are not enough houses to go round.

NUBE HOLIDAYS IN FASCIST SPAIN

After its suspension at the September congress of the TUC, the registered National Union of Bank Employees has branched out into new fields.

The latest is NUBE Travel, through which members can book cut-rate holidays overseas. The union is not averse to helping its members take cheap vacation in fascist Spain and the colonels' Greece.

Members can travel to Spain for as little as £26 and to Greece for £52. It's a great life on the Register of Trade Unions. . .



Jack Cotton (left) with Sir Charles Clore who controls some 2,000 retail shoe outlets and is now increasing his stake in the property world.

RISE OF THE CLORE CONGLOMERATE

BY PHILIP WADE

Before the war, Sir Charles Clore, the son of an East End tailor, was beginning to find his feet in the property world.

His efforts varied from developing the Prince of Wales theatre, buying old country estates for their timber, to building ordnance depots and other factories.

Today he is a millionaire many times over and chairman of the British Shoe Corporation which dominates the £500m shoe industry.

Through his Sears Holding group, Clore controls some 2,000 retail shoe outlets throughout Britain.

In this way Sears Holdings has 22 per cent of the retail footwear sales, 8 per cent of national production and 12 per cent of all retail outlets.

The group itself is Britain's 39th biggest enterprise and is involved in engineering as well as shoes with the ownership of Furness Shipbuilding.

Last year the group's turnover was over £320m and profits almost £40m made from Sears' 59,000 workers.

Known as the takeover king, Clore is always in the news, usually rubbing another group of capitalists up the wrong way. Last week Sears Holdings' £30m bid for Timpson Shoes was referred to the Monopolies Commission.

The City was extremely puzzled, however, by the fact that a rival and lower bid by United Drapery Stores was not to be referred.

Not surprisingly, UDS's advisers, Hill Samuel, were delighted with the outcome. 'It is just what we have expected all along from the

Department of Trade and Industry,' they commented cryptically.

Throughout the 1950s Clore combined the acquisition of shoe firms with the development of his property business.

His technique was to use the devastating combination of sale and leaseback and takeover bids. The essence of the operation was that most of the companies victim to takeover had their properties in their balance sheets at pre-war values and did not have a clear idea of their post-war values, or indeed how to realize them.

In January 1953 Clore bid for the long-established company of J. Sears. They controlled the famous Freeman Hardy and Willis chain of 900 shoe shops.

Sears' directors tried to fight Clore off and told their shareholders that at least £6m could be raised on the company's properties. It was a shock to them all because they appeared in the books at no more than £2.3m.

Clore offered 40s for shares which had stood around 13s when he first began buying. Not even the desperate raising of the dividend by Sears to over 62 per cent could stop the takeover.

When he had won control, Clore promptly sold £44m worth of the shoe shops and then took back long leases; there was another £4m worth of property left. The money realized from the sale and the leaseback of his own shops was then devoted to his future takeovers.

Before long, another 100 shoe shops were taken into the fold of the newly-created Sears Holding company

through the buying up of the Curtess and Philipps Brothers Character Shoes chains.

In 1956 Dolcis and Manfield multiples fell to Clore, giving him at the time 1,500 shoe shops, six important factories and the leading share of the shoe trade.

It was also in 1956 that Clore bought the Park Lane site on which the London Hilton Hotel now stands. It cost him £550,000 and was something of a bargain. The seller needed the money to pay off family death duties.

By the time the hotel was finished it had cost £54m and was worth £7m on the market.

With the arrival of the 1960s, Clore began to move against more rival shoe firms. Here he also formed one of the most unstable property relationships ever known with Jack Cotton's City Centre company.

First Clore began buying shares in an important competitor in the shoe field, Lilley and Skinner, which had some 500 shops.

Then he approached Saxon with a plan to merge the group with his own creation, the Sears' subsidiary, British Shoe.

On the property side, the merger of Cotton's City Centre with Clore's City and Central produced a company worth, said the stock exchange, £65m.

Clore's personal slice was worth over £14m and represented what he had made out of property between 1945 and 1960.

The marriage proved completely unworkable. As time wore on Cotton developed a sort of megalomania, encouraging the image of the greatest property man of all time.

In 1961 Cotton spoke about a £70m plan to build an office complex above a railway station in Chicago—a deal which never came off. He once remarked: 'Someone once referred to the three C's—Cotton, Clore and Columbus. I like that. I feel fine. It is how I feel.'

Perhaps the most remarkable of Cotton's plans were those to move all the hospitals out of central London and to redevelop the valuable sites.

Cotton died in March 1964, shortly after resigning his position on the board. And eventually City Centre Properties was swallowed by Sir Harold Samuel's Land Securities to form a property company worth more than £325m.

Now the shoe industry is entering something of a crisis, with foreign competition already accounting for nearly 32 per cent of the domestic market.

William Timpson, which Clore wants to take over, has just shut down its Maltby, Yorkshire, factory, later selling it to a travel goods company, and closes others this month at Kettering, Northants.

Production in Britain was 200.8 million pairs of shoes in 1968, but in 1970 it had fallen to 190.5 million and to about 185.7 million last year.

With Common Market entry a few weeks away, the trend towards rationalization and mergers already so predominant in the British shoe industry will undoubtedly accelerate.

And it cannot be long before Clore follows other British capitalists and takes the road to Europe in a direct sense, moving capital out of Britain for the purpose.

LETTER FROM A CEYLONESE WORKER

N. M. Perera, finance minister of the capitalist coalition government of Sri Lanka (Ceylon), introduced a budget last month outlining policies for tighter control of wages, cuts in consumer goods and drastic speed-up in production.

The Communist Party newspaper 'Aththa' said it was a budget which did not directly attack either the working class or the capitalists.

The capitalist Press described the budget's aims as development. The Stalinists were lining up with the employers to cover up the real attacks aimed at the workers and the oppressed masses through the budget.

Like other capitalist governments hit by the grave international economic crisis, the bourgeois coalition government in Ceylon plans to slash the living standards and incomes of the working class.

The immediate effect of the budget will be to control wages while prices of all consumer goods are allowed to rocket upwards.

The Ceylon rupee has been devalued indirectly—and not for the first time—by 10 per cent through the new measures by raising the payments for Foreign Exchange Entitlement Certificates to 65 per cent.

In his budget speech Perera laid special stress on limiting wages. During the last three years the cost of living has risen by at least 20 per cent, according to official figures.

To counter this rise in the cost of living, almost every trade union has claimed a wage increase around the 30 per cent mark.

In this situation, the government has laid down there will be no wage rises. Workers earning 180 rupees a month (about £9) were given a 7.50 rupees increase and the maximum wage was fixed at 187.50 rupees a month.

The Finance Minister further stated that all those who enter the public service in future must be prepared to accept a low wage. All those who use 'mental labour' will be forced to spend two weeks working on manual tasks.

According to the budget

report the rise in consumer expenditure in 1969 was 14.1 per cent. Due to the sharp rise in prices and the shortage of goods this has fallen to 5.3 per cent this year. The new budget plans will bring the figure down to zero.

The budget report states that everyone must be given a definite quota of work and must be forced to do it. In this there must be a strict discipline.

Speed-up measures introduced last year in the government corporations will now be extended to all other fields. In this way wages will be tied to production.

The living standards not only of the working class, but of all sections of the masses will be slashed through the withdrawal of the rice subsidy. The guaranteed price paid to the peasants when they sell their rice is increased only by one rupee.

Big business, however, faces no difficulties as far as taxes are concerned. Tea, rubber and coconut producers are given additional tax concessions. The foreign exchange regulations have been eased in their favour.

The government did not attempt an immediate cut in the rice and flour subsidies, but Perera stated that the cabinet as a whole is examining the possibility of removing the rice subsidy.

The government's plans—outlined by the renegade revisionist Perera who heads the Lanka Sama Samaja Party—are clear.

Not only are wages frozen, but the wages of new entrants to the government service are to be cut.

In addition the government is bringing in a rule-by-decree system designed to push up the rate of exploitation.

Finally, consumption is to be cut and the price of consumer goods increased.

These are the main features of the new budget and they represent policies forced on the capitalist Sri Lanka coalition by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

A Sri Lanka worker

BY JOHN SPENCER

Amnesty International has expressed great concern about the fate of thousands of political prisoners in South Vietnam jails should a deal be done at the Paris 'peace' talks. The question has also been raised by the National Liberation Front (NLF) in their talks with Americans.

The prison system in South Vietnam must be one of the world's most extensive. North Vietnam has said that 300,000 prisoners are held in at least 1,000 prisons and detention centres (many of them secret) throughout the south.

Starvation, torture and maltreatment are routine. Many of the prisoners are permanently paralysed and mutilated by the treatment meted out to them in jail. There have been periodic prisoners' riots, brutally suppressed with the aid of the South Vietnamese army.

'Tiger cages'

There are four big civilian prisons inherited from the French colonial administration. Two are 'Devil's Island' prisons off the coast, and two are situated in Saigon itself.

The best-known is Poulou Condor Island (now known as Con Son). This is the prison for 'recalcitrant' supporters of the National Liberation Front. North Vietnamese prisoners are also kept there.

Here are the notorious 'Tiger cages', underground cells lined with concrete where prisoners are confined like animals. A similar prison is at Phu Quoc island, off the Cambodian coast near the port of Sihanoukville.

In Saigon, apart from the two city prisons, is the national police headquarters where much of the most sadistic torture is carried out. Prisoners are also held by the 250 local police stations and by army and police units.

In Chi Hoa, one of the Saigon prisons, is Huynh Tun Mah, associated with a left-wing student movement in Saigon. He suffered an asthmatic fit at his trial in spring this year. It was believed to have been brought on by maltreatment. His case was exceptional—the vast majority of prisoners have never been tried.

No trials

Two other students, Nguyen Duy Hien and Buu Chi, were tortured to death six weeks ago in a prison at Hué. They were never brought to trial.

Neither was Nguyen Long, advocate at the Saigon court of appeal. Imprisoned in 1965, he was released under a government decree. President Thieu simply ordered him put back in jail.

Exact figures for the number of prisoners are hard to come by: the official estimate of about 90,000 is considered a gross under-estimate. The figure is certainly higher than 150,000.

Murders

Apart from a small number of US war prisoners in the north and prisoners taken in the south (again probably a small number) the North Vietnamese and the NLF have nothing like as many opponents in detention as the Thieu regime.

There have already been reports of prisoners being murdered recently in the Saigon regime's prisons and camps.

And there are fears that Thieu—who has repeatedly made clear that he will fight to a finish against the NLF—will stage a massacre of the unfortunate victims of his dictatorial system.

TALKS SPELL DANGER FOR THIEU'S PRISONERS



Ngo Dinh Diem, one time ruler of South Vietnam, who was deposed in a 1963 army coup. Above: Con Son prison.

The South Vietnamese government is one of the most brutal and bloodthirsty dictatorships the world has ever seen.

It is entirely dependent on US finance, military support and international backing. It came into being in 1954 under Ngo Dinh Diem when the victories of the Viet Minh liberation forces drove the French out of Indo-China.

At the Geneva conference of that year the Moscow and Peking Stalinists applied pressure to the Vietnamese revolutionaries and forced them to accept the partition of the country.

The southern government was supposedly a stop-gap administration pending elections to be held throughout Vietnam. The elections were never held. The United States, which had not signed the Geneva agreement, set out to maintain the regime at all costs.

Under the Geneva agreement, the two sides agreed to an exchange of civil as well as military prisoners. The Viet

Minh had a trump card because they were holding over 10,000 crack French troops captured at Dien Bien Phu.

They were in a position to force the colonial regime to disgorge its captives in the south and the agreement appears to have been carried out relatively thoroughly.

But before long the portable guillotines operated by Diem's executioners were touring the villages settling scores with the peasants and reimposing the landlords and money-lenders in power.

The civil war which opened up in response to this repression in the Vietnamese countryside continues to this day. And in the process, successive regimes have again crammed prisons and concentration camps with hundreds of thousands of prisoners.

They include not only communists and supporters of the National Liberation Front, but oppositions from various liberal tendencies, intellectuals, critics of the present Thieu administration and advocates of peace.

IMMIGRATE TO THE CORRUPT USA

Allegations of widespread corruption in the US Immigration Service are now under investigation. Officials are said to have been concerned in narcotics traffic, gun smuggling, the sexual exploitation of women aliens and the sale and falsification of passports and other documents.

The Operation Clean Sweep which is carrying out the investigation has accumulated a mass of evidence relating to these activities. It alleges that

some high officials of the Service have connections with organized crime.

It has been shown that a number of officials have bought large amounts of land and accumulated blocks of shares which they could not have done out of their salaries.

Five officials have already been indicted by a federal grand jury, two for narcotics traffic, one for gun-running and two for falsifying entry permits and other documents.

Alex Mitchell investigates the embattled plan to build a container terminal at Falmouth. It was backed by an Act signed by the Queen and an offshore fund that has sunk without trace.

WHO'S WHO IN THE FALMOUTH CONTAINER SCHEME

The celebrated scheme to build a £10m, fully-automated container terminal at Falmouth has run into huge difficulties. A spokesman for the consulting engineers said this week: 'The present board (of the company) will not build anything at Falmouth. I am convinced of that.'

His gloomy prediction comes after two years of enthusiastic Press publicity which extolled the Falmouth terminal as one of the greatest advances in port technology.

Those newspapers which reported ecstatically about the scheme included the 'Financial Times', the 'Economist', the 'Journal of Commerce', 'Freight News Weekly' and 'International Freighting Weekly'.

Mr Norman Holmes, the man behind the scheme, told the Press he saw the project as 'the means of Falmouth's rejuvenation and, ultimately, as a national asset attracting to an English port container vessels which might otherwise opt for a Continental terminal.

'In my opinion,' he warned, 'it would be a tragedy if the scheme is turned down. Falmouth has suffered for so long from being cut off.' In another interview he said it was 'our determined intention' that Falmouth would become 'the principal European container terminal'.

This astonishing boast gave the company a great deal of goodwill among the burghers of Falmouth and even the local trade unions expressed support for the proposal: there were dreams of a boom in this quiet corner of Cornwall.

Holmes assured the local newspaper that the container investment 'will reduce unemployment to infinity and provide Falmouth with an economy second to none'.

Now, two years since these statements were being emblazoned in the press, the scheme faces ruin.

What happened along the way?

Falmouth Automated Container Terminal Limited (FACT) was registered at Companies House in January 1970.

The directors were Norman Prescott Thorold Holmes, managing director of Mercan-

tile Engineering. Other directors were Major General Laurence Douglas Grand, also a director of Engineer Planning Resources Limited, Strawson Chemical Limited, Power Stations Limited, Interprop Limited, Seymour Square Limited, Ronald Keith Brennan, managing director of the transportation division of British Steel Contractors (Birmingham) Limited; Gerhard and May (Travel) Limited, Stokes Transport Company (London) Limited, Inter-freight Lines Limited, D. A. Crudington Limited, Fitzroy (Travel and Freight) Limited, Combined Securities Limited and Associated Storage and Distribution Services Limited; Silas Harwood Fletcher of C.V. Precision Tools Limited, Videcord Holdings Limited, Charles Fletcher Limited, Arctic Investment Consultants Limited, Scientific and Projections Limited; John Charles Koster, an American citizen, of Transport Information Services Limited.

In the initial shareholding Holmes had 73 shares, Grand ten and Brennan ten.

The papers for incorporation were presented to Companies House by Jeffs, Bishop and Partners Limited, business consultants, of 10 Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, Westminster.

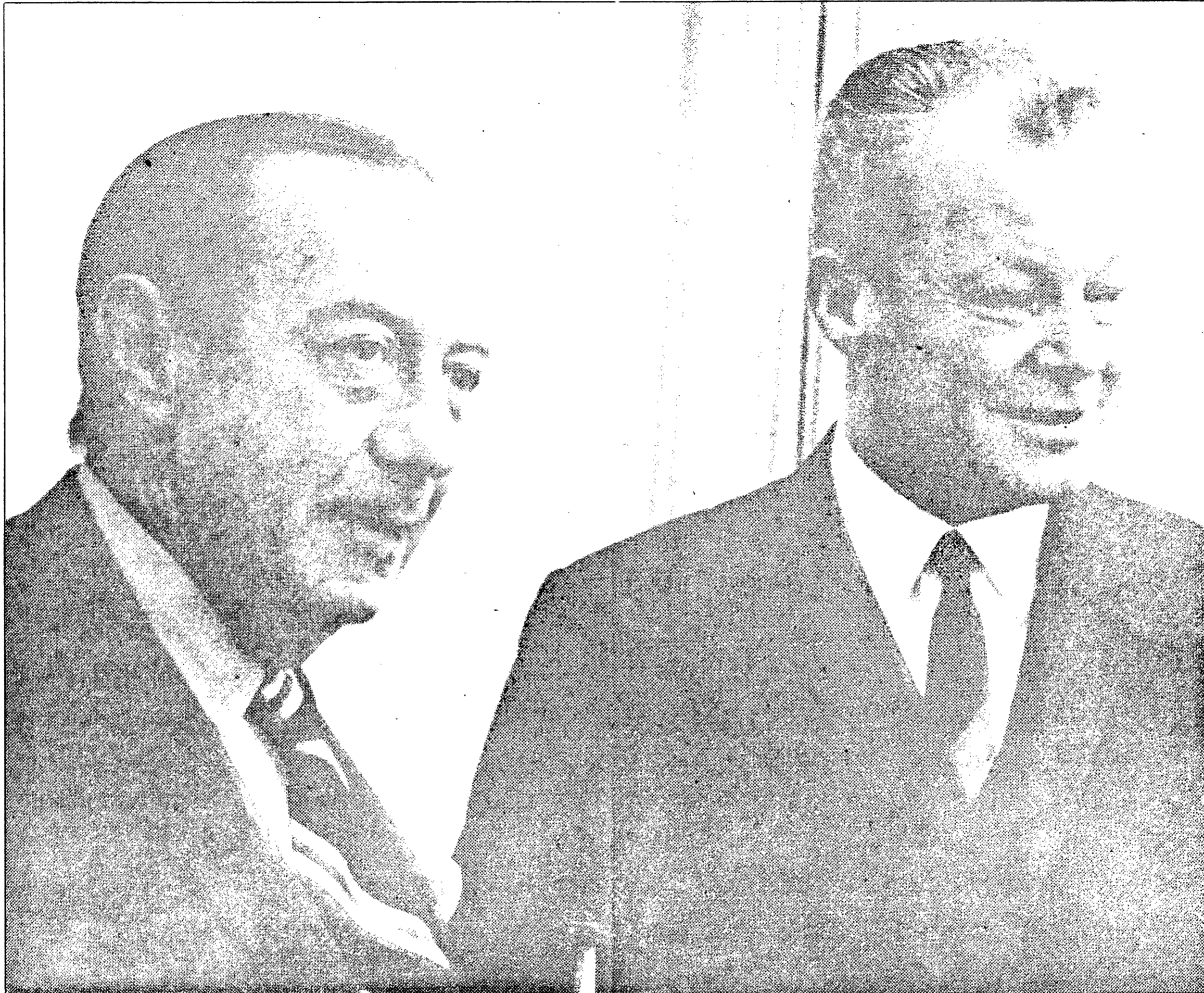
Just to give you an idea of the rapid changes in FACT's fortunes, when we telephoned the company's headquarters in Sackville Street yesterday we were told they had departed over a year ago. 'We don't know where they are now,' said a receptionist. 'We haven't got a forwarding address'.

When the company was formed it had a considerable amount of political credibility on its side. A Falmouth Container Terminal Bill had been presented in the House of Lords in the autumn of 1969 seeking to empower the company with the necessary arrangements to go ahead with construction.

It provided the company with the right to sell or lease the terminal and to complete the project within ten years.

Little happened to the Private Bill until after the General Election and the Tories came to office.

Less than a month after the election the 'Journal of Commerce' said: 'This ambitious project, which is ready to go ahead immediately parliamentary approval is stamped on the Bill, will bring new life to this natural and splendidly



Above: Chairman of Fund of the Seven Seas, ex-Mayor of New York, Robert Wagner, with Chancellor Willy Brandt. Top right: Jerome D. Hoffman, the fund organizer now behind bars. Bottom right: Lord Brentford, Tory minister who was a director of several Hoffman companies. Left: artist's impression of the great Falmouth container terminal.

sheltered port in Cornwall, which, according to the company, would be semi-operational for container ships 18 months after construction was under way and fully operational within two years.'

At the same time 'International Freighting Weekly' pointed out that the Bill was likely to be given parliamentary approval 'under a basically more sympathetic Conservative administration'.

The Bill had a luxurious and swift ride through parliament. It received an unopposed second reading in the House of Commons in November 1970, there were no objections in the committee stages and it had an automatic report stage and third reading. On February 17, 1971, the Queen put her signature to the Bill and it became an Act.

Its House of Commons pro-

cedure was completed in less than four months when most Private Bills take up to 12 months.

It is necessary, however, for us to backdate the story a little and introduce another character in the FACT saga—Jerome D. Hoffman.

Hoffman, to many Workers Press readers, is not a new figure. He was 'brains' behind the ill-fated Real Estate Fund of America, the offshore property fund which had Regional Maudling as its first president.

Maudling resigned from the company, but sent a letter to shareholders which assured them that REFA was 'a good and sound investment'. The Fund subsequently crashed, Hoffman and his colleagues fled from Britain leaving massive debts.

On returning to the US, Hoffman was charged with mortgage fraud and he is now serving a two-year sentence in a state penitentiary. But what few people know is that Hoffman had another fund besides REFA. The other, in some ways the more spectacular, had the biblical title of Fund

of the Seven Seas—FOSS, for short.

With typical brashness Hoffman inflicted FOSS on the unsuspecting public with a barrage of brochures and prospectuses. Chairman of FOSS was the ex-mayor of New York, Democrat Robert Wagner, who declared: 'FOSS is the most rapidly-expanding fund I have ever known. The Fund of the Seven Seas is one of the most exciting products of this technological age.'

'For the first time ever, an opportunity has been given to the small investor to put money into shipping and shipbuilding.'

The prospectus enthused: 'The Fund of the Seven Seas is a unique and exciting concept for investors throughout the world. Not only is it the only mutual fund in the world today investing in ships and shipping, but it opens up new worlds of investment participation in the rapid expansion of international trade.'

The minimum investment was \$1,000; arrangements could be made for painless instalments of \$15 at a time. Listen to Wagner again:

'If I could advise each and



every one of you personally, I would sincerely recommend you to invest in FOSS. It's the fastest growing shipping fund I know.'

Besides Mayor Wagner, Hoffman gathered a copper-bottomed board of directors which included Lord Brentford, a former junior minister in the Tory government, Holmes Brown, president of the New York Board of Trade, and a number of special White House and Pentagon aides.

The FOSS link with FACT was announced in the July/August 1970 edition of Hoffman's internal house bulletin:

'Fund of the Seven Seas stepped into a leadership role in the shipping industry. FOSS recently proposed an automated container terminal capable of moving ocean freight more quickly and economically than anything at dockside today.'

'It was a welcome piece of thinking: so welcome, in fact, that the plan alone secured equity participation for FOSS in a major harbour development taking shape at Falmouth, England. FOSS shipping consultant, John C. Koster, has been designated a

director of Falmouth Container Terminal Limited.'

Two other Hoffman executives later joined FACT—Geoffrey Grant, who was related to the house of Brentford through marriage, and Bill Rogerson.

The FACT saga enters a new stage on December 13 when the board of directors meet.

There will be moves to reconstitute the board and prepare a new application to get the project underway.

A more chastened Norman Holmes told the 'Journal of Commerce' this week: 'Like poor old Stanley Baldwin, my lips are sealed. But they won't be after our board meeting on December 13, after which there will be a great deal of news for you.'

It remains to be seen whether FACT becomes a fact!



FUND OF THE SEVEN SEAS



IMG leader, Tariq Ali (third from right) with Robin Blackburn beside him on a march in January, 1971

RENEGADES IN ACTION— THE IMG

Following the articles 'Renegades from Trotskyism' dealing with the situation in Ceylon, JACK GALE now goes on to examine the British section of the revisionist Unified Secretariat of the Fourth International, The International Marxist Group.

The disintegration of revisionism

The crisis of the Unified Secretariat today reflects the break-up of middle-class revisionism throughout the world, as the working class moves into action.

Their hey-day was the era of liberal-protest 'confrontation' and student demonstrations which preceded the big class battles now under way.

The Socialist Workers' Party (which, for legal reasons, cannot be an actual member of the Unified Secretariat) wishes to abandon working-class struggle altogether. It seeks middle-class respectability, concentrating on electoral campaigns and presenting a 'reasonable' image. That is why its leadership sent a message of condolence to President Kennedy's wife when he was assassinated in 1963. In a word, it is 'opportunist'.

Their opponents in the Unified Secretariat have swung the other way—to guerrillaism and adventurism.

These two 'opposites' i.e. opportunism and adventurism are connected. They both reject the building of a principled revolutionary party based on the working class as the social force for historical change.

This conflict reaches its highest point in Britain because the International Marxist Group is a completely artificial creation of both factions. Money has been poured into Britain, particularly from the United States, in order to fight the Socialist Labour League.

All kinds of publicity seekers and adventurers—like Tariq Ali and Robin Blackburn—were pulled in with no regard as to whether

they agreed or not with principled political questions.

Alliances were forged with Stalinists, state-capitalists and any political organization which would agree to denounce and smear the Socialist Labour League. Deliberate provocations were staged—like the so-called 'Tate Affair'—to which the revisionists constantly refer.

For example, in their 'Unified Secretariat' statement of October 29 'Healyites Smear Bala Tampoe' they say: 'The smearing of Bala Tampoe, a leading Ceylonese Trotskyist, in this way is on a par with the beating that stewards of the SLL inflicted on Ernest Tate, a leading British Trotskyist, while Healy looked on.'

This refers to an incident in November, 1966.

Everyone who was present on that occasion knows that Tate deliberately set out to provoke a steward and that the steward was absolutely wrong to fall for his provocation. The SLL leadership was not involved, except when they intervened to stop the incident. The purpose of this deliberately-staged provocation was to label the SLL as 'violent'—in order to appeal to the anti-communism of the liberals, reformists and anarchists.

The Socialist Labour League had no choice but to take legal action to force a complete withdrawal of the lying allegations being spread by our opponents in order that in no future court case initiated by the capitalist class could the state quote the Tate 'incident' as a precedent against us.

The revisionists drag out this slanderous falsehood today in order to divert the attention from their own crisis. The Unified Secretariat is being blown apart as the working class moves decisively onto the stage of history.



Pat Jordan of the IMG

Hardly had the dust settled on the cover-up job done on behalf of the Ceylonese Lanka Sama Samaja Party (Revolutionary) (LSSP(R)) following the 1969 report of the Unified Secretariat's Ceylonese Commission, than yet another crisis blew up in the faces of Mandel, Maitan, Frank and Hansen.

The November, 1971, Unified Secretariat meeting was forced to appoint a 'Fact-Finding' commission to investigate the situation in the International Marxist Group (IMG), their British section.

Of all the revisionist organizations, none is more fond of denouncing the Socialist Labour League as 'degenerate', 'dictatorial', 'undemocratic', etc, etc, than the IMG.

Now we can expose exactly how 'democratic' these self-appointed defenders of revolutionary morality actually are. The Report of their own International Commission reveals that the IMG leaders had:

(1) Censured a member of their Socialist Workers Party minority tendency and circulated this censure to the entire

membership without (a) ever presenting charges to him, (b) even informing him that the matter was to be discussed by their National Committee or (c) giving him any opportunity to state his side of the case.

The member concerned learned of his censure two weeks after the event when he read it in the nationally-circulated IMG 'Letter to the Membership'. (Pages v and vi.)

(2) Behaved in relation to the ownership and control of the journal 'Socialist Woman' in a way that could 'only lead to a public scandal highly detrimental to the interests of the IMG'. (Page vi.)

(3) Attempted to force a group of members of the minority tendency in Nottingham to sign a public statement which they claimed contained a lie. (Page vi.)

(4) Created a 'provocative climate' in the Scottish branches and carried out suspensions and expulsions which were 'in all cases tainted . . . by the generally provocative climate'. (Page vii.)

(5) Imposed from outside supporters of the leadership on branches which had sympathies with the minority. (Page vii.)

(6) Bureaucratically excluded minority supporters from regional and national bodies. (Page vi.)

Some of the finer details of the climate within IMG, which are referred to several times in their document, include:

(1) After drinking in a pub, a group of majority supporters in Glasgow—which included four IMG National Committee members—demanded admittance to a party being held by other IMG members. When they were turned away, one NC member threw a beer bottle through a glass panel in the door. (Page 2.)

(2) In Edinburgh, supporters of the IMG leadership held darts matches where the central target was a picture of Joseph Hansen. (Page 2.)

(3) A 'committee' of supporters of the leadership visited the home of a member of the minority tendency in London and sought to intimidate him into not selling 'Intercontinental Press' at IMG-sponsored meetings. He was told that any protest would be useless as it would only be verbal testimony. (Page 2.)

(4) Leading IMG members denounced other leading IMG members as 'male chauvinists' at an IMG public meeting the subject of which was 'The Nature of the Soviet Union'. Non-members present, the report tells us, were 'bewildered'. (Page 4.)

In addition to the main report of the 'Fact-finding' Commission are separate statements by its individual members. This was necessary because, like its predecessor on Ceylon, the commission was split.

We refer to these statements, for obvious reasons, as A, B, C, and D.

Irrevocable split:

It is clear from the first paragraph of Statement A that IMG is irrevocably split. The paragraph reads: 'I signed the final report of the Fact-Finding Commission because on the level of the facts presented I am in agreement with the document as a whole. This does not mean that the document will help resolve the internal problems of the IMG.' (Page 1.)

This statement declares that 'provocative actions or actions without political justification were taken against the minority,' but makes it clear that this reflects an international split within the Unified Secretariat, involving also the American Socialist Workers' Party (Page 1.)

Statement A blames 'the irresponsible attitude of the leadership of the SWP and the LSO/LSA' for exacerbating the crisis in the IMG and calls on the SWP to 'cease all criticism

of the IMG' saying that the American leaders had criticized the IMG leadership to IMG members behind its backs.

The statement also calls on the IMG leadership to 'stop the polemic' with the Socialist Workers' Party. (Page 1.)

Statement B said the leadership of IMG was 'a mixture of irresponsibility, incompetence and just plain bureaucratic arrogance'. It went on to claim that 'moral authority and mutual confidence . . . (do) not exist in IMG. The moral authority of the leadership is seriously compromised . . . it simply does not exist.' (Page 2.) This refers, of course, to people such as Pat Jordan and Tariq Ali.

Statement C says that the central leadership 'initiated organizational chaos' in Scotland and goes on: 'There is ample justification, in my opinion, for anyone with minority views in Glasgow believing that the leadership created . . . "mistakes" for narrow factional ends to obscure serious political differences.' (Page 3.)

The author of Statement D, however, is on the other side. He claims that the minority were just as provocative as the majority and therefore equally to blame for the catastrophic state of affairs within the organization. Although forced to agree with the conclusions of the Commission in relation to the IMG leadership, statement D claims it is 'one-sided'.

This statement clearly recognizes that the IMG split mirrors, an implicit split within the Unified Secretariat as a whole: 'There are links between the tendency [the minority within the IMG] and the minority within the Fourth International'. (i.e. the Unified Secretariat—this minority is supported by the SWP). (Pages 3 and 4.)

This is clearly true, as the Fact-Finding Commission was told by the former secretary of the SWP that 'the IMG leadership has declared war on us' while Joseph Hansen, in International Information Bulletin Number 3 (April 1971), had written that some IMG leaders felt happiest 'in a red T-shirt adorned with their totem'.

But, if the IMG conflict reflects a Unified Secretariat conflict, what conclusion must be drawn when the IMG split proves to be irrevocable?

And this the Unified Secretariat's Commission clearly considered it to be. In addition to Statement A saying that the Report couldn't help the IMG, Statement D says: 'There are political differences on almost all internal political points, and Comrade A from the Glasgow tendency . . . told us there are even more political differences than have been seen up to now. (Page 3.)

'It appeared to us [the Commission] that almost the only agreement between both sides rests in being members of the Fourth International and therefore being members of the British section of the world organization.'

In fact everyone knows the IMG represents no-one. The only Trotskyist section in Britain is the Socialist Labour League.

Statement D goes on to claim that in the IMG, the Unified Secretariat: 'do not face a tendency of a traditional nature inside one of our organizations, we face the roots of two organizations, both linked to currents inside the Fourth International.' (Page 3.)

This is an open admittance of a state of political civil war within the revisionist international.

CONTINUED ON MONDAY

¹ All page references throughout these articles are to the 'Report of the Fact-Finding Commission of the Unified Secretariat on the Internal Situation within the International Marxist Group', dated March 12, 1972.

² A Canadian 'Trotskyist' tendency which supports the SWP/Unified Secretariat.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

JEWELS

Followers of the 14-year-old Guru Maharaj Ji are required to give up meat, sex, money, drinking, smoking, TV, cinema, marriage and all such worldly activities. Frequently they live in 'Ashrams' — residential churches.

The works of the Guru in Britain are expounded by an organization known as the Divine Light Mission.

However, the Mission has not shed too much light on exactly how the Guru and his immediate entourage conduct their own life of sacrifice.

Customs officials at Delhi airport claim to have seized a suitcase belonging to the Guru which contained jewels and cash worth about £27,000.

And a British national newspaper recently reported that the Guru travels around in Rolls-Royces and private aeroplanes.

WIZARD OF WORDS

If you are thinking of going to Rome for your Christmas holidays, do go to the left-wing bookshop of the Feltrinelli publishing house. It has all the latest books on the left.

Feltrinelli has just brought out a 'History of the Russian Revolution' in four volumes which the Maoist weekly 'Servire il Popolo' describes as a 'modern politico-cultural instrument of great utility'.

According to their reviewer, Mario Bruschini, the great relevance of the work rests on its 'emphasis on the creativity of the proletariat, the decisive importance of the ideological proletarianization of the leadership to guarantee party unity and the affirmation of the subjective autonomy of the working class'.

Surely, this must be the product of a new Left wizard of words, one of those gentlemen who keep revisionist groups going with daily bulletins on the proletarianization of the party, the self-reactivation of the masses . . . ?

Not a bit of it. It is a work written in 1936 by a group of historians under the direction of those men, the Grand Old Men of the New Left, Stalin, Gorki and Zhdanov. So that's where they get all their ideas from!

POISONED

The number of Manchester children at risk of having an excess of lead in their blood could be as high as one in five. A controlled survey carried out in the city earlier this year showed 4 per cent of children were over the present accepted danger limit of 80 microgrammes of lead per 100 millilitres of blood.

A further 17 per cent had over 50 microgrammes per 100 millilitres.

But the man behind the survey, Professor D. Bryce-Smith of Reading University, says that the blood-lead limit should be 30 microgrammes per 100 millilitres if not less.

He believes that brain damage can be caused above this limit.

This danger has been intensified by the Tory decision to halt school milk. Professor Bryce-Smith declares in his report that milk has a natural cleansing effect on the body system which plays an important part in combating atmospheric lead poisoning to which children living in large cities are exposed.

Since 1964 the number of people admitted to hospital in the Manchester area suffering from lead poisoning has increased by 30 per cent.

The polluted atmosphere of big cities carries a high lead content whether or not there is a lead factory nearby.

It is known that in the United States a quarter of the children in some urban areas suffer brain damage through lead poisoning.

DISTILLERS

The new settlement offered by the whisky giant, Distillers Limited, to the thalidomide victims was greeted with great enthusiasm in the Tory Press.

'Distillers doubles hand-out,' screamed the headlines. Few of them bothered to point out that the offer is 60 per cent less than was awarded in court settlements by Mr Justice Hinchcliffe in 1968.

And with the inflation of the past few years, Distillers has to at least offer 50 per cent more than the present £5m.

It should be noted the company cleared about £60m profit last year.

WHO ARE THE REAL TERRACE SKINHEADS?

TORY PRESS



The Tory Press jumped with relish on what they thought was one of the better football stories: The call by Football Association secretary Mr Denis Follows that under-18-year-olds should be banned from matches.

In the London 'Evening Standard', Follows' suggestion was made the front-page lead story in some editions under the two-decked headline: 'Under-18 Fans — "Ban the Lot"!'

Beaverbrook newspapers were undoubtedly enthralled to find a convert to their 'law-and-order' brigade in such seemingly unusual corners of Britain.

By the next morning every paper had seized on the story. The 'Daily Mirror' had even devoted its entire editorial to Follows' outburst. Another Beaverbrook paper, the 'Daily Express' made the story the back-page lead.

Why all this publicity for a proposal from a man whose hobby is given in Who's Who as cricket, of all things? All the papers know there was no chance of it ever being accepted.

All know that without the

youth, who pay up to 30p to get into a match, many clubs would in fact go bankrupt. And when tomorrow came, the new generation would simply not be there to carry on supporting the clubs.

It was in fact an opportunity for all the 'popular' papers to attack working-class youth in general, to try and focus attention on them, to isolate the youth from older workers.

The reactionary 'Daily Express', a paper never known for its love of young workers, has always been keen to slam 'football hooligans' as if they were some special breed of monsters who had to be exterminated to purify society and save Tory women from a violent and an unseemly death.

Tensions of the youth, flowing in many cases from dead-end or non-existent jobs, have been painted as the signs of a genetic mental disorder.

Thus, far from coming down against Follows, one-time National Union of Students' president in the 1930s and former RAF pilot, the 'Express' decided that the middle-class (or 'public opinion' as it is known in Fleet Street) should have their say on the subject. Readers were invited to send in their views on a postcard.

What did the 'people's' 'Daily Mirror' have to say? They said Follows was taking a 'curious approach' to the 'problem'. But the 'Mirror' thought it was better to have 'young hooligans' inside the ground than outside. As for the 'hard-core of chanting, foul-mouthed hooligans at many grounds . . . 'Don't let them enter any ground,' said Follows. 'Everyone would cheer if the clubs did that,' agreed Cecil King's old paper.

Given the CBE by the Labour government, Follows has been president of the game's leading body, the FA, since 1962. His organization runs the game in an arrogant way, answerable to no one save themselves.

His attack on the youth is no different in essence from that made regularly by leading Tories and not-so-leading delegates at the annual conference when all the backwoodsmen/women get round to bringing back the birch.

By the middle of the week, Follows and the Tory Press had found allies in the shape of police judge Mr Roddy Devon of Motherwell and other arms of the state.

The learned Judge Devon said a policeman with a dog should be at each corner of a football ground. Then if the 'hooligans' came on to the field, the dogs should be set loose.

Worse was to come. Echoing the feelings of the setting up of a dictatorship by the Tories, a spokesman for the Glasgow branch of the Scottish Police Federation said that the message must go out to the 'louts and hooligans' that they were regarded as 'a cancerous scourge on the surface of society'.

Finally, that well-known authority on the game, former England team manager Walter Winterbottom suggested a 'large task force' of police to follow football fans around the country. If Chelsea supporters travelled to Brighton for a game, the special task force should go with them.

Whether he knew it or not, Follows had done his job well. All the leading anti-working class elements in Britain had joined the attack on the youth.



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REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.10 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Puffin. 11.40 Bonanza. 12.30 London. 5.10 On the buses. 5.40 London. 7.00 Film: 'Conquest of Space'. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 All our yesterdays. 11.55 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 10.55 Woobinda. 11.10 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Gus Honeybun. 11.55 Faith for life. 12.00 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Wildlife theatre. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Cowboy in Africa. 12.00 Merrie melodies. 12.27 Weather. 12.30 London. 5.10 Persuaders. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Sierra'. 8.30 London. 10.40 News. 10.50 Film: 'Rogues Regiment'. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.00 London. 9.50 Bugs Bunny. 10.00 Tomfoolery show. 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 Follyfoot. 12.00 Farming diary. 12.30 London. 5.10 UFO. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Along Came a Spider'. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Name of the game. 12.45 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 5.10 Turnbull's finest half hour. 5.40-6.10 Sion a sian.

ANGLIA: 9.00 London. 10.00 Sean. 10.15 Rovers. 10.40 Film: 'Knights of the Round Table'. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Reluctant Heroes of Hill 656'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Dracula'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 A place in the country. 10.35 Survival. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.05 Tomfoolery. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 Elephant boy. 12.30 London. 5.15 It takes a thief. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Last of the Buccaneers'. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 Upstairs, Downstairs. 10.30 London.

SATURDAY

10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Payroll'.

ULSTER: 11.00 Thunderbirds. 12.00 Woobinda. 12.30 London. 5.15 Merry melodies. 5.40 Sports-cast. 6.10 London. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 Columbo. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Journey to the unknown.

YORKSHIRE: 9.15 Let them live. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Film: 'Tarzan and the Mermaids'. 12.40 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Black Noon'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Mod squad. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 Sesame street. 12.05 Clapperboard. 12.30 London. 5.10 Sky's the limit. 5.40 Doctor at large. 6.10 London. 7.00 Mr Magoo. 7.05 Film: 'Along Came a Spider'. 8.25 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Seaway.

TYNE TEES: 9.15 Let them live. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Film: 'Tarzan and the Mermaids'. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Return of the Gunfighter'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Edgar Wallace. 12.25 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Dave Cash. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 Cavalcade. 12.30 London. 5.10 Bonanza. 6.10 London. 6.15 Hogan's heroes. 6.45 Film: 'Bitter Victory'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 O'Hara.

GRAMPIAN: 11.30 Tomfoolery show. 12.00 Rumble jumble. 12.30 London. 5.10 Batman. 5.40 Protectors. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Hec Ramsey'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Jason King.

TV

BBC 2

3.00 Film: 'The Lively Set'. James Darren, Pamela Tiffin, Doug McClure. Two dragster enthusiasts plan an attempt on the world land speed record. 4.30 Play away. 4.55 An Italian Girl in Algiers. Rossini's overture illustrated in cartoon form. 5.05 Siberia. The endless Horizon. 5.55 Man alive. Pity the Children.

6.45 TELEVISION DOCTOR. 7.00 WESTMINSTER. 7.20 NEWS, SPORT. Weather. 7.30 RUGBY SPECIAL. North Eastern Counties v The All Blacks.

8.20 WAR AND PEACE. Men of Destiny.

9.05 FULL HOUSE. An entertainment for Saturday from the University Theatre, Newcastle upon Tyne. Lindsfarne, Tyneside poetry. 10.00 La Creation du Monde, Jobling at Jarrow. 10.30 The Dividing Force. The True Life Story of Andy Capp.

11.15 NEWS ON 2. Weather. 11.20 FILM: 'THE MAN FROM LARAMIE'. James Stewart, Arthur Kennedy, Donald Crisp, Alex Nicol. A man travels a thousand miles to find the man who killed his brother.

BBC 1

9.30 Vintage gold. 10.00 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.30-10.55 Avventura. 11.25 Weather. 11.30 Mr. Benn. 11.45 Harlem globe-trotters. 12.05 Barrier reef. 12.30 Grandstand. 12.35 Football preview. 12.55, 1.25, 2.00, 2.30 Racing from Cheltenham. 1.10, 1.45 International boxing. 2.20, 2.55 Rugby league. 3.50 Lancer. 4.40 Final score. 5.05 Goofy. 5.15 Mary Tyler Moore show. 5.40 News. Weather. 5.55 Bruce Forsyth and the generation game.

6.45 DIXON OF DOCK GREEN. Who Needs Enemies?

7.35 THE HARRY SECOMBE SHOW. Guests Beryl Reid, Lulu, Viktor Kizmenko, Julian Orchard.

8.20 FILM: 'FIVE MILES TO MIDNIGHT'. Sophia Loren, Anthony Perkins. Thriller about a man who forces his estranged wife to collect life insurance when he is supposedly killed in an air crash.

10.05 NEWS. Weather.

10.20 MATCH OF THE DAY.

11.20 PARKINSON. Michael Parkinson and guests.

12.20 Weather.

ITV

9.00 You and your golf. 9.30 Collecting on a shoestring. 9.55 Return to Peyton Place. 10.20 Sesame street. 11.20 Merrie melodies. 11.30 Osmonds. 11.50 Junior police five. 12.00 Partridge family. 12.30 News. 12.35 World of sport. 12.40 On the ball. 1.05 International sports special. 1.20 ITV seven. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Lingfield. 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Catterick. 3.10 International sports special. Ice figure skating championships of Great Britain. 3.50 Results, scores, news. 4.00 Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.10 Black beauty. 5.40 Sale of the century.

6.10 NEWS FROM ITN.

6.15 THE REG VARNEY REVUE. Guest Matt Monro.

7.00 FILM: 'THE MAN WITH A CLOAK'. Joseph Cotten, Barbara Stanwyck, Leslie Caron. A young French girl arrives in New York to see the grandfather of the boy she loves.

8.30 NEW SCOTLAND YARD. Two Into One Will Go.

9.30 THE JULIE ANDREWS HOUR. Guests Phyllis Diller, Diahann Carroll, Rich Little.

10.30 NEWS FROM ITN.

10.40 RUSSELL HARTY PLUS.

11.40 THE DE-HUMANIZATION OF LABOUR.

11.45 COLUMBO. Lady in Waiting. Peter Falk.

REGIONAL TV

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.30 HR Puffnstuf. 1.55 Women only. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'No Kidding'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.53 Sports results. 7.55 Film: 'The Horse Soldiers'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Department S.

YORKSHIRE: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 You and your golf. 11.00 London. 12.30 Nanny and the professor. 1.00 Farming outlook. 1.25 Calendar. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'The Great Lie'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Carnival of Thieves'. 9.50 Cartoon. 10.00 London. 11.30 It takes a thief. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 12.25 Merrie melodies. 12.55 Saint. 1.50 Survival. 2.20 Football. 3.20 Film: 'Tommy the Toreador'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Genghis Khan'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Scotland Yard casebook.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 You and your golf. 11.00 London. 12.30 Jimmy Stewart show. 1.00 Farming outlook. 1.25 World War I. 1.50 Where the jobs are. 1.55 Shoot. 2.50 Film: 'Anything Goes'. 4.35 Cartoon. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Bedford Incident'. 9.50 Cartoon. 10.00 London. 11.15 Challenge. 12.05 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 9.45 Master chefs. 10.00 World War I. 10.30 Women only. 11.00 London. 12.30 A place in the country. 1.00 Randall and Hopkirk. 2.00 Sport. 3.25 Film: 'The 49th Man'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Flipper. 6.05 London. 8.00 Film: 'The Long Duel'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 Rolf Harris show.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.30 Farm progress. 2.00 Sport. 3.25 Film: 'The Trygon Factor'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Wedding Breakfast'. 9.30 Adam Smith. 10.00 London. 11.15 Untouchables.

CHANNEL: 11.00-12.25 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'A Dog'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Spyforce. 12.05 Epilogue. Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 12.25 Angling today. 12.55 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.20 Smith family. 1.45 Gus Honeybun. 1.55 Farm and country news. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 Talking hands. 9.30 London. 10.30 Farm progress. 10.57 Weather. 11.00 London. 12.30 Bush boy. 1.00 Superman. 1.20 Primus. 1.50 Hogan's heroes. 2.15 London. 3.15 Fenn Street gang. 3.45 Golden shot. 4.40 Aquarius. 5.30 News. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.00 Carols for children. 7.25 On the buses. 7.55 Film: 'The Priest Killer'. 9.50 Film diary. 10.00 London. 11.15 Jason King. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.

SUNDAY

TV

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 London. 12.30 A place in the country. 1.00 University challenge. 1.25 Love, American style. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Pardners'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'East of Sumatra'. 9.30 Mr and Mrs. 10.00 London. 11.15 Corridor 400. 12.15 Weather.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 10.30 Survival. 11.00 London. 12.30 Arthur. 12.25 Champions. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming. 2.30 Name of the game. 3.55 Match of the week. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Under the Yum Yum Tree'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Department S.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 London. 12.30 Citizens' rights. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Soccer. 3.00 Film: 'A High Wind in Jamaica'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Oscar'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Spyforce. 12.10 Stories worth telling. Weather.



BBC2's 'Full House' tonight is from Tyneside where Tom Pickard (left) reads his poems and talks about his work. Right: Margaret Leighton as The Woman in Independent's Sunday night play 'The Guests'.

BBC 2

4.00 Man at work. 4.25 Money at work. 5.25 Horizon.

6.15 NEWS REVIEW.

6.50 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.

6.55 DOUBTS AND CERTAIN-TIES.

7.25 AMERICA. Part 5 Inventing A Nation.

8.15 WIDE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT. At Your Service. The skills of the Armed Services.

9.05 BUT SERIOUSLY — IT'S SHEILA HANCOCK. Guests Dudley Moore, Antony Hopkins.

9.35 DEAD OF NIGHT. Two in the Morning. Ghost story.

10.25 UP SUNDAY.

10.50 FILM: 'YOUNG MR LINCOLN'. John Ford's film about the American president. With Henry Fonda, Alice Brady, Marjorie Weaver, Arleen Whelan.

12.25 NEWS HEADLINES and Weather.

BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.00-10.25 Avventura. 10.30 Morning service. 11.30-12.05 VAT special. 12.50 Farming. 1.15 Made in Britain. 1.30 Look. 1.55 News headlines. 2.00 Chigley. 2.15 Shari Lewis show. 2.25 Story theatre. 2.50 Undersea world of Jacques Cousteau. 3.40 Film: 'Beau James'. Bob Hope, Vera Miles. 5.20 Cranford.

6.05 NEWS. Weather.

6.15 THANK GOD IT'S SUNDAY.

6.45 STEVE RACE. Appeals on behalf of The Royal Academy of Music Development Fund.

6.50 SONGS OF PRAISE. 7.25 THE ONEDIN LINE. Bloody Week.

8.15 FILM: 'RANDOM HARVEST'. Ronald Colman, Greer Garson, Philip Dorn. Susan Peters. An amnesia victim's life is totally changed when he remembers who he really is.

10.15 NEWS. Weather.

10.25 OMNIBUS. Max Remembers. Ronald Fraser as Max Beerbohm.

11.35 JOHN SCHLESINGER. British film director talks to Joan Bakewell.

12.15 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Morning service. 10.30 Return to Peyton Place. 11.00 Weekend world. 12.30 Turnbull's finest half hour. 1.00 Thunderbirds. 1.50 Beloved enemy. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Persuaders. 4.20 Golden shot. 5.15 Aquarius.

6.05 NEWS FROM ITN.

6.15 ADAM SMITH.

6.45 THE BIG QUESTION.

6.55 STARS ON SUNDAY.

7.25 THE FENN STREET GANG. Father's Day.

7.55 FILM: 'THE FLIM FLAM MAN'. George C. Scott, Sue Lyon, Michael Sarrazin. Comedy about an army deserter and a con man who team up.

9.50 POLICE FIVE SPECIAL.

10.00 NEWS FROM ITN.

10.15 PLAY: 'THE GUESTS'. Margaret Leighton.

11.15 UFO. The Man Who Came Back.

12.15 THE DE-HUMANIZATION OF LABOUR.

12.20 HIS AND HERS.

Cold store takes case to civil court

New court attack on dockers' jobs

A COURT judgement made in London this week could lead to the sacking of dockers employed at a Bermondsey cold store in south London.

The company, Bermondsey Cold Stores Limited, in Galleywall Road, went to the Queen's Bench Divisional Court to obtain a ruling that cold store work is not 'dock work'. The court upheld the ruling already given by an Industrial Tribunal.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, said he agreed with the tribunal's finding on the law that none of the work done at the cold store could be defined as 'dock work'.

It was not for the court to interfere with any finding of fact. The tribunal had correctly directed itself as to the law and had decided that handling of goods at the store could not be part of, their carriage by sea. Mr Justice Willis and Mr Justice Talbot agreed.

At present nine dockers are employed at Bermondsey's, handling home-produced goods and imported goods.

The National Dock Labour Board objected to the tribunal's ruling and took this week's case before the Queen's Bench. Mr Anthony Diamond, for the Board, said: 'If the operation at these premises is not dock work, then the company may employ non-registered dock workers and, if they so choose, they will be entitled to dismiss, or not employ, the services of registered dock workers.'

Widgery's judgement means that the legal noose is being tightened around the dockers' fight to get cold storage jobs declared 'dock work'.

The fact that these cold stores have dockers on the payroll is an important point in the dockers' fight to get jobs in the depots.

For this reason the other big monopoly interests like Vestey's and Borthwick's have been interested in establishing the legal precedent that dockers have no right to cold-store jobs. Widgery has now provided this cast-iron ruling.

The use of the Queen's Bench has another feature worth noting. The employers did not seek to have the ruling made by the National Industrial Relations Court, because of the bitter feelings this court arouses among trade unionists.

Instead they have quietly obtained legal backing to sack dockers from the cold stores in the civilian courts—yet before the highest legal authority in the country, the Lord Chief Justice.



Lord Widgery . . . Not 'dock work'

Narks' perks won't be pegged

'POLICE REVIEW' has urged members of the police force to make greater use of informers.

Detectives spend only 'a paltry amount' on buying information from petty criminals, and police need to exploit the paid informer to a greater degree.

There was no need

for price-pegging in the buying of information because police have exercised price control for a number of years, it went on.

'We cannot be sure how much money is spent on paying informants. The figure must be known to a very few, but our inquiries show that in comparison with other items in the police

estimates it is a paltry amount.

'It is money well spent. There are possibilities of developing this way of obtaining information.'

The magazine said that many junior officers were deterred from cultivating more productive informants because of red tape involved when drawing money

from official funds.

The 'Review' is only expressing another sign of inflation! Police narks are demanding more money for information and yet the fund down at the Yard is being frozen.

Will the informers be allowed to break through Heath's control on wages and incomes?

Traders trying to destroy the ½p

TRADERS were accused yesterday by the National Consumer Protection Council of trying to kill off the ½p piece, for their own advantage. It said that after a thorough research of Christmas goods not one ½p was to be seen on prices.

A spokesman said: 'We strongly condemn those who have taken advantage of Christmas fare to exclude the ½p from their prices.'

'We have evidence that the Christmas prices this year have been so designed to kill off the sixpence and, inevitably, the ½p.'

'It is resulting in higher prices. The ½p should be retained as a measure against inflation.'

A spokesman for the Retail Consortium, which represents about 90 per cent of High Street stores, said:

'We have always maintained that the new penny should have been worth 1.2d of the old money and not 2.4d. It was too big a gap.'

'The ½p has become a highly unpopular coin mainly because of its size and the difficulty in handling it, but, in a competitive situation, prices are rounded down to the nearest penny as well as up.'

Trades Council calls for dispensation

THE CITIES of London and Westminster Trades Council has called on the executive committees of the printing unions to grant dispensation to the Workers Press and the 'Morning Star' in the event of a political strike in the print industry.

SLL LECTURES

LONDON

Sunday December 10
Opponents of Marxism
BEAVER HALL
at Mansion House tube
7 p.m.
Lectures given by
G. Healy
SLL national secretary

BARNESLEY

Sunday December 10
The struggle for power
Sunday December 17
Revolutionary theory and the
Marxist Party
RED LION HOTEL
(Worsborough) 8 p.m.
Lectures given
by Cliff Slaughter
(SLL Central Committee)

SHEFFIELD

Monday December 11
Stalinism and Trotskyism
Monday January 8
Marxism and the
revolutionary party
FORRESTERS HALL
Trippett Lane, 7.30 p.m.

LEEDS

Monday December 11
Revolutionary theory and the
Marxist Party
WHIP HOTEL
Leeds
8 p.m.
(Note change)

TODMORDEN

Monday December 11
'Dialectical materialism'
Monday January 8
'The economic crisis'
Monday January 22
'Stalinism'
Monday February 5
'Trotskyism'
THE WEAVERS' INSTITUTE, Burnley Road,
7.30 p.m.

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Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.

Name

Address

All Trades Unions Alliance MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign

BIRKENHEAD: Sunday December 10, 7.30 p.m. Pier Hotel.

WATFORD: Monday December 11, 8 p.m. Upstairs Room, Watford Trade Union Hall, Watford Road (opp. Watford Junction Station).

WIGAN: Lancs. Monday, December 11, 7.30 p.m. The Market Hotel. 'Wages and laws against the trade unions'. Speaker: Mike Farley (Building trade worker).

HULL: Monday December 11, 8 p.m. 'White Hart', Alfred Chelder Street, near Drypool bridge. 'No state control of wages.'

ACTON: Monday December 11, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3. 'Free Sean MacStiofain'.

WEST LONDON: Tuesday December 12, 8 p.m. Prince Albert, Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'No State Control of Wages'.

LIVERPOOL: Tuesday December 12, 7.30 p.m. The Mitre, Dale Street.

WOOLWICH: Tuesday December 12, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road, SE18.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday December 12, 8 p.m. Festival Inn, Crisp Street, E14. 'Build Councils of Action'.

CROYDON: Wednesday December 13, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. 'Free Sean MacStiofain'.

MEDWAY: Tuesday December 19, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue, Rochester.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PUBLIC MEETINGS

SWINDON

Wednesday, December 13 8 pm
AEU HOUSE, FLEMING WAY, SWINDON

SPECIAL SHOWING OF THE 'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM. A film made by ACTT showing the five Right-to-Work marches from Glasgow, Liverpool, Swansea, Deal and Southampton to London, ending with a huge rally at Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 12, 1972.

Speaker: G. Healy, National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League.
Chairman: F. Willis, AEU steward at British Rail Engineering Workshop, Swindon (in a personal capacity).

- We demand the right to work!
- Make the Tory government resign!
- Build the revolutionary party!

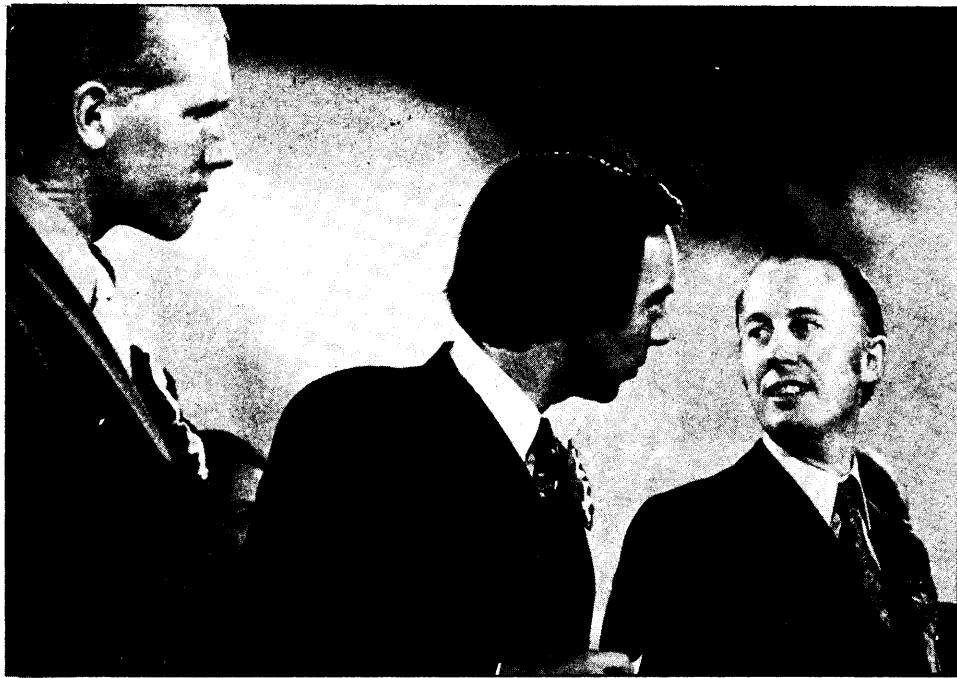
BRACKNELL (Berks)

Thursday December 14 7.45 p.m.

MEADOW VALE SCHOOL, MOREDALE AVENUE, PRIESTWOOD ESTATE

WAGES, DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND THE TORY GOVERNMENT

Speaker: G. Healy, National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League



Tory against the Common Market Reginald Simmerson (left) stands by as National Front man John Clifton (centre) chats with victorious Tory Michael Shersby at the Uxbridge count on Thursday.

BY-ELECTION RESULTS

A GRAVE WARNING

Comment by JACK GALE

THE BY-ELECTION results at Sutton and Cheam, and Uxbridge, following the recent Liberal victory over Labour at Rochdale, show that the 1970-style election cannot happen again. In 1972 the political implications of economic crisis protrudes directly into elections.

The huge decline in the Tory vote at Sutton and Cheam (where a Tory majority of 12,696 became a Liberal majority of 7,417) reveals the enormous crisis inside Heath's party.

The Tories of this 'blue chip' constituency consciously voted against their party to serve notice on Heath that they want sterner measures against the working class. This is a reflection of the economic crisis. Only by smashing down the working class and imposing dictatorial methods of rule can capitalism hope to solve its enormous problem of inflation and world markets.

It is the tension created by this in the middle class and among some backward sections of the working class that produced not only a large vote for the Liberal at Sutton and Cheam, but also a significant vote for extreme right-wing organizations.

At Uxbridge four ultra-right candidates totalled 4,685 votes between them and at Sutton and Cheam two such candidates received 1,992 votes. At Rochdale the anti-immigration candidate polled 4,074.

The 10,681 votes for the ultra-right should not be ignored. Nationally, there could be a potential ultra-right vote larger than at any time since the peak of Mosley's British Union of Fascists activity in the 1930s.

These results are also a measure of the total bankruptcy of the Labour Party leaders. Uxbridge is a marginal constituency which could easily have been torn away from the Tories had the Labourites mobilized the working class in struggle against the government on issues like the rent act, wage control, anti-union legislation and the Common Market. Instead, the Labour leaders have held back the struggle of the working class at every turn.

The right-wing Labourites in the parliamentary party are virtually an adjunct of the Tory government, which they kept in power by collaborating with it over the Common Market. These men do not want to take the power and will now be arguing that to bring down the Tories would result in electoral defeat.

As the working class have moved to the left during 1972 and challenged the government in defence of its wages and basic rights, the Labour Party leaders have been unable to pull out a vote in any constituency where the government ought to be under pressure. In this situation, the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party is essential. Only such a party can and will defeat capitalism.

Barbours' women march for right to join union

WOMEN STRIKERS from Barbour's rainwear factory, South Shields, are marching today at 2.30. Support is expected from all the major unions in the area, particularly the boiler-makers and the engineers.

South Shields and Jarrow Trades Councils will also be on the march.

The march will be from South Shields Town Hall to a rally in the Northern Social Club.

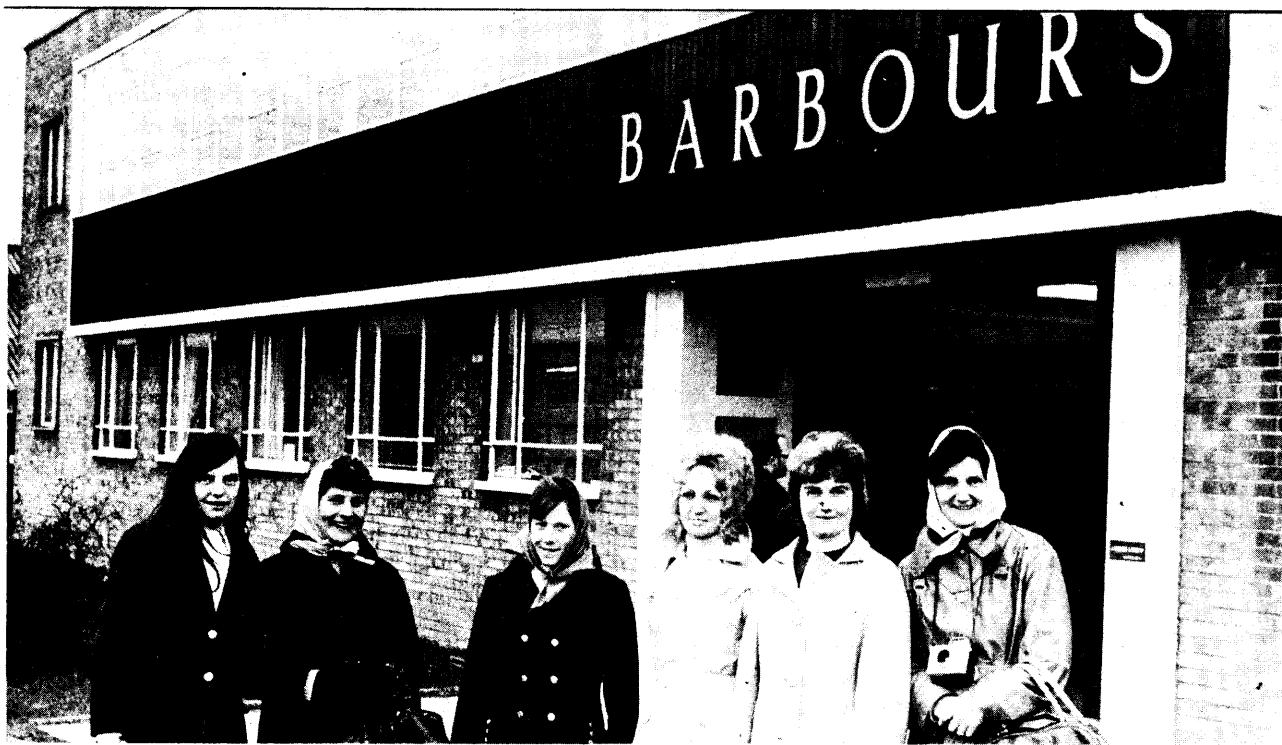
Seventy women and girls have been on strike for seven weeks demanding the right to join the union of their choice—the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Seven of the strikers— young, single girls—were forcibly evicted by police from South Shields Social Security office on November 10, when they tried to claim benefit.

The strikers have refused to return to work, despite a management offer of a £2 rise because that would still only give them £12.60

gross for a 40-hour week and also leave the union recognition question unresolved.

The women claim that they have been told to choose between joining the T&GWU and working at Barbours, and that non-union supervisors have been working their machines during the strike.



Greek worker gets 7 months

GREEK worker, Ioannis Kortesis (28), was yesterday sentenced to a total of seven months' jail for assaulting a police officer at the unemployment demonstration outside the House of Commons in November 1971.

Several people were arrested during the 15,000-strong demonstration which had been called by the TUC. Passing sentence at the Inner London crown court Judge Elam said Kortesis was guilty of an offence 'which is very prevalent at this time'.

He sent Kortesis to prison for four months and activated a three months suspended sentence imposed on Kortesis in April 1971 for assault.

Kortesis, who had pleaded not guilty, was convicted by a majority verdict after the jury had been out three hours. The jury unanimously found him not guilty of a charge of threatening behaviour and by a ten to two majority not guilty of assaulting

Sergeant Roy Thornton at Cannon Row police station, causing him actual bodily harm.

Timothy Rowe, an unemployed graduate, said in evidence he had seen two police officers dragging Kortesis backwards while another kicked him.

Kortesis, a member of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said he was leaving the demonstration because of the crush.

He had left a group of trade unionists in front of the House of Commons when he was pulled between the police and demonstrators.

He denied assaulting any policemen.

He is now taking out a summons for common assault by a police officer at Cannon Row while he was held there.

Little comfort from Eire poll

FIANNA FAIL said yesterday afternoon that they were disappointed with the outcome of the equal rights for religions and votes at 18 referendum.

The Green Tory government had expected a decisive endorsement for its 'New Ireland' policy, including the new so-called anti-IRA legislation.

But by the late afternoon yesterday it was known that only about 50 per cent of the Republic's 1.5 million electors had voted.

Polling got off to an exceptionally slow start in all 35 counting districts of the 26 counties on Thursday.

Voting was lowest in working-class districts of towns and cities with only 40 per cent going to

the polls in the central division of Dublin.

Polling was also well down in counties bordering on Northern Ireland, but in the Republican rural south and west there was, in some places, a 70 per cent plus turn-out.

Only two hours before the end of the count yesterday afternoon Fianna Fail officials told me it looked certain that 70 per cent of the returns would favour scrapping the two subsections of clause one of Article 44 of the constitution linking church and state.

But the spokesman said: 'We wanted more than that out of the referendum. It hasn't given us much confidence that the public approve all that Fianna Fail is doing.'

Party members are also worried that the low turn-out will be insufficient to convince Northern Protestants that Irishmen south of the border would welcome them into a 'New Ireland'.

DECEMBER FUND REACHES £339.22

THIS IS a decisive weekend. Let us use it to turn the situation around and pull our total right up. We are determined to complete our £1,750 target before Xmas.

Yesterday's post of £25.28 consisted of £5 from a group of west London readers; another £5 from Manchester supporters; a donation of £3.60; a Southampton reader sent £6.68; and, in Acton, our supporters collected £5.

All over the country your magnificent support comes in each day helping us reach our total. Let us step up the fight this weekend. Try and raise extra amounts. If you can, add something more yourself. Post all your donations immediately to:

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

HOUSING commissioners were yesterday appointed by the Secretary of State for Wales Peter Thomas to take over rents collection from two South Wales councils who have refused to

implement the Tory Housing Finance Act. The commissioners will work in the name and at the expense of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Bedwas and Machen Urban District Council.