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ANOTHER flashpoint will be at the Sudbury, Suffolk, CAV plant, where James Goad the man who took the union to court is now suspended on full pay. The 1,000 engineering workers meet in the morning to decide what action to take over the fines.

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was likely to lead to 'a violent counter-reaction among the rank and file'.

'The situation is at flashpoint,' he said. 'It only needs a spark to set them off. There is a very strong plea from large sections of the membership for some short, sharp action followed by a concerted national policy.'

The union's north-eastern (Tyneside) district committee has already passed an emergency resolution calling on the national executive to involve the rank and file in industrial action.

On Saturday a packed meeting of over 200 members of South Shields No. 1 AUEW branch suspended all business and passed unanimously a resolution which:

(1) Called on all members present at the meeting to go into their factories this morning and insist that shop stewards and union delegates call factory meetings of all AUEW branches to discuss action in defence of the union. (2) Demanded the immediate recall of the TUC to prepare a General Strike.

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Coventry No. 25 AUEW branch also calls for a total strike and calls on the union to 'demand a recall of the TUC to call a General Strike to bring down the Tories and elect a Labour government that must repeal the Industrial Relations Act and carry out socialist policies'.

'DEFEND UNION POLICY' - AUEW

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

AFTER A YEAR of opposing the Industrial Relations Act the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has been brought face to face with the inevitable political consequences of defying this Tory law.

Because of its steadfast refusal to co-operate with the Act or the National Industrial Relations Court the union is threatened with destitution.

First the AUEW was fined £5,000 for exercising the essential democratic right of controlling membership and keeping strike-breakers out of the ranks. Then it was penalized another £1,000 costs when it refused to crawl to Bow Street and hand over its members' funds.

Now it faces a savage £50,000 penalty and up to £5,000 extra in costs. This Tory vendetta against Britain's most militant union makes one thing clear—free trades unions cannot co-exist with this government or its battery of anti-working class laws. The Tories will not rest until they have established dictatorship over the working class.

Unions face either the vast plundering of their resources, like the AUEW, or the destruction of all their most powerful democratic rights.

The AUEW has chosen not to co-exist. Its policy was, and remains, total opposition to the Act and all its institutions.

Hugh Scanlon's call on the 1.2 million engineers to 'defend the policy of the union', as laid down by its national committee, must therefore be backed 100 per cent. Engineering workers will interpret this as a call for immediate industrial action throughout the engineering industry.

It must be stated that the AUEW executive committee's stand is in sharp contrast to the other so-called left-wing leader on the TUC, Jack Jones. When his union was challenged in exactly the same way, Jones chose to ignore the policy of his union's biennial conference.

Jones and his executive surrendered to the court and have faithfully attended cases when ordered. NIRC president Sir John Donaldson never tires of heaping praise upon these 'responsible' officials.

Naturally there are those in the AUEW leadership who want to abandon the fight and allow the union to become a creature of the NIRC. 'The Sunday Times' yesterday based its industrial story on this section. They are pressing for a special National Committee in the hope that the delegates will be frightened into reversing the union stand against the Act.

But these manoeuvres are not at the moment decisive. The battle begins today when over a million engineering workers go back to work to consider how they can defend their own union and rights.

The main issues before them must be the call from AUEW president Hugh Scanlon to take matters into their own hands and defend the union policy.

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A meeting of about 250 stewards called for all necessary action to ensure that their members' aspirations becomes a reality in next year's pay agreement.

For the moment, stewards' chairman Sid Harraway said afterwards, action meant the calling of meetings and the issuing of publications. What might follow would depend on the company's reply.

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Ford national joint negotiating committee is to formally submit its claims involving 50,000 Ford workers on Thursday, and the company is expected to give its detailed reply on January 4.

But even Ford's first reactions are bound to be hostile.

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day standstill.

But Moss Evans, the Transport and General Workers' Union national officer who chairs the NJNC, largely sidestepped this issue yesterday.

He told the meeting that the question of a strategy towards the legislation would have to be decided after the company's reply to the claim was received.

Evans's message to the meeting was that the company could afford to pay.

Compared with 1971, he said, there had been a 25 per cent increase in production this year. And the amount of profit made per

employee had risen from £11,000 to £13,500.

He would not, however, discuss the decline in the rate at which Ford is earning profit on its British investment; the decline which is the mainspring of its current drive to transfer sections of its production to Europe.

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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MONEY WOR£D

'Lending rate' or 'bank rate'... rise means plunge into deep recession

THE BANK of England's minimum lending rate is now at its highest level since World War II. It was raised from 7½ per cent at the end of last week, equalling the level at the height of the 1967 monetary crisis.

Minimum lending rate is the same thing as the old bank rate, renamed by the

Tory government two months ago in an effort to reduce the 'psychological impact' of interest rate changes.

This semantic manoeuvre cannot conceal the fact that British capitalism is plunging towards a deep recession in the midst of the international trade war.

France and Germany have raised their bank rates in recent weeks and there have also been increases in prime lending rates by the US banks.

The British decision is an attempt to prevent the out-

BY JOHN SPENCER

flow of short-term capital from London to these other centres. At the same time the government is hoping to take money out of circulation and reduce the rate of inflation.

As a result of the Bank of England's move—the second increase in minimum lending rate in the past fortnight—money for investment will now become even dearer, bringing about a further downturn in an already very depressed economic situation.

The rise in the minimum

lending rate also demonstrates Tory government fears about entry into the Common Market, which has already produced a considerable flight of capital to Europe with very little corresponding influx from the continent.

The latest balance-of-payments figures show that despite the floating of sterling the trade deficit for the third quarter of this year is higher than at any time since the Tories took office.

Imports exceeded by £280m over the period from July to October, showing that exporters have been unable to take

advantage of the competitive edge which devaluation should have given them.

So-called invisible earnings mainly income from such services as insurance and banking—rose by £15m above the second-quarter figure, but at £174m are still well below the equivalent figure for 1971.

British industry, faced with sharply increased competition from abroad, is falling behind in the struggle for overseas markets. The Tories' answer is a further clamp-down on industrial investment which can only lead to increased unemployment.

Rest-days strike by Paris dustmen

PILES OF rubbish were mounting up in the streets of Paris yesterday as a strike by dustmen and street-cleaners entered its fourth day.

The strikers, mainly members of the Communist Party led CGT, have given the Paris council and the government a list of demands.

These include a request for financial compensation for having to start work early when snow has to be cleared, protective clothing for all employees, and

a change in the rota system.

At the moment, the council workers get two free days after seven days' work. They now want two days' rest every six days.

The Paris Prefecture has distributed plastic sacks and is not yet considering bringing the army to clear the streets.

It claims that to agree to the change in rota would mean creating 144 new jobs. They would prefer Paris dustmen to continue with their seven-day week!

Lebanese stab in the back for guerrillas

REPEATED clashes between Palestinian commando units and the Lebanese army indicate that the Beirut government has succumbed to Zionist pressure to drive the

guerrillas out of border areas.

The clashes, which began on Friday and were repeated on Saturday, began with an artillery attack on Palestinian positions in southern Lebanon. The army claimed the guerrillas had refused to evacuate positions in the Al-Teera area in conformity with an agreement reached in September.

After a vicious attack by Israeli ground and air forces against Palestinian refugee camps in the south of the country, the Lebanese army attempted to close off the frontier regions to the Palestinians.

Meetings have been taking place between the government and the guerrilla command in an attempt to 'restore normal conditions'. The Palestinian delegation denounced 'the method which some Lebanese army units tried to use against our militants who strictly follow the orders of their command and who have been on the alert for days to confront an expected Israeli aggression.'

Following their recent attacks across the 1967 ceasefire line into Syria, the Israelis are widely rumoured to be planning further actions against guerrilla bases in the Lebanon as well.

The Lebanese government's actions indicate that, unlike the guerrillas, it has no stomach for a fight with the Zionists.

Kremlin-Madrid aid for Chile

CHILEAN President, Salvador Allende, left the Soviet Union over the weekend en route to Havana, where he will confer with Fidel Castro.

A statement issued in Moscow said the Soviet government had agreed to increase its trade with Chile with aid for factory-building projects and for the copper and fishing industries.

A Chilean diplomat involved in the talks said that the Soviet Union had agreed to 'activate' credits which had been promised back in 1969.

Not all of Chile's trading partners are so tardy in building up their investments in its industry.

Last week, the Spanish government granted the Popular Unity government £15½m credit. This is one of the results of the visit to Chile in 1971 of Lopez Bravo, Franco's Foreign Minister.

The credit will be used to establish plant in Chile which will use Spanish-made machinery.

ENASA—the lorry company jointly owned by British-Leyland and the Spanish government—is expected to set up a Chile branch soon.

'DEFEND UNION POLICY' - SAYS AUEW

FROM PAGE 1

An industrial battle will inevitably mean a major political showdown between the working class and the government on the issue of the law. It would be back to the days of the dockers' strike, when the question 'Who rules Britain?' was posed by Tory ministers.

This brings up the major lesson to come out of the crisis faced by the AUEW.

From the start of the campaign against the anti-union laws, it was clear that the fight was inseparable from the political fight to force the Tory government to resign. The Communist Party and Hugh Scanlon firmly rejected this perspective.

The Stalinists argued that the government could be forced to retreat and nullify the Act. Hugh Scanlon stated openly that the unions were not fighting a political battle, but one for democratic rights.

But we see these arguments

have been proved wrong. The NIRC is now an even greater menace to free trade unions and, much as Hugh Scanlon might dislike the fact, the defence of democratic rights is incompatible with the Tory government.

Because this political struggle was abandoned, the AUEW today stands alone, while almost all other unions have joined the stampede into the arms of Sir John.

But this trend can be reversed and the clash over the £50,000 could be the turning point.

The cowardice of the TUC is not reflected in the working class. The miners' strike, the confrontation over the dockers and now the anger sweeping the ranks in the engineering industry show the working class is ready to fight.

Issues like the laws which ban wage increases and the prospect of a vast rise in the cost of living after entry into the Common

Market next month are all spreading the general mood of militancy among workers.

There is absolutely no doubt that the working class has the strength and will to defeat the government if it gets the call.

This is why the Workers Press calls for full support of the AUEW policy on the Act.

Defence of this union is a class question because it is one of the major fighting organizations of the working class. It is necessary to organize the widest possible campaign in every area to organize all unions, tenants', committees and other working-class organization in action behind the engineers.

This is the policy of the Councils of Action which the All Trades Unions Alliance have called for.

- All out behind the engineers.
- Mobilize the working class to force the Tories to resign.
- Elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.
- The time to fight is now.

Trade unions demand rights in Turkey

TURKEY'S top trade union leader has warned of a mounting restlessness among workers which could lead to a General Strike.

Senator Halil Tunc who heads the 'yellow' trade union confederation, said in a statement at the weekend that there was concern about what he termed the future of the country's 'democratic' regime and workers were demanding the restoration of their full rights.

Trade union rights have been greatly curtailed by the military regime, which has held the country's 11 most populous provinces under martial law since it seized power in April 1971.

Strikes, union rallies and workers' demonstrations are banned in the provinces.

The regime has spearheaded an attack on wages and working conditions in the factories. Tunc said the main causes of the unrest were uncertainty over social security benefits, rising prices and lock-outs.

Mass picket planned for rainwear plant

ABOUT 250 engineers, other trade unionists and Young Socialists marched through South Shields on Saturday in a rally called by the local Trades Union Council in support of the women strikers at Barbour's Rainwear.

The strike, now entering its eighth week, is to win recognition of the women's union—the T&GWU.

Cries of 'Tories Out-General Strike', 'Recognize the T&G' and 'End Police Violence' greeted the thousands of Christmas shoppers as the liveliest march seen in the town

since the miners' victory, made its way to the rally at the Northern Social Club.

Jack Grassby, chairman of the South Shields Trades Union Council told the marchers: 'You are not the first to engage in such struggles for your rights. The Chartists did the same 100 years ago.'

Joe Mills, Transport and General Workers' Union organizer, issued a warning that sanctions would be imposed against any company which offered assistance to Barbour's in making up their goods.

Josie Lloyd, Barbour's strike committee secretary, appealed for a mass picket for this morning because Barbour's had been recruit-

ing labour from the dole office which they hoped would start work today.

Loud applause greeted Joe McAulrow of TASS when he called for appreciation of the role of Workers Press and 'its excellent coverage' of the Barbour's dispute.

Greetings were conveyed to the demonstration by Paddy MacKay on behalf of the Tyneside AUEW district committee, and Vince Foy, on behalf of Jarrow Trades Council.

Greetings were also brought from South Shields, No. 1 AUEW branch, where over 200 members had unanimously passed a resolution of support for the strikers.

Socialist Labour League

CELEBRATE

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF WORKERS PRESS

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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, 1 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.)

NEW FILM

THREE YEARS OF WORKERS PRESS

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



German car workers. Ford's plans for a fully-integrated European Operation are already well advanced

EUROPE-WIDE ATTACKS ON FORD WORKERS

A recent visit by convenors from Ford of Britain to their opposite numbers in Germany produced some valuable insights into what the multi-national giants, along with the Tories, are preparing for the British working class inside the Common Market.

Giants like Ford's already have plans well advanced for a fully-integrated European Operation. Rationalization has reduced those operations in Britain which are duplicated in Europe. Tooling re-organization has closed Doncaster and pig iron requirements for Dagenham will be supplied from continental production. This will enable Ford to close the blast furnace.

TO SURVIVE

A European conference on Knock Down (KD) operations, held recently in Dagenham, stressed the need for a 'European outlook' on packaging, 'in order to survive'. Fears have been expressed in Dagenham KD about operations concerning the falling work load and attempts to contract-out work.

Furthermore, there is no escape for those plants that remain. Shop stewards at Dagenham body plant have been informed on several occasions that, by continental standards, they are 40 per cent overmanned. Ford produces exactly the same Cortina in Germany, Belgium and England!

A short run-down on the main provisions of the labour laws of the Federal Republic of Germany shows exactly where the industrial Relations Act came from and why the big monopolies are so anxious to enter the Common Market.

These labour laws restrict all the rights of the German and immigrant workers in order to force from them productivity levels to make the British monopolist drool. A labour court sits at the centre of these state laws as final

arbitrator whose decisions are enforceable by fines and imprisonment.

All strikes are illegal. Before a case reaches a labour court, a conciliation committee arbitrates. These committees have an equal number of workers' and employers representatives, as well as an independent chairman, mutually agreed.

The labour laws control supervision of elections to workers' councils by secret ballot and even removal of workers' council men from office. These labour courts can even enforce direct supervision of election. Workers who are members of political organizations proscribed by state law are barred from holding office and it is illegal to canvas for political views on the shop floor.

German employers have an equal right to run a non-union establishment as the men have to join a union, as long as they abide by state law in the election of works councils.

Where do the trade union bureaucrats fit into this scheme? They simply act in an advisory capacity at factory level—their presence is allowed at all meetings. Their main activity is in industry-wide negotiations with employers' federations.

German trade unions are industrially rather than occupationally based. The outlook of these employers federations can be gauged by the fact that Ford of Germany is a member, a situation Ford would not tolerate in Britain.

Section 43, paragraph (2) of the 'laws' state: 'An employer shall be invited to workers' meetings and departmental meetings and notified of the agenda. He shall be entitled to address the meetings and bring an associate from the local engineering employers' federation. He can also convene meetings on request.'

Section 79 binds all workers and employers' representatives to secrecy, on pain of fines or imprisonment, to all deliberations which the employer claims can damage or impair his profitability if revealed. This means that the works'

council is virtually the prisoner of the company, particularly since the employer is entitled to be present at all shop-floor meetings!

The labour courts can pass judgement on works' standards disputes, a vital area of struggle which decides manning levels, mobility of labour, etc. Part of the Tories' recent 'Fair Trading Bill' is an attack on workers in order to introduce a similar situation here. The National Industrial Relations Court is going to be extremely busy in the new year if this Bill becomes law!

Much of the enforced productivity of 'the German miracle' comes from the backs of immigrant workers. Ford's of Cologne has 10,000 Turks and 2,000 Italians out of a labour force of 22,000. These workers are often under contract for limited periods and are under the constant threat of deportation.

Yet the German and immigrant workers are not docile. Massive strikes have rocked the major industries. While a high standard of living and full employment prevailed, employers have been able to proceed with labour laws that reflected the Nazi Labour Codes.

PROFITS FALL

However, as the crisis deepens and the world trade war bites into the German economy, a different mood has emerged in the working class. As a result of the August 15, 1971, measures of US President Nixon, profits have fallen dramatically in major car firms like Volkswagen.

In this context, the fight to force the Tory government to resign and return a Labour government which is forced to repeal all the reactionary legislation of the last two and a half years and to institute a socialist programme, particularly in relation to the nationalization of the monopolies, becomes extremely urgent. No one can doubt where all the preparations of this conspiratorial Tory government lead. The Common Market conspiracy must be smashed!

A FORD SHOP STEWARD

APPRENTICES IN THE SLUMP

The present slump in the printing trade has caused dramatic cutbacks in apprentice intake compared with ten years ago.

At the London College of Printing, for example, the intake of apprentice compositors has dropped 90 per cent in the last ten years. In other sections of the print industry in London, the drop has been just as great, as can be seen from the table below.

Writing in the December issue of 'Print', the monthly

newspaper of the National Graphical Association, Mr Granville Eastwood, general secretary of the Printing and Kindred Trades Federation, reveals these figures and says that practically all local Federations throughout England and Scotland are reporting a falling off in the number of apprentices because of the state of the trade.

A large part of the trouble, he says, is that employers are not replacing apprentices when they become journeymen.

Changes in numbers of apprentices at the London College of Printing from 1962-1972.

Apprenticeship	1962	1972	percentage cutback
Compositors	400	40	90%
Letterpress-machine	450	50	89%
Print finishing	80	45	44%
Photogravure	90	0	100%
Photolithography	75	30	60%

SCANLON'S EX-BANKERS

Members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers should not be too concerned about the departure of their merchant banking advisers, Hill Samuel.

Chairman of the bank is Sir Kenneth Keith, knighted by the Wilson government, who is one of the highest Tories in the land.

A week after he appeared on Wilson's honours list his bank's accounts showed that he had kindly donated £25,000 to the Tory Party's funds to help in the General Election.

The 1971 accounts showed that Hill Samuel and Philip Hill Investment Trust, where Keith is also chairman, whipped another £15,000 into the Tory coffers.

Keith is also a director of Times Newspapers and plays a strong role with Lord Shawcross and Lord Robens in keeping 'The Times' and 'The Sunday Times' firmly in support of Tory policies.

In his recently published diaries, the former head of the 'Daily Mirror' group, Cecil Harmsworth King, described a



Scanlon

number of lunches he enjoyed with Keith. On September 5, 1968, he wrote: 'Today I lunched with Kenneth Keith at Hill Samuel. He had no specific information, but it was clear he and his like are making a great deal of money.'

'If they were doing badly we should hear much more of the critical times in which we live. He said profits last year were 40 per cent up on the previous year and this year are 40 per cent up on the last.'

On the face of it, Keith certainly seems a strange bed-fellow for Hugh Scanlon. But nothing surprises these days!

COUNCIL HOUSE PRICES

Dear Editor, In this day when the working class is engaged in struggles to maintain a decent living wage and is restricted to basic minimums of around the £20 mark, the following is an extract from a letter my friend received from Croydon Council regarding the purchase of a council house.

The price range, he was told, would vary between £8,000 and £16,000—for a house which is 15 years old.

Legal fees to the council would be £68.50; land registry fees £45.90 and stamp duty £65.

The letter went on: 'Pur-

chasers are reminded to include the cost of their own solicitor.' The council states that you can either pay in cash or take a council mortgage. Repayments for a £13,000 council house are £100.71 monthly.

As you can see the building of Councils of Action and the nationalization of land, building societies and contracting firms is an urgent necessity and I pledge my support to the Socialist Labour League to help carry out these policies.

Yours faithfully,
F. Nevill,
New Addington,
Croydon.

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EZRA POUND: POET OF IMPERIALIST DECAY

The death of the American poet Ezra Pound, who was jailed after the war as a traitor for his broadcasts on behalf of Mussolini's regime, has brought numerous assessments of his work.

A scurry of apologists have tried to provide plausible accounts of his political career and his relations with fascism. They either make no mention of his anti-Semitism or refer to it only as an unfortunate aberration.

To understand Pound's position we have first to examine the role of the artist in capitalist society. Art is one of the ways man finds his bearings in the world, defines his relationship to objective reality and attempts to objectify his consciousness, his thoughts, in order to reach others.

But it is more than simply this. Art must also serve a class role in society. As Marx writes in 'The German Ideology':

'The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas, i.e. the class which is the ruling material force of society is at the same time its ruling intellectual force. The class which has the means of material production at its disposal, has control at the same time over the means of mental production, so that thereby, generally speaking, the ideas of those that lack the means of mental production are subject to it.'

Here Marx is not merely talking about philosophical ideas, but also of all the ways in which these philosophical ideas are propagated and spread—and one of the most effective methods is through the fostering of a 'cultural heritage' of artistic production embodying, as Marx puts it, 'the dominant material relationships grasped as ideas . . . the ideas of its dominance'.

Elite class

When the capitalists talk about 'culture' or 'art', therefore, they refer to something with a definite class content. Like all consciousness it has its material origins in the class struggle, and of course in such a struggle it cannot be neutral.

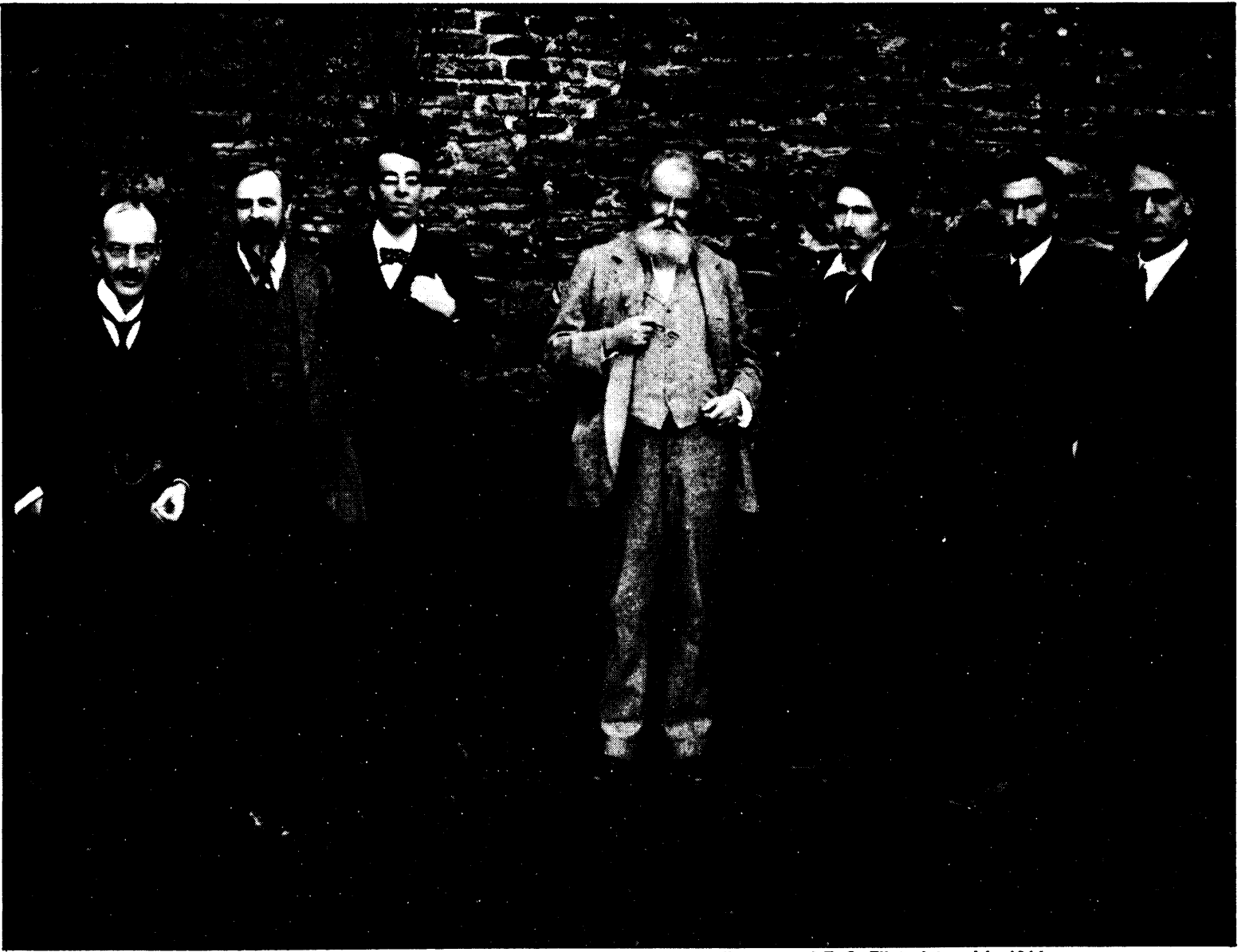
Pound, as a determined idealist, sees 'culture' as an abstraction, with its origins in gifted individuals and in danger of being crushed by the ignorance of the masses.

For a writer who holds such a view of 'culture', the foremost question in his mind is the perpetuation of the elite which has produced 'masterpieces' in the past, and the assertion of the importance and special insight of gifted men such as poets, painters, soldiers, etc.

This insight is seen as separate from the material circumstances which restrict it to only a certain section of a certain privileged class, and through this process of abstraction, is made to seem an almost divine quality, common to a special breed of man.

This conception of the 'great man' has a history in English literature. The first clear beginnings of it are to be found in the Romantic conception of the 'poet' as a leader of men, as set forth by Wordsworth, and most clearly by Shelley.

This idea was taken together with German idealism by



Left to right: Victor Plarr, Sturge Moore, W. B. Yeats, Blunt, Ezra Pound, Richard Aldington and F. S. Flint pictured in 1914.

Carlyle in the early 19th century, in his call for a 'hero' or 'great man' to seize control of squalid industrialized, capitalist England and act as a benevolent dictator.

Shades of these ideas appear in Tennyson's poetry.

After the middle of the 19th century the moves towards symbolist and increasingly subjective approaches to poetry accentuated the tendency to regard the poet as some sort of immaterial, separate creature, with powers superior to those of mere men. This conception extended to all those who appeared to be specially gifted.

W. B. Yeats combines these tendencies in his early poems, together with a real and reactionary love of the Irish aristocracy. Yeats really serves as a bridge between the epoch of capitalist rivalry and the epoch of imperialist war, represented poetically by Ezra Pound.

What form does such an idealist conception of culture take in the age of imperialism?

Pound's verse and prose writings, together with those of his fellow-thinkers Yeats, T. S. Eliot and Wyndham Lewis, show an absolute disgust and loathing of the effects of monopoly capitalism, with its vulgarization of the arts, its profiteering, its warmongering, and its refusal to educate the mass of the population.

The difference between Pound's hatred of these attacks on 'the cultural heritage' and a scientific approach is fundamental, however. Pound does not see the capitalist system as the root cause of corruption and suffering, but responds merely to the symptoms, seeing the problem as a moral one, and the solution as firm leadership from a 'cultured' or moral strong man. This is the point from which Pound was to move

in the 1930s to open advocacy of Mussolini's fascist regime.

As I have said, such ideas were not new in English literature. What was new, however, was the material conditions in which such ideas became current. The age of imperialism is precisely the period in which the ruling class requires to take such ideas into practice, in order to smash the organized working class. Thus, when Pound wrote in 1914: 'Democracies have fallen, they have always fallen, because humanity craves the outstanding personality. And hitherto no democracy has provided sufficient place for such an individuality,' he was acting very much as part of the ideological vanguard of the cornered ruling class driven towards dictatorship. If we bear this in mind, it should not surprise us to find Pound saying of Mussolini:

'The fascist revolution was FOR the preservation of certain liberties and FOR the maintenance of a certain level of culture, certain standards of living, it was NOT a refusal to come down to a certain level of riches or poverty, but a refusal to surrender certain immaterial prerogatives, a refusal to surrender a great slice of the cultural heritage.'

Pound, as a jealous guardian of this 'heritage', takes this kind of arrogant assertion and dictatorial manner into his poetry.

Rather like T. S. Eliot, his voracious appetite for other people's masterpieces and his determination to make this culture live on in his own work, fitted him to express indirectly, if not consciously, the barren wasteland of 20th century bourgeois art.

For all the considerable and important changes in FORM brought about by Pound in his

poetry (the break from old metres, rhymes and images, the smashing aside of Victorian gentility and indirectness, for pungent and biting frankness), the ESSENCE—in other words the philosophical content—remains basically the same.

Pound's poetry rests on the basis of subjective idealism, the separation of cause and effect, subject and object, theory and practice.

Pound merely reflects the confused world around him. He does not start from the perspective of changing it. For him, change has to come from strong men such as Mussolini, imposing their will on the masses. Pound's function is merely to point out what is wrong: an example is this passage from his 'Hell' Cantos, dealing here with 'usura' or finance capital:

the beast with a hundred legs, USURA and the swill full of respecters.

bowing to the lords of the place, explaining its advantages, and the laudatores temporis acti claiming that the shit used to be blacker and richer and the fabians crying for the petrification of putrefaction, for a new dung-flow cut in lozenges, the conservatives chatting distinguished by gaiters of slum-flesh, and the back-scratchers in a great circle, complaining of insufficient attention the search without end, counterclaim for the missing scratch . . .

Aloof

Littered with past masterpieces, snippets of bourgeois economics, extracts from diaries, Chinese characters and quotations in nine different languages, Pound's Cantos really must strike the reader as a huge Sargasso Sea of dead learning, thrown up in verse

as the very capitalist system itself entered its final stage.

Pound throughout remains aloof, refusing to make himself intelligible to anything more than an élite of intellectuals, and offering them nothing more than the ideological requirements of the capitalist class. In other words, for Pound the only audience for his art was intended to be that section of society most intimately linked to the ruling class. Culture for Pound was a synonym for élitism.

Does this mean there is no point in studying Pound's poetry?

Not at all. But we must study with our eyes open to the positions he adopts.

To say that hatred for capitalism is progressive without examining precisely the basis of that hatred in Pound would be extremely dangerous. There are many passages where this lesson applies, where Pound unconsciously gives us a clear insight into the bankruptcy of contemporary society.

In the 'Hell' Cantos and in 'Hugh Selwyn Mauberly', Pound succeeds in making known the appearance at least of the objective world. Of course we must not forget the technical developments made by Pound either, since many further developments have been based on them.

As an example of Pound's power and poetry, perhaps the best is these lines on World War I:

'There died a myriad,
And of the best, among them,
For an old bitch gone in the teeth,

For a botched civilization . . .'
The 'old bitch', capitalism, is still claiming victims. Our task is to fight for Marxism against moralist and idealist conceptions which can lead so clearly towards fascism.



FRENCH COURTS AGAINST THE TRADE UNIONS

BY JUAN GARCIA

In June 1970, the Chaban-Delmas government brought a new law against civil disorder—'la loi anti-casseur'—onto the French statute books. Part of the preparation for the next revolutionary development of the working class after the May-June 1968 General Strike, article 314 declares:

'When, as the result of a concerted action, carried out openly, with force, of violence or assault and battery against people, or destruction and damage to property, the instigators and organizers of this action, as well as those who participated voluntarily, will be punished, without prejudicing the application of heavier penalties inscribed in law, with sentences of one to five years.'

On Monday, November 27, 1972, Berliet, the producers of buses and heavy-goods vehicles, brought nine workers before the court in Lyon under article 314.

After the formal opening of the case, it was adjourned until December 18.

Berliet is part of the Citroën group which, in turn, is controlled by Michelin. The Michelin and Citroën factories specialize in employing immi-

grant workers from Spain, Portugal, Turkey and Algeria, and using the deportation threat to keep them in line.

It is no surprise then that the Citroën-Berliet management should be the first to crack the legal whip against French trade unionists in the midst of cut-throat competition by the car-monopolies in the Common Market—and on the eve of Britain's entry.

Citroën in Spain is already bitter about the decision by Franco to allow Henry Ford to set up a factory in Valencia. The European lorry market is also tempting to investors in Spain.

British - Leyland manufactures heavy goods vehicles in Spain through the ENASA company a branch of which is Pegaso that already has a contract with a Belgian firm to manufacture lorries in Belgium with cheap, made-in-Spain components.

PERTURBED BY LOSSES

Berliet's profits for the first nine months of 1971 were 451 million francs compared with 388 million in 1972. Exports have been cut by a third in a year. Contracts with Cuba and Poland remain, but Paul Berliet has just returned from a trip to China without a contract signed.

In France, the tonnage carried by lorries is to be

changed from 13 tons to 11 tons to bring France in line with the rest of the Common Market and that means expensive modifications in Berliet's factories, which are main suppliers to the domestic market.

These uncertainties are compounded by the failure of Citroën-Michelin to form a new coherent European multinational with Fiat. Michelin is perturbed by the losses and continuous strikes in the plants of its Italian partner.

Discussions are being held with Daimler-Benz which involve the future of Berliet, and perhaps Citroën itself.

Whatever the outcome, the state of the European 'multinational' is not one of harmony and high profits. The capitalist Utopia of the Common Market cannot break down the historical barriers of the nation-state, national currencies and the whole legacy of the out-worn system of private enterprise.

The French Communist Party accepts the reality of the EEC and with the phoney policy of 'democratization' of the Market, puts the brake on the struggle against the monopolies.

So, the defence of the Berliet workers, which would mean striking at the Pompidou government, is subordinated to the nondisruption of the 'democratic' process—as if article 314 were not an attack on the real democratic rights of French workers!

Assembly-workers begin a demonstration in the Berliet factory near Lyons. Their trade union representatives are now being tried on riot charges.

At a Paris rally on December 1, the electoral alliance of the left gathered some 50,000 supporters. The main speakers made no reference to the Lyons trial. On the contrary, Robert Fabre, president of the movement of the radical-socialist-left, proclaimed:

'As radicals, we have always been partisans of the ownership and control of the main means of production which dominate the economic life of the country. But we are also in favour of the necessary defence of private enterprise, of the middle-classes, of all those irreplaceable professions such as farmers, artisans, small traders, and small and average size industrial enterprises which make up the democratic tissue of our economy.'

Francois Mitterand, of the Socialist Party, and Georges Marchais, secretary of the French Communist Party, warmly applauded this classic eulogy of the petty-bourgeois.

This Communist Party Popular Front camaraderie with the petty-bourgeois, who are the main target of the CP's electoral activities, is aimed at disarming the working class which faces employers, like Citroën, set on a course of destroying trade union organization.

Since Berliet was taken over by the Citroën-Michelin group and the signing of the last agreement with the trade-unions two years ago, Paul Berliet who now owns only 20 per cent of 'his' factories in Lyons, has been changing the paternalist nature of labour relations in the factory.

His labour relations man, Monsieur Brégeon, has refused to open any negotiations with the trade-unions. When the CFT called for negotiations on bonus payments and working conditions, they were told quite sharply to look at statements issued by the company on 'its financial difficulties and a debt of 14 million new francs'.

From July 1970, Brégeon has been trying to establish in its factories a branch of the CFT—the French Confederation of Labour. This strike-breaking, company union is already well-implanted in the Citroën car-factories.

The 4th Congress of the CFT in 1969 described the CFT as 'an instrument of struggle against the disintegration of the nation' and the 'defender of the family which is the basic cell in our society and the guardian of the moral values in our civilization'.

In July 1971, just before the summer holidays, the management ended a practice which had given the Berliet plant a reputation for liberal attitudes on the shop-floor—the right to hold meetings in the workshops to discuss trade-union affairs.

After the holidays, the struggle became more intense. For nine weeks, the trade-union leaders called a series of lightning strikes in the French Stalinists tradition, in pursuit of an additional monthly bonus of 200 francs and an increase in basic pay.

Some high-points in this frenetic activity: in CD shop No. 4 800 workers stopped work 16 times on one day; in another shop, there have been 235 hours of short stoppages. Hubert Mazoyer, a technician member of the leftist Unified Socialist Party claimed: 'It needs a higher level of consciousness for short strikes than for an indefinite strike.'

Sometimes, the short strike is escalated into a demonstration through the factory or a mass-meeting.

Paul Berliet has met the guerrilla tactic with a series of 'shock' actions. It is one of his boasts that 'I have read Mao'.

On November 15, he issued

a communiqué announcing that Berliet 'was to give up its development in the region of Lyons where until now it has built all its new factories . . . it will move to regions which have a tradition of greater social calm'.

When the workers were told of the financial problems, they answered that production has gone up over the last 15 months without technical modifications although 1500 jobs have been lost.

There can be no doubt that this is true. It is also true that the Berliet branch of Citroën-Michelin faces serious financial difficulties.

These are problems which cannot be solved by half-hour strikes or by the cry of 'Berliet can pay'. The application of article 314 against nine workers at the Lyons plant for organizing a demonstration in the factory makes the political nature of the attack quite clear.

WORK CONTRACTS

The Communist Party insists that all that is needed is a little more pressure. When 120,000 workers struck in the Lyons region and 20,000 demonstrated on the day of the trial, the CP said the main achievement was the agreement by Edgar Faure, Minister of Social Affairs, to see CGT and CFT representatives about the trial.

Yet Faure is one of the architects of the corporatist measures which Pompidou's government would like to impose. He has outlined a new law on work-contracts which is supposed to protect the worker against unfair sackings—in fact, any worker who breaks a contract through striking unofficially will be liable to the sack and the payment of compensation to his employer!

The Berliet trial comes at a time when the bourgeoisie in France has begun a consistent policy of court actions against workers.

From Caen to Brest and Lyons, workers were on trial in November for pursuing their struggle against the employers.

In the court at Caen, the prosecutor ended his statement against workers who had occupied their Ferodo factory with these edifying remarks:

'Whatever the regime, there can be no work without hierarchy, there has to be leadership, order or else you have anarchy. These actions are against the organization of society, the organization of labour.'

The CP and the left-groups who demonstrated back in June 1970 against article 314 now try to paralyse the working-class.

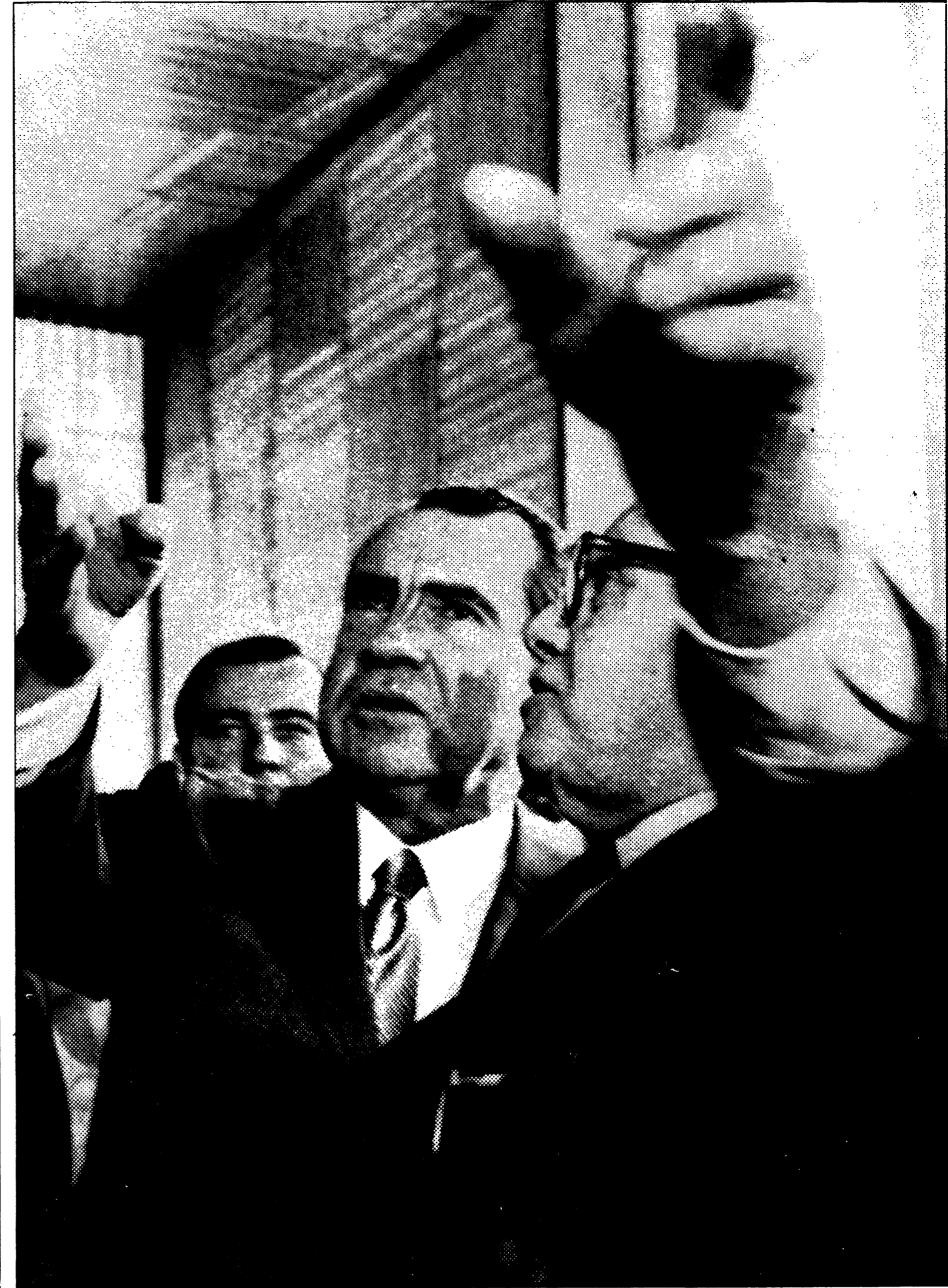
Some groups thought the abortion case in Bobigny was more pressing—front page news for trendy women's lib.

The Pabloties of the Ligue Communiste complained in the abstract about more repression and relegated Berliet to page seven of 'Rouge', their weekly paper.

Stephan Just, of the revisionist OCI, told his readers in October that the "loi anti-casseur" could not possibly be used against a working-class which was prepared to fight.

The workers in Berliet and the French working-class face legal attacks and unemployment as they struggle against inflation in the Common Market, tied to a Communist Party which is fighting an election with the liberal businessmen in the radical movement.

A leadership must be built in the French working-class which will demand that the CP and the SP break from the radicals and put forward a socialist programme of nationalization of the basic industries without compensation under workers' control as rejection of the capitalist conspiracy of the Common Market and as part of the construction of the United Socialist States of Europe.



THE PETER BRENNAN STORY

BY JOHN SPENCER

President Nixon has nominated Peter Brennan as his new Labour Secretary. Brennan (54) is president of the New York City and New York State Building and Construction Trades Councils.

Described in the 'New York Times' as 'well-dressed, well-fed and well-mannered', Brennan is an active church-goer and a Boy Scout organizer in his spare time. He is also a vice-president and director of the Police Athletic League of New York.

He is an extreme anti-communist who organized his 'hard-hat' union members to beat up anti-war demonstrators in New York two years ago. His friendship with President

Nixon dates from this time.

Nixon considered Brennan's public demonstration of support for the Vietnam war as reassuring and 'very meaningful'. He invited the labour leader to the White House, where Brennan presented him with a hard hat and an American flag lapel pin.

Though a Democrat, Brennan was one of the few trade union chiefs to give uncritical support to Nixon for the presidency. The majority of unions in the AFL-CIO led by George Meany supported neither McGovern nor Nixon.

The White House has confirmed that Brennan's appointment was cleared beforehand with Meany and with Teamsters' leader Frank Fitzsimmons, who endorsed Nixon's bid for re-election.

Meany issued a statement of confidence that Brennan would

be a 'very fine Secretary of Labour', while Fitzsimmons declared the nomination was 'further proof' of the President's intention to make labour 'an important part of his second administration'.

In a telegram to Brennan, Frank Bonadio, president of the AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department, and Robert Georgine, secretary-treasurer, pledged 'total co-operation' and praised Nixon for 'good judgement'.

They were not the only people to welcome Brennan's appointment. Extreme right-wing Republican James L. Buckley, whose successful Senate campaign was supported by Brennan, said: 'Hard-hatism is what America needs at the moment.'

Not all sections of the trade unions are in favour of Brennan or his new job, however. One

anonymous officer of an industrial union was quoted as saying that the nomination was 'a beautiful pay-off to one of the worst elements in the labour movement'.

And Joseph Beirne, leader of the Communications Workers of America, added a note of warning to his congratulations on Brennan's appointment. He said that Martin Durkin, a former plumbers' union chief who held the Labour Secretary's job under Eisenhower, had shown that it was 'difficult for a labour leader to live up to his trade union principles when required by an administration to perform acts which are highly detrimental' to American workers.

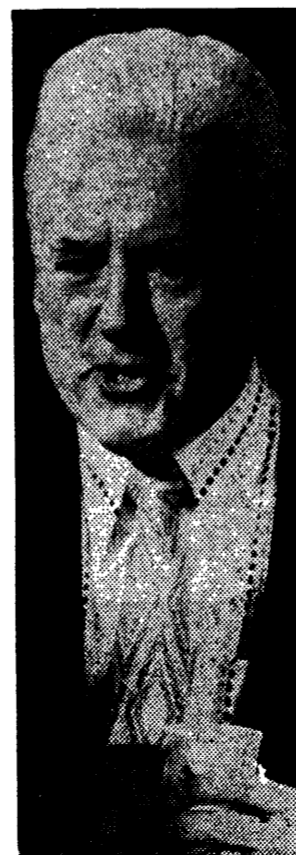
Other critics concentrated on Brennan's abysmal record of opposition to the recruitment of black construction

workers. Joseph Rauh, of Americans for Democratic Action, said the new Labour Secretary was 'clearly representative of those elements within the labour movement who have opposed all efforts to ensure minorities their rights to jobs'.

Herbert Hill of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, was even more outspoken. He issued a bitter statement that said, in part:

'This appointment is one more in a long series of political pay-offs to the enemies of the black population. For more than a quarter of a century Peter Brennan has zealously protected and defended the racist practices of the building trades unions.'

Other critics quoted Brennan's remarks at a conference on minority opportunities in



Brennan (below left) came to Nixon's attention as the organizer of 'hard-hat' building workers who broke up student demonstrations against the Vietnam war (above left). Leading Republicans like Wilbur Mills took to wearing builders' helmets and consorting with construction workers (below right). Brennan's appointment as secretary of Labour was welcomed by Meany, leader of the AFL-CIO, seen (above) with Nixon.

1963 where he announced: 'We won't stand for blackmail. We had that from the communists and the gangsters in the 1930s.'

This man is described by Ronald Ziegler, Nixon's Press secretary, as an example of 'the best character and strength of America's working men and women'. The Nixon administration clearly hopes to make use of Brennan in order to bring the union leaders closer to the state.

Brennan claims he will be a friend of organized labour in the administration and said he

intends to bring more trade union people into the Labour Department. There they will have the job of selling Nixon's plans for anti-strike laws, wage controls and attacks on the unions.

The fact that his appointment has been endorsed by Meany, Fitzsimmons and other union chiefs indicates a powerful swing towards corporatism in the top circles of the US union leadership.

They are responding to the requirements of big business as Nixon gears up for a second term of struggle with the working class. He has already promised even tougher wage controls when the third phase of his wage policy comes in in April.

Many big contracts come up for negotiation next year and fierce strike battles are anticipated. Ironically, some of Brennan's own 600,000 members in New York City and the surrounding state are now on strike.

The strike began on July 1 and is still going on. Brennan said long strikes did not help anybody and 'we should do all we can' to avoid them.

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 (IMG).

An unprincipled cover-up

How do Mandel, Maitan, Frank and Hansen deal with the virtual civil war within the Unified Secretariat? By conducting an honest political discussion in which tendencies come out into the open? That would be the method of Bolshevism even if the result were to be a split.

But it is not the method of the revisionist gentlemen. On the contrary, they seek to do a little organizational 'clean-up' job while studiously avoiding all the political questions.

The 'Fact-Finding Commission' into the International Marxist Group (IMG) in Britain was specifically instructed in November 1971 to find the 'facts' and ignore the politics. As if, for a Marxist, 'facts' could exist as things in themselves, apart from their political setting.

Yet the Commission members say: 'We were asked very explicitly not to enter into the political differences between the IMG majority and the tendency [minority] and we did not do so.' (Page 3.)

The reason for this is obvious. To deal with the politics would have split not only the IMG, but the Unified Secretariat as well. As it was, two separate statements were issued by members of the Secretariat following the Commission's report. One—signed by eight members of the Secretariat (including Mandel, Frank, and Maitan)—defends the IMG leadership. (Page 7.)

It declares:

2. Most of the considerations included in the Fact-Finding Commission's report start from the assumption that the main responsibility for upholding the principles of democratic centralism inside a Leninist organization lies with the leadership. There can be no dispute about this. But it cannot be applied in a mechanical way, without taking into consideration concrete circumstances.

To put the blame for all the organizational incidents on the majority in a one-sided manner, judging not on the basis of a concrete examination of the mechanics and background of each incident, but rather on the basis of the general abstract rule that on principle the main responsibility lies with the majority, does not permit an understanding of the real internal process inside the IMG.

There is no doubt that the IMG leadership has made many mistakes in regard to the minority and that most of the sanctions taken are indefensible. But there is also no doubt that minority comrades have behaved in a provocative way in several instances.

When the leadership of the

minority states that it would not recognize suspensions decided by the majority, such a statement clearly challenges the right of the leadership to lead the organization. When a leader of the minority takes the initiative of setting up a political book service without the previous agreement of the party leadership, this again indicates a very clear attitude towards this leadership.

Under these circumstances the question whether the formal rules were or were not broken can at the very least not be the only one posed. One can easily acknowledge that the minority has operated more capably within these rules. Whether they respected the general principle of majority rule and abstained from any provocation towards a young and still partially immature leadership—that is an entirely different matter.

Minority alleges 'bureaucratic arrogance'

But five members of the Secretariat would not go along with this. And they would certainly have the support of Hansen. In a separate statement they declare: (Pages 8-9.)

Our statement is intended merely to indicate where we disagree with the criticisms levelled against the report of the Fact-Finding Commission by Walter, Pierre, Livio, Petersen, Kurt, Delfin, Pia and Ghulam.

One side consisted of a minority seeking through political argument to gain a majority to its views. The other side consisted of a majority that represented more than a grouping inside the IMG; it held responsibility for leadership in the organization as a whole, and in this position it held the power to impose organizational measures besides arguing for its group views.

As the leadership of the IMG, the majority held a special responsibility to safeguard the democratic rights of the minority. The majority leadership did not safeguard the democratic rights of the minority. It imposed organizational measures. Moreover, these measures constituted gross violations of the norms of democratic centralism.

The Fact-Finding Commission cited three flagrant instances, and presented major pieces of evidence concerning them. The Commission thus came to its conclusions not because of a 'general abstract rule that on principle the main responsibility lies with the majority'. It based its conclusions on a series of specific instances all involving concrete violations of the norms of democratic centralism which the majority was duty bound to uphold.

3. In their statement, Walter, Pierre, Livio, Petersen, Kurt, Delfin, Pia and Ghulam seek to excuse the abuses committed by the



Mandel, one of the eight members of the Secretariat who defended the IMG leadership.

majority leadership of the IMG on the grounds that the IMG is 'a very young organization', that it has a 'young and still partially immature leadership', and that an 'important part of the leadership has been in the organization only a short time'.

The truth is that an important part of the IMG majority leadership is well seasoned; it has been in the Trotskyist movement for a long time. This sector failed to oppose the violations of the norms of democratic centralism. In fact the evidence gathered by the Commission shows that this sector was chiefly responsible for initiating the measures that were in violation of the norms of democratic centralism.

4. The main criticism levelled by Walter, Pierre, Livio, Petersen, Kurt, Delfin, Pia and Ghulam is that although two members expressed views on the question, the Fact-Finding Commission as a whole did not investigate or indicate the political background to the 'sanctions' taken against the minority. However, such matters were beyond the scope of inquiry set for the Commission, as indicated above.

A much more important area of inquiry—if the Commission's work were to have been expanded—would have been determination of the character of the organizational measures employed against the minority and the meaning of this for the Fourth International.

On the face of it, it is absolutely clear that the actions taken against the minority were alien to the norms and traditions of the Trotskyist movement. In what category, then, do they fall?

One of the members of the Commission, Comrade Diego, who has had some 40 years' experience in the Trotskyist movement, put it down as 'a mixture of irresponsibility, incompetence and just plain bureaucratic arrogance'. In the procedures followed in the Scottish cases, he was struck by their resemblance to 'the kind of small-time bureaucratic fakery well-known in the labour movement the world over'.

Indeed, to what school belong such practices as demanding that comrades sign a public statement containing what they consider to be falsehoods, as entrapping members of a minority (Scottish cases), as removing the leadership of a branch solely because it was won over to a minority position, as censoring members for the way they voted at a National IMG Conference, as censoring members without filing charges against them or giving them a hearing, as en-

gaging in acts of physical provocation?

We do not believe that the leaders of the IMG majority consciously borrowed from the school of Stalinism. We think that they did not grasp the meaning of what they were doing. Nevertheless a most disturbing question remains. How is it to be explained that the majority leadership in a Trotskyist organization fell into such a pattern?

And how could Walter, Pierre, Livio, Petersen, Kurt, Delfin, Pia, and Ghulam reach a position of trying to rationalize mistakes of such magnitude on grounds of the inexperience, immaturity, and lack of capacity of the majority leadership, and—still worse—on grounds that 'minority comrades have behaved in a provocative way in several instances'? Are the victims to be blamed for violations of their rights because they 'provoked' the authorities?

Yes, some very big questions are raised by a careful reading of the evidence assembled by the Fact-Finding Commission. However, they are not of the nature suggested by the statement of Walter, Pierre, Livio, Petersen, Kurt, Delfin, Pia and Ghulam.

The Secretariat unmasked

What we have here is not only a split between totally irreconcilable positions within the IMG—but an 8-5 split in the Secretariat itself.

But what do these highly-principled gentlemen do about it? They seek to gloss it over. As in Ceylon, unpleasant facts are swept under the carpet, political principles ignored and all hands turned to the well-known routine—finding an organizational formula which will allow everything to proceed as before.

Accordingly, the Unified Secretariat combined to send a unanimous letter to the IMG which totally ignored the political questions and principles involved. After exposing a mess of right-wing political developments inside their section—which was dealt with not politically but by manoeuvre and evasion—the revisionist leaders simply appeal to all concerned to work together and avoid political conflict. (Page 4.)

We publish this letter. Rarely can such an unprincipled document have been issued by an international leadership claiming to be Trotskyist to one of its sections:

To the International Marxist Group.

Dear Comrades,
While we have differing

evaluations on the attribution of responsibility reached by the Fact-Finding Commission (see our separate statements attached to the report p.7), we unanimously urge you to implement the following recommendations:

1) that all the charges laid and disciplinary actions taken against tendency comrades, including suspensions and censures, be rescinded. This includes, among others, the censure of Comrade A.H., the charges and actions taken against Comrade A., and the charges and actions taken against the Nottingham minority women comrades.

2) That the IMG leadership make every effort to aid the integration of tendency members into meaningful political activity—especially defence work, the expansion of British circulation of 'Intercontinental Press', and the abortion-contraception campaign—where their specific opinion cannot come into conflict with efficient and enthusiastic engagement. This would help assure a fraternal atmosphere inside the organization in which all minority political contributions are treated as the completely normal exercise of membership rights under the norms of democratic centralism.

3) That the majority assure the tendency that the rules on recruitment of new members be uniformly applied and that the basic organizational units of the IMG be composed in such a way as not to isolate minority comrades within the organization.

4) That within this framework of democratic rights, the IMG minority sincerely respects and applies party discipline and recognizes the right of elected leadership to lead the organization in day-to-day activity, and that it participates in public IMG activities even though there are many with which it disagrees.

The implementation of these recommendations is in the interest of the development of democracy and political clarity and is in the interest of both the IMG as a whole and the Fourth International.

We urge the leaders of the world movement to collaborate in this effort.

The Unified Secretariat
April 16, 1972

TOMORROW: THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY AND IMG.

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.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

REACTIONARY GIGGLES

John Wells, has taken a break from writing weekly lampoons in 'Private Eye' to contribute an article to 'Punch'.

'Punch', an anachronistic hangover from Victoriana, has invited writers and Wells to submit plans for their own political party.

Wells, a buddy of Richard Ingrams and Paul Foot of the International Socialist group, postulates that 'public sympathy is heavily biased in favour of the sheep' (i.e., the working class).

He therefore proposes 'The Capitalist Party of Great Britain'. He sees capitalists as the oppressed majority:

"It is ironic that such oppression should exist in a country that officially calls itself capitalist. Communist countries have no such inhibitions; there red banners hang across the street, proclaiming communist dogma for the edification of backsliders; there a man can look his fellow man in the face, without hiding behind a capitalist silk scarf or bandying with pseudo-liberal jargon and say "I am a communist".

"Is it too much to hope that with the formation of the new Capitalist Party, the equivalent might one day happen here? That a mill-owner, casting aside at last the cringing manners of the liberal, might stand and face his workers and say, "I am a capitalist, I vote capitalist. I live in a huge house far larger than any of yours, and have a larger colour television set. If you go on asking for more money I shall be forced to sell my wife's second car, throw the lot of you out of work, and go and exploit your proletarian colleagues elsewhere!" That brand named products might one day have capitalist propaganda printed on the packet? That one day the Mall might be hung with azure banners saying, "Victory to the Capitalist Party of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

in its heroic struggle to knock down St Paul's Cathedral and build a new multi-storey car park" ...?

"In my imagination I can see it now, "Guilford Capitalist Party Solidarity with US Imperialism and Boo Sucks To The Ghastly Little Men Who Clean The Sewers", Capitalist Matrons covered with medals won in the Class War, tongues stuck proudly out at the walking wounded of the same conflict who gloomily line the route, hoping to curry favour with the occasional austere "Hurrah".

Mr Wells thinks his article is a splendid jape. It's all a giggle.

But his concepts, whether couched in joke language or not, reflect deep reaction. No wonder he and William Rushton, another 'Eye' personality, can be given so much time on television and the capitalist Press. Their so-called 'outrageousness' in fact purveys anti-working class and extremely right-wing views.

His cheque from 'Punch' will be in the post shortly...

THE FRENCH 'LEFT'

The servility of the 'left' groups in France before the electoral machine of the French Communist Party is without limits.

After a recent discussion between two delegations of the CP and the Unified Socialist Party (PSU) of Michel Rocard, PSU national committee member Robert Chapuis complained that the CP had accused the PSU of 'unworthy electoral preoccupations'.

Chapuis then outlined the great principles which were at stake in the inter-party negotiations:

"We are not asking the CP to sign our manifesto or open up negotiations with revolutionary organizations. We only want the CP to recognize that we exist."

ZHUKOV AND THE WAR GLORY CULT

The Commanders — 3: 'Georgi Zhukov, Marshall of the Soviet Union'. Producer Barry Hastings. Director Maurice Kanarech. Tuesday December 5, 9.25 p.m. Play for Today: 'Just Your Luck'. By Peter McDougall. Producer Graeme McDonald. Director Mike Newell. BBC 1, Monday December 4, 9.25 p.m.

The white-washing job in this week's episode of 'The Commanders' series was even more sickening considering the impact of some of the film used—when history was gouged out of unwilling sockets and thrown in dislocated lumps onto the screen.

Georgi Konstantinovich Zhukov forged ahead from his humble peasant beginnings, leaving behind his love of the countryside and harvest to leave home at the age of ten for life in the big city—Moscow.

We observed his hearty career through the brutal NCO training and army glory in World War I under Tsar Alexander III.

Be we were hardly prepared for the quick dip in and out of the 1917 Revolution (a brief but stirring glimpse of Lenin) and the subsequent civil war and building of the Red Army (no mention of Trotsky, without whose tireless energy the Red Army would never have existed or fought in the manner it did).

There was no further mention of Trotsky throughout, therefore. And—hardly surprising—only a couple of sentences were devoted to the purges of the 1930s on the pretext that 'in his memoirs, Zhukov skated swiftly over this passage'. No one deemed it necessary to mention that 350 generals, many of them Zhukov's colleagues, were murdered or imprisoned during these trials.

The commentator did wonder though whether, after Zhukov met Stalin, the general ever brooded over the fact that he was 'now the colleague of the man who had murdered thousands of his own colleagues'.

On the whole it is more credible that Zhukov, arrant bureaucrat and careerist that he was, was more constantly preoccupied with the business of military strategy and his own position. Not without reason, this changed rapidly in the 1920s and 1930s until he reached an eminent spot among Stalin's favourite clique of Marshals who dexterously, and no doubt bloodily, survived the purges and went on to prove himself in the war against Japan in Mongolia in 1939.

As the commentator enthusiastically puts it: 'He had the killer instinct which makes great commanders.'

He was also known to sack on the spot any soldier who showed insubordination and to drive his troops regardless of loss.

But he was a commander of extraordinary ability. And it was in World War II, from the moment he took over from Voroshilov at Leningrad, that he began to reveal his accomplishments.

Although he was purported to have said: 'Stalin is the greatest authority of them all,'



Zhukov, one of the few generals to survive Stalin's purges.

his tactics saved Russia both in the face of the formidable Nazi opposition (Leningrad, Stalingrad, Moscow), and in the face of the crass miscalculations of Stalin himself.

In fact he was to disagree with Stalin on several occasions, despite 'a relationship between the two men which was to shape Russian history' and the 'deep, if wary, mutual respect...forged between them'.

The film was accompanied by Frank Gillard's pomp and circumstance tones. It is a voice resurrected for a very specific purpose—Gillard was a war correspondent and a friend of Montgomery to this day—for literal and figurative flag-waving near militaristic hysteria ('on his shoulders and his alone the fate of Russia depended... the peasant's son against the German Junkers').

It reaches a new peak in the recent cult for nostalgic war-glory and individualistic heroism of the most ominous kind that has been flooding television screens of late.

But it did more—it obscured real issues, such as Zhukov's hostility and criticisms of Stalin which reached a high peak after the war; his dismissal and subsequent reinstatement; his initiation of the intervention into Hungary in 1956; and his swift dismissal yet again by Khrushchev in 1957.

Yet even such a grotesque play at 'history' could not obscure the Russian people themselves, the desperate workers in the streets of Leningrad, the frozen figures on the snowbound wastes of the World War II battlefields—the 20 million who were to

die in that war. And, above them all, the spectre of Bolshevism, yes, and of Trotsky.

The true, living Russian history, in full, uncorrupted and uncensored during the last 60 years, has yet to be seen on any of our screens.

And for nourishment of a different kind, the middle-classes must turn with relief to the sort of travesty of a working-class world that 'Just Your Luck' revealed in Play for Today this week.

The women in curlers, the drunks, the layabout unemployed, the unrelieved squalor and desolation, tricked out in what television drama loves to sport as 'realism', must have confirmed, agreeably for many, the backwardness of the working class, the truth in middle-class despair and apathy and likeminded shruggings of responsibility.

Writer Peter McDougall appears to have abandoned his history with a sort of malevolent disregard of facts and reality, kindling a portrait with such theatrical contempt as to make a mockery of the world about him.

Consequently, the objective situation generally, and in Glasgow in particular (highest unemployment in the country), simply turns the tables on the piece and shows it for a crude charade—a faithless and totally unrealistic sight of a working class, which, with all the innate conservatism and confusion that exists in all of us, has never been stronger, more aware, more disturbed to the point of unavoidable action.

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WHAT WAGE CONTROL MEANS TO LOW-PAID WORKERS

One of the reasons for state control of wages, we were told by the Tory government's Press agencies, was to help the lower-paid worker.

Since the Tories' state control pay laws have come into force, however, the real picture has been somewhat different—in fact, completely the opposite has taken place.

Figures released recently by the Labour Research Department show quite clearly that the majority of workers whose increases have been stopped are among the lower paid. The huge majority are below the TUC's £20 a week minimum.

Among increases already stopped are those due to 350,000 agricultural workers—the present men's minimum wage in agriculture is £16.20 a week; the 93,000 furniture workers' increase of £3.11 to £3.93 a week was settled on October 24, but has now been held up until January 1. Men there earn a minimum of £18.79 a week. Other sections are even worse off as can be seen from Table A below.

As each week of the state pay law passes, more and more workers are beginning to understand just what the Tory 'anti-inflation' package means. The fraudulent nature of the so-called 'prices freeze' now stands well exposed.

But the end of the 90 days mentioned in the new law will not bring an end to the Tory government's attacks on workers' rights to decide their level of wages.

Already Heath has talked about the 'next phase' of his economic policy, which he said was 'to change the expectations' of wage and salary earners. In simple language—wage-cutting.

As far as Heath and British capital are concerned, these attacks are the price of entry into the Common Market on January 1 next year. They must try to resolve their crisis by making the working-class housewife, family, youth and unemployed all carry the cost.

Heath's Christmas wish is to cut 'at a stroke' every unnecessary—and necessary—luxury from the working class.

Table B shows the industries where negotiations are now going ahead for pay increases.

TABLE A AGREEMENTS FROZEN			
Industry	Previous Increase	Increase Due	Present Men's Minimum £
*Agriculture	17.1.72	1.1.73	16.20
*Hollow-ware (b)	16.11.71	6.10.72	13.50
Silk	3.1.72	1.1.73	16.05
*Readymade clo. (c)	13.12.71	20.9.72	14.22
*Dressmaking E & W	6.4.72	31.10.72	14.70
*Wholesale mantle	20.12.71	12.10.72	14.22
*Shirt making	13.12.71	20.9.72	14.50
*Rubber proofed garm. (b)	10.11.71	5.10.72	13.29
*Corsets (c)	3.1.72	30.10.72	14.70
Furniture	1.1.72	1.1.73	18.97
*Retail food E & W	20.3.72	5.9.72	13.20
Retail food Scot.	20.3.72	6.10.72	13.50
*Milk dist. E & W	3.4.72	14.8.72	18.75
*Retail news. Scot. (b)	15.11.71	13.10.72	12.50
*Unlicensed cafes	10.4.72	8.8.72	12.67
Banks		1.1.73	

*Wages council or wages board.
(a) Dates before 6.11.72 are wages council proposals. (b) Assumed to be frozen even though they miss the 12 months only by days. (c) Date given for previous increase is second stage.

TABLE B NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS			
Industry	No. Employed	Prev. Increase	Men's Minimum £
Biscuits	70,000	3.7.72	17.00
*Perambulators		31.1.72	14.40
*Paper box		8.11.71	14.80
*Pin hook and eye		5.6.72	15.00
Gas	58,000	16.1.72	20.10
Water	23,000	5.12.71	20.10
Road haulage		24.5.72	17.70
Multiple grocery	120,000	1.11.71	14.00
General waste		24.1.72	14.00
Hospital ancillaries	250,000	13.12.71	17.48
Teachers	365,000	1.4.72	22.67

*Wages council or wages board.

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BY ALEX MITCHELL

Further information has been uncovered of the Tory plan to establish a presidential-style of rule from No 10 Downing Street.

In previous articles we have shown the steady infiltration of top businessmen into the civil service in Whitehall.

The scheme is being master-minded by the officers of the Lord Rothschild 'Think Tank' which operates directly under Heath.

Before moving to his new job as 'Mr Europe', John Davies introduced a 'political secretary' at the Department of Trade and Industry.

The political nominee was seconded to the department from the Tory Party's Central Office and his salary is paid by the Tories. Nevertheless he resides next to the minister's office in the department and is available to give political advice.

Workers Press has received copies of an internal memorandum which Davies sent around his department explaining the appointment:

Appointment of Special Assistant to Secretary of State

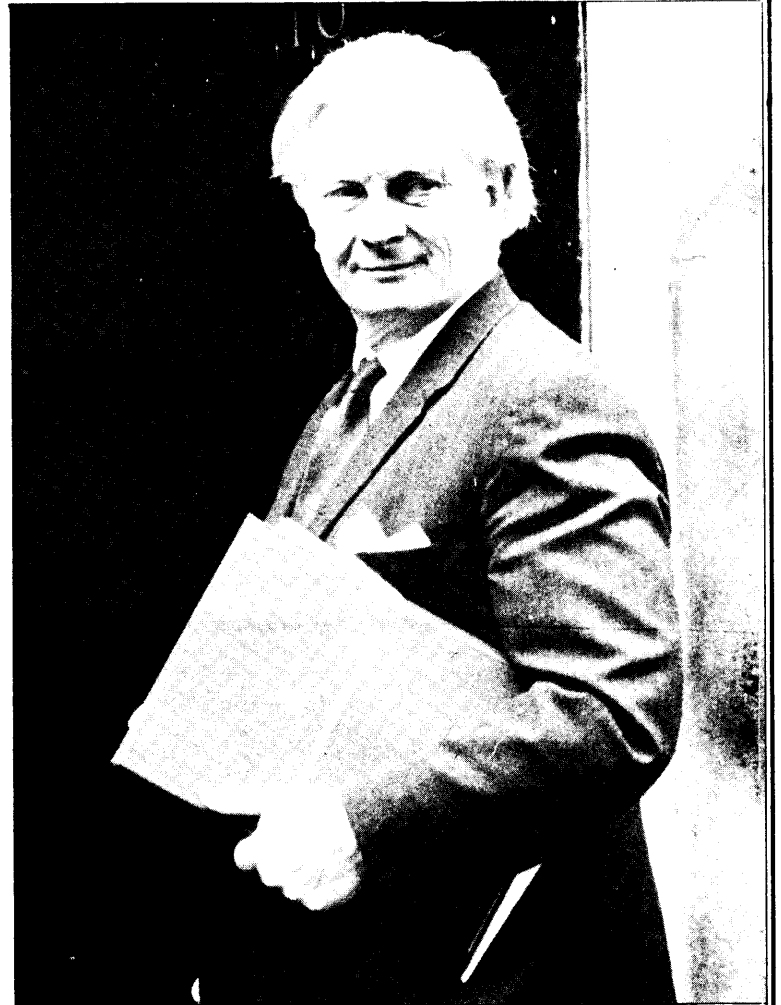
I have decided to appoint a Special Assistant to help me with the political aspects of my work, in particular as it affects the Party outside Parliament. He will keep closely in touch with the Party Organization and will act as a link with it without, of course, displacing my own close relationships.

2 I have chosen Mr John Cope for this appointment and he will take up his duties on September 18. He will be located in my private office.

3 To enable Mr Cope to undertake his task he will need to be closely in touch with the formulation of departmental policies and decision taking. To this end he will work alongside my Principal Private Secretary. He will attend many of the meetings with which I am concerned and will need to be in direct contact with officials in the Department. As a working member of my private office he will have access to official papers without need for special arrangements being made.

On October 23 Mr John D. Grant (Islington) East asked Davies why, in appointing Cope to his Private Office to assist in the political aspects of his work and, in particular, to maintain links with the Conservative Party organization outside parliament, he has issued an instruction that in order to fulfil this commitment Cope should have full access to departmental meetings and officials and to official papers,

TORY PARTY MOVES ITS MEN INTO WHITEHALL



John Davies who has introduced a 'political secretary', seconded from the Tory Party Central Office to give political advice to ministers.

including those containing secret or highly confidential information.

Davies replied: 'I issued a Notice to my senior staff about Mr Cope's appointment to inform them of the nature of his duties and to let them know that he was an authorized person to whom official information could be disclosed. Mr Cope is, of course, bound by the Official Secrets Acts in the same way as other people, whether civil servants or not, to whom official information is entrusted.'

On October 26 Grant asked the Prime Minister how many government Ministers, in addition to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, have special assistants within their departments with salaries paid by the Conservative Party but with official facilities available to them, including access to official papers, in political work affecting the Conservative Party outside parliament.

Heath replied: 'Two, Sir, and there is an adviser who serves more than one Minister. In general, they assist Ministers with the broad political aspects of their work.'

The conclusion to be drawn from Davies' memo and the parliamentary replies is that the Tory ministers have brought their Central Office to Whitehall. Davies has served notice on senior civil servants that they must disclose information to a man paid by the Tory Party to serve in the ministry.

This political nominee will be privy to secret information withheld from the Press, the public and even subordinates in the department. He is not subject to the disciplinary powers of the ministry and it can be appreciated that because he is the minister's right hand man he will be ordering civil servants to carry out duties which will serve the interests of the Tory Party.

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REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-10.02 Schools. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.00 Royal Clarence Yard. 2.15 Yoga. 2.45 Film: 'Another Shore'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Knockout quiz. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 10.00 Homes of history. 10.10 The last stand. 10.40 Whicker within a woman's world. 11.10 Short story. 11.35 Better driving. 12.05 London. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Date with Danton. 10.30 News. 10.33 Darts final. 12.20 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 10.00 Torch. 10.15 Tricks of the good cook's trade. 10.35 Guideline. 11.05 Royal Clarence Yard. 11.15 Who needs horses? 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Film: 'Spare a Copper'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Man of the South. 11.00 News. 11.05 Theatre of stars. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30-10.02 London. 11.15 Time to remember. 11.40 Survival. 12.05 London. 1.00 Plus Tam. 1.30 London. 2.00 Farmhouse kitchen. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Film: 'Made in Heaven'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Shirley's world. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'Shock Treatment'. 12.20 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 41 as above except: 6.01-6.22 Y dydd.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 as 41 plus: 8.00-8.30 Yr wythnos. 8.30-9.00 Stanley Baxter show.

HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West.

ANGLIA: 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Saint. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Journey to the unknown. 11.30 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.10 A testing job. 11.35 Better driving. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 2.00 Shirley's world. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Congratulations It's A Boy'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. Weather.

ULSTER: 12.05 London. 1.33 News. 1.35 Spectrum. 2.05 Dick Van Dyke. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Film: 'The Ship That Died of Shame'. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.15 Smith family. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.40 Film: 'The Admirable Crichton'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 Let them live. 9.55 Helicopter holy land. 10.50 Dick Van Dyke. 11.15 Great lakes. 12.05 London. 3.00 Film: 'Holy Matrimony'. 4.25 London. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.25 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Yoga. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 Schools. 11.55 Paint book. 12.05 London. 2.30 Film: 'The Lamp Still Burns'. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Search for Bridey Murphy'.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 Let them live. 9.55 Helicopter holy land. 10.50 Dick Van Dyke. 11.15 Great lakes. 12.05 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 Film: 'Who's Minding the Store?'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.00 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the press. 11.00 Spyforce. 11.55 News. 12.10 Greatest fights of the century. 12.25 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 10.05 First principles. 10.50 Castle of the Clan. 11.15 Sky hawks. 11.40 Phoenix five. 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 Film: 'Paper Man'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 Name of the game.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Dick Van Dyke. 11.30 Skippy. 12.02 News. 12.05 London. 3.05 Film: 'Dreamboat'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Countrywise. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Meditation.



In John McGrath's 'The Bouncing Boy' (director Maurice Hatton) tonight's Play for Today on BBC1, actress Patricia Brake plays Meriel, a mother in labour. Here she is seen with her actual newborn daughter Hannah.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.

7.30 NEWSROOM. Weather.

8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. Never Trust an Honest Man.

8.55 CALL MY BLUFF.

9.25 SHOW OF THE WEEK:

SCOTT ON THE PERMISSIVE SOCIETY. Terry Scott.

10.10 AMERICA. Inventing a Nation.

11.00 NEWS ON 2. Weather.

11.05 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

BBC 1

10.30 Steam horse. 11.05 Schools. 12.00 Profit by control. 12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Along the trail. 1.45 Look, stranger. 2.05 The young idea. 2.30 Automata. 2.40 Sea sanctuary. 3.13 Schools. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Crystal Tipps. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 The long chase. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 YOUR REGION TONIGHT.

6.20 QUIZ BALL.

6.45 Z CARS. Hobo.

7.35 THE LAST APOLLO. The Last Landing on the Moon.

8.00 PANORAMA. After the Moon.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.

9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'BOUNCING BOY'. By John McGrath. With Norman Eshley, Patricia Brake.

10.35 MASTERMIND.

11.05 LATE NIGHT NEWS.

11.10 IRELAND. Home Rule is Rome Rule!

11.35 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.02 Wildlife theatre. 10.25 Cimarron strip. 11.35 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Larry the lamb. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr. and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'Pardners'. 4.25 The Black Arrow. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 And mother makes three. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 DOCUMENTARY 'BUNNY'. Bunny is a little boy of five who has suffered severe brain damage from birth and is undergoing a radical form of therapy.

9.00 ARMCHAIR THEATRE: 'THE STUMBLING BLOCK'. Ronald Radd, Avis Bunnage, David Cook.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 LONGSTREET. The Shape of Nightmares. James Franciscus.

11.30 DRIVE-IN.

12.00 SIX CENTURIES OF SONG.

SLL LECTURES

BARNESLEY

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.

HULL

Wednesday December 13

The capitalist crisis

Wednesday January 10

Stalinism and Trotskyism

Wednesday January 24

Marxist theory and the revolutionary party

WHITE HART HOTEL
Alfred Gelder Street
(near Drypool Bridge)
8 p.m.

Shoe price rise warning

THE PRICE of shoes and other leather goods will definitely go up, it was announced on Saturday.

After a meeting of the International Council of Tanners, which represents firms in 20 capitalist countries, their president, Sir Kenneth Newton, said: 'People in all countries will have to pay more for footwear and other products made of leather. Manufacturers are powerless to halt rising costs.' He claimed that suppliers had

taken protectionist measures to keep raw materials off the market, thus forcing up prices. Rising living standards had also pushed up prices.

In Britain the industry is dominated by Sir Charles Clore's British Shoe Corporation. It accounts for 22 per cent of all sales and controls 12 per cent of all the retail outlets.

Steel: Cynical betrayal

THE TORIES were accused of a 'cynical betrayal of the British steel industry' by Labour spokesman on fuel and power, Eric Varley at the weekend. He said the expected government statement on the industry's future would not approve 'specific projects which mean life and death to steel communities fighting for survival'.

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

Time-study rise frozen

TIME-STUDY engineers at CAV's Acton, north London, plant have had pay increases agreed months ago frozen by management.

They are now being told they must implement changes in the manual workers' pay. The men concerned are members of TASS, the technical and supervisory section of the engineers' union.

Time-study engineers are saying that the management action is a provocation and that their claim is identical to that of the Acton site's 2,700 manual workers.

CORRECTION

In the article 'Renegades in Action—the IMG' on Saturday, the statement that 'the IMG leaders had censured a member of their Socialist Workers' Party minority tendency...' should have read 'the IMG leaders had censured a member of their minority tendency...'

All Trades Unions Alliance MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices

Force the Tories to Resign

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 Decem-

ber 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'.

Willesden: Thursday December 14, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, Willesden High Road, NW10. 'No fines on the unions! No state control of wages!'

CROYDON: Thursday December 14 (Please note date change) 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road. '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

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

DECEMBER TOTAL STANDS AT £359.22

THE RESPONSE so far has been good, but still not good enough. This month we are asking for an extra effort. Help us raise our £1,750 target before Xmas.

Every day Workers Press is needed to give a lead in the fight. The decision to fine the AUEW £50,000 not only angers all engineering workers, but must rouse them into action against this government. Our paper must show the way forward to make this government resign.

Help us, therefore, with a special campaign to raise December's Fund early. We have 14 days to Xmas. Let's press ahead as fast as possible. Post all donations immediately to:

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

Heady time all round

MEMBERS of the Roundhead Association from London, the Midlands, Tyneside and Yorkshire, met in sober Cromwellian garb on Saturday at the King's Manor, York, for:

'A conventicle to condemn pagan roistering and the excesses of Yuletide.' The meeting opened with prayer, but moved on to a licensed buffet. A good time was had by all.

District committee condemned for taking stewards' credentials

ENGINEERING union branches in Coventry are continuing to send in resolutions opposing the AUEW district committee's decision to withdraw the shop steward's credentials of Chrysler worker John Worth.

Coventry 8 AUEW 'deplores the district committee decision at a time of Tory attacks on the union and considers that the decision was taken in contravention of Rule 20'. AUEW Rule 20 states that if any member has charges against another member, they must be put in writing.

Worth's credentials were taken from him by the casting vote of Jim Griffin, district chairman and National Committee member. Worth's supporters allege that this was done on the basis of oral attacks made on him by Duncan Simpson, chairman of Chrysler shop stewards,

and Ray Wilde, AUEW convenor. Similar resolutions demanding the reversal of the DC decision have been passed by Coventry 49 and Warwick 2 branches. Coventry 25 urges that 'unless Chrysler recognizes Worth, all AUEW stewards will refuse to negotiate'.

**Two Labour councils in danger
Commissioners move on Wales**

BY PHILIP WADE OUR HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

TORY-APPOINTED Housing Commissioners will set up office at Merthyr Tydfil and Bedwas and Machen in South Wales today. These £5000-a-year government hirelings will have powers to enforce the 'fair rents' Act.

In line with the Tories' whole trend towards preparing the apparatus of the corporate state, both these Labour councils will be stripped of all their rent control powers.

And any councillor or officer who tries to obstruct the Commissioners can be fined £400 under the Housing Finance Act. They are required by law to co-operate in every way with non-elected appointees who will attempt to enforce £1 rent increases as soon as possible.

Merthyr, which has 6,350 council tenants and Bedwas and Machen, with their 1,700 tenants, are the only two Labour councils in Wales still defying the 'fair rents' Act. Two weeks ago they were placed in default by the government and the Housing Commissioners were given their jobs last Friday.

The former director for Wales of the Department of the Environment, Geraint Walters, will represent Merthyr and the former regional secre-

tary of the National Coal Board, Edward Lewis, will take over Bedwas and Machen. Both men have enormous powers under the Housing Finance Act if the Labour councils still refuse to implement the Act.

First, the councils can be required to pay the Commissioner's wages. They can also lose their housing subsidies. The Commissioners can evict tenants. And when the ordinary audit of the accounts takes place and a deficit is found—which it will be—the Commissioner will have the duty to surcharge the Labour councillors. If the Bill is more than £500 per councillor, they would then automatically lose their seats on the council for five years.

In effect, therefore, the Commissioner becomes in person the council and is answerable to no one save the Tory Secretary of State for Wales, Peter Thomas.

Alderman Albert John, vice-chairman of Merthyr's housing committee, said about the Commissioner: 'We are definitely going to go on fighting. Many

of the tenants are so incensed in Merthyr that they will refuse to pay the increased rents.'

Miners at Merthyr Vale colliery have already demanded action throughout South Wales to defend tenants threatened with evictions.

But the only way in which the Commissioners are going to be sent packing is when the Tory government is made to

TENANTS and trade unionists plan to demonstrate in Conisborough, Yorkshire, next Sunday in support of the Labour councillors defaulted by the Tory government for defying the 'fair rents' Act. The non-implementation policy stands on the basis of 7 votes to 6 margin.

resign through the mobilization of the entire working class.

With surcharges coming in Clay Cross, Derbyshire, and Camden, London, and Conisborough, Yorkshire, Labour councils already in default, such a perspective is urgently required.

A returning Labour government would be forced by the movement to repeal the Housing Finance Act and remove the Commissioners, wiping out any surcharges inflicted upon councillors.

Cold store jobs: Major decision by Board

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

THE NATIONAL Dock Labour Board will decide today on the future of registered dockers who work for Bermondsey Cold Storage on London's South Bank.

By virtue of a high court judgement given last Thursday the dockers could be sacked because their work has now been declared non-dock work.

Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, and two other judges upheld an Industrial Tribunal ruling that none of the work done at the cold store could be classed as dock work.

Mr Anthony Diamond for the National Dock Labour Board told the three judges last week:

'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 dockers.'

At a previous hearing the Industrial Tribunal had held that the work was not dock work because the goods were not 'cargo' and the premises, which were one mile from the Thames, were not 'in the vicinity' of the docks. The docks board contested this claim and took an appeal before Widgery in the Queen's Bench Division Court.

In his judgement Widgery said the tribunal had correctly directed itself as to the law and had decided that the handling of goods at the store could not be regarded as ancillary to, or in the broad sense part of, their carriage by sea.

At present nine registered dockers are employed at Bermondsey's in Galleywall Road handling home-produced goods and imported goods which arrived at the depot.

Following this morning's NDLB decision shop stewards will hold a meeting to discuss the situation.

If the company does decide to sack them, a strike seems almost certain. The Bermondsey men will seek backing from other dockers in the Port of London and the employers could find themselves facing another Midland Cold Storage-type picket.

Terry McCarthy, a leading steward from the Nine Elms depot, told Workers Press that there should be a meeting of all stewards to consider the implications of the Widgery judgement. And Ted Hedges, another docker employed at Nine Elms, said the ruling was further evidence of the class rule of the courts.

The employers are strengthening their legal noose on the dockers, he added.



THE YOUNG Socialists' annual Leeds Bazaar held on Saturday was a record-breaker. Each year this event has been bigger and better, culminating this year in a massive sale of over 5,000 programmes. More goods and more customers made this lively occasion the most successful the YS have had in Leeds. People flocked in throughout the afternoon to buy bargains at the groceries, clothes, toys and many other stalls. Various side-stalls were busy for the whole five hours.

The success of the Leeds bazaar—like the London one held two weeks ago—means that the Young Socialists will be even better equipped to face the struggles that lie ahead in 1973.

No Tory freeze here!

SEVENTY-SIX per cent of Britain's company directors earn more than £5,000, according to a survey conducted by the monthly business magazine 'The Director'.

Forty-eight per cent had an income of between £5,000 and £10,000 a year while 28 per cent exceeded £10,000.

The survey found that the average boardroom idler is a keen golfer with two cars who enjoys dining out at expensive restaurants.

Fifty-two per cent said their main hobby was gardening, 21 per cent liked collecting wine and 17 per cent were antique

collectors. Half of the 3,000 directors interviewed in the survey take two holidays each year. Sixty-three per cent of them went abroad and the most popular resorts were in the Mediterranean.

Four per cent spent up to £1,000 to travel to the West Indies to get away from it all.

Sixty-five per cent of them own a coloured television, 51 per cent own a deep freeze, 50 per cent have an automatic dishwasher, 44 per cent have expensive hi-fi sets and 8 per cent have a swimming pool.

Furthermore, 17 per cent own a holiday home in the UK or abroad, 14 per cent own a yacht or powerboat and 1 per cent own their own aircraft. Sixty per cent own two cars and a further 19 per cent more than two.

The 'Financial Times' is the most regularly read daily news-

paper; 68 per cent read the 'FT', 52 per cent read the 'Daily Telegraph' and 33 per cent read 'The Times'.

The average age of directors is falling. A quarter are now under 44 years old; most—62 per cent—are between 45 and 64.

The findings of the 'The Director's' survey come one day after 'The Times' editorial which claims that Britain has now become the country of the 'mass bourgeoisie'.

According to Saturday's large editorial by editor, Mr William Rees Mogg, there is no longer a working-class majority and a minority of ruling-class exploiters. Everyone has become 'middle class'.

If his assessment is correct, we should all be living a modest peg or two below the life-style of the directors described above. Are you?

North London and Lambeth Councils of Action call on tenants, housewives, trade unionists, youth and unemployed.

**Fight rising prices!
Make the Tory government resign!**

**DEMONSTRATE NEXT SATURDAY
December 16**

March through Brixton shopping centre
Assemble 2 p.m.
opposite Brixton Town Hall
Meeting:
Clapham Baths
Clapham Manor Street
4 p.m.

March through Wood Green and Tottenham
Assemble 2 p.m.
opposite Wood Green Town Hall
Meeting:
Downhills Park School
3 p.m.