

WORKERS PRESS

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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By David Maude Our Industrial Correspondent

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The time has come for the building of a mass movement to force this government to resign.

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**RENTS: Rent rise
Labourites lose
nominations . . . p.3**

**PRICES: Meat 4p
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this weekend . . . p.12**

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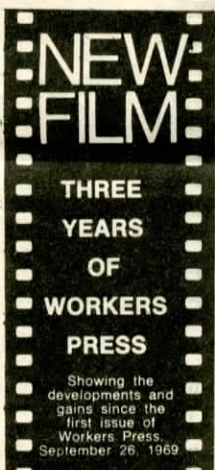
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Socialist Labour League

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

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Assembly Hall
Digbeth Civic Hall

Speakers:

G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)

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US unlikely to heed PM Trade war will tear us apart Heath warns

BY JOHN SPENCER

TORY PREMIER Edward Heath has warned that the capitalist countries will 'just tear each other apart' unless they sort out their trade differences. 'We shall cut each other's throat,' he said in an interview taped for the Canadian broadcasting corporation and transmitted on Thursday night.

'There will be the development of protectionism and this will weaken the security of the western world as well,' Heath said.

The Tory leader said the economic future of the western world depends on three large trade blocs: the European Common Market, the United States and Japan.

Their task, he said, was to work out international trading arrangements that are 'agreeable to all of us, and in which we can all share, including Canada.'

'Unless we really do that—and it will require political and technical expertise—we shall just tear each other apart,' Heath said.

Wide-ranging trade negotiations between the three blocs are due to begin in the New Year. The US has repeatedly made clear it will demand that the other countries accept a massive increase in American exports.

The US wants a 25 per cent increase in imports of its products by the EEC and Japan, and to get this result it is threatening punitive tariffs unless the other countries toe the line.

The latest US balance of payments figures show, in the words of the 'Washington Post' that 'this country's international trade position is deteriorating'.

This will certainly stiffen Nixon's stance in the forthcoming talks. For Heath to talk of



HEATH . . . It will weaken security

Rumania signs IMF documents

RUMANIA has become the first member of COMECON, the Soviet-led economic bloc, to join the International Monetary Fund set up to stabilize capitalist currencies.

Yugoslavia is already a member, but does not belong to COMECON. Rumania will have to pay for admission by depositing about £80m with the Fund, a quarter of it in gold.

In return it will be able to use the drawing rights under the Fund and will become more attractive for trade and investment by capitalist firms. To get the full advantage of this it will have to join the World Bank.

Rumanian representatives signed the IMF articles of agreement at the State Department in Washington.

MONEY WORDED

working out terms 'agreeable to all of us' is little short of absurd.

All efforts to patch together an agreement through international negotiation on monetary and trade questions since August 15 last year have failed.

In fact, Heath's statement reflected the bitter feeling against the United States among the European bourgeoisie. Referring to American demands that the EEC slash its tariffs on farm produce, he said:

'Europe now feels that it is entitled to a healthy and prosperous agriculture just like anybody else. Until there is a recognition of that, I don't think that one can really get a proper understanding of how you get a trade agreement negotiated.'

'I mean it doesn't help to say that the United States is the knight in shining armour, and we're all protectionist. The United States is highly protectionist and Canada knows that perfectly well.'

'Peace' recedes: War hots up

US bombers pounded North Vietnam in the heaviest raids of the war as peace negotiators, Dr Henry Kissin-

ger and Le Duc Tho, returned to their respective capitals.

The B52s dropped over 1,500 tons of bombs on the demilitarized zone and the North Vietnamese panhandle.

Rocket attacks were launched on bases around Saigon within 24 hours of the blowing up of a giant ammunition dump only six miles from the capital. The main attack was on the Bien Hoa air base. The next target may be the capital itself where there is growing nervousness.

With the chances of peace receding President Thieu has become more insistent that his regime remains in command of South Vietnam. He was visited by American ambassador Ellsworth Bunker who informed him of the results of Kissinger's latest round of talks.

No doubt the President was assured that whatever the Americans have been saying publicly, he can count on all the military and other aid necessary to keep his corrupt and crumbling regime together.

Coalition attacks Ceylon youth and attempts to muzzle the Press

THE SRI LANKA (Ceylon) coalition government headed by Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike has begun a new wave of arrests among the country's youth.

Over 150 young people have been arrested in the past few days on the pretext that they were plotting an attack on the capital, Colombo.

The armed forces have been put on the alert and deployed to guard strategic installations and prisons.

Detention camps, where over 5,000 youth are already held, have been placed under heavier guard.

At the same time the government is pushing ahead with its plans to muzzle the Press and take permanent dictatorial powers.

The Press Council Bill now on its way through parliament is one of the measures designed to strengthen the government's hand against all opposition.

The Bill has been pushed through regardless of an appeal to the Constitutional Court, whose members have resigned in protest.

The continuing unrest among the youth has the same causes as the brutally suppressed April 1971 uprising.

There are thousands of educated youth who have no possibility of finding a job. And village youth come to the towns to seek work which is not there.

They are condemned to rot in the city streets. When they revolt against this situation the government brings in modern weaponry to crush them.

Sri Lanka's jails are still full to bursting point with young men and women arrested after last year's revolt.

They are being tried in batches before special commissions which assume they are guilty unless they can prove their innocence.

KGB action against Opposition

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

IN ITS latest drive to smash the Soviet opposition the political police (KGB) has arrested dozens of suspects and called in many more for questioning. The aim is to hold key figures from the different sections of the opposition movement and to demoralize others with threats of arrest, confinement in psychiatric hospitals or deportation to labour camps.

Others, like Valeri Chalidze and Zhores Medvedev, have been induced or permitted to leave the country to get them out of the way.

Facing a difficult economic situation and actual food shortages following a disastrous harvest, the bureaucracy considers it necessary to deal with any potential pole of attraction for mass discontent. Oppositionists are presented as being in league with enemies of the Soviet state abroad.

At the same time, the improved relations between the Soviet Union and the US and other capitalist countries mean that the KGB is now freer to carry out a clamp down. As Workers Press warned last June, the Nixon visit and the preliminaries for a European Security Conference 'make the position of the opposition not less but more precarious'.

As we said at that time: 'This applies particularly to the revolutionary communists who represent as much a menace to the bourgeoisie in the west as to the bureaucracy.' The support of the capitalists is assured for the measures which



YAKIR . . . Not the real me

the KGB is taking against this wing of the opposition which wants to return to the traditions of Bolshevism and Leninism.

One of the first victims of the latest clamp down was Pyotr Yakir, son of one of the Red Army generals shot on Stalin's orders in 1937. From the age of 14 he spent 17 years in a concentration camp, emerging with a burning hatred of Stalinism.

Because Yakir was one of the leaders of the revolutionary trend in the opposi-

tion, he earned the special enmity of the KGB, which now claims that he has given them information about other oppositionists. About 25 people who had contact with Yakir at the Institute of History in Moscow, where he once worked, or in other places, have been pulled in for questioning.

It is not sure that the KGB has succeeded in breaking Yakir's will by the same means used in Stalin's day ('beat, beat and beat again', as Khrushchev put it). His friends claim that he told them during a prison visit that while not giving up the struggle, he had been shown material establishing that other dissidents were, willingly or not, being used by anti-Soviet forces abroad.

Before his arrest Yakir told a foreign reporter: 'If they beat me, I will say anything. I know that from my former experience in the camps. But you know it will not be the real me speaking.'

The KGB would like to stage another show trial in which they could use Yakir as a state witness to discredit the opposition as a whole. This could be used by the bureaucracy to divert attention from the economic crisis now gripping the Soviet Union.

While tough measures are being used against the left wing of the opposition, the 'liberals' are being treated in a different way. Some of them have already been driven into silence by fear of reprisals. Others have been permitted to leave the country, like the physicist Valeri Chalidze (See yesterday's Workers Press).

Chalidze was allowed to go to the US to lecture, but after a short time his pass-

port was confiscated and he was deprived of Soviet citizenship. He was a founder of the Human Rights Committee, which was always careful to stay within the letter of the law.

By leaving the country he obviously laid himself open to the measure which has now been taken against him. If he asks for political asylum in the US or another country, it will be said that he has gone over to the enemies of the Soviet Union.

It was this danger which novelist Alexandr Solzhenitsyn understood when he refused to go to Stockholm to collect his Nobel prize or to accept other invitations to leave the Soviet Union. The experience of other exiled dissidents shows that they became completely ineffective once outside the Soviet Union.

The KGB's repression, although it has undoubtedly deterred some dissidents, has not been able to stamp out the opposition. Despite orders from the Communist Party's Central Committee that the opposition's 'Chronicle of Current Affairs' should be suppressed, another issue has recently been distributed in the underground.

Over 50 imprisoned oppositionists staged a hunger strike from December 5 to 10 and a silent vigil was held in Moscow's Pushkin Square to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the United Nations.

If the 'liberals' have not been completely cowed, it may be assumed that the revolutionary opposition is continuing its activities in the teeth of the repression.

Miners march to support Conisborough rebels

SEVERAL Yorkshire branches of the National Union of Mineworkers have pledged support for tomorrow's demonstration in Conisborough to back up the councillors defying the 'fair rents' Act.

Last Monday the district auditor began his investigation into the council's housing accounts, following the default order made against Conisborough by the Tory government.

The seven Labour councillors in opposition to the rent

increases could find themselves landed with the bill for all the rent which should have been collected since October 2.

Speakers at tomorrow's rally include Lawrence Daly, general secretary of the NUM, and Frank Allaun, 'left'-talking Labour MP from Salford.

Conisborough council meets on Monday to review the situation. With a majority of only one in favour of non-implementation, it is not clear what the result of the meeting could be.

Fighting the Tories' rent Act

Rent rise Labourites refused nomination

BY PHILIP WADE OUR HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

THE REMOVAL of right-wing north Derbyshire Labour councillors who voted for the Tories 'fair rents' Act is an example to be followed up throughout Britain, says the leader of Clay Cross council.

Arthur Wellon was one of those who last weekend led the fight to withhold nominations for next year's elections from 11 Chesterfield councillors who voted for implementation of the Housing Finance Act.

The decision, taken by the general management committee of north Derbyshire Labour Party was narrowly upheld, despite a rearguard right-wing struggle on the committee.

Cllr Wellon's own council at Clay Cross is unanimously opposed to the Act and the 11 councillors there are close to being surcharged by the district auditor.

'What the Labour Party most needs is a good shake-up throughout the country,' he told me. 'What we've done should be taken up throughout the country.'

He contrasted their decision with that of the Labour Party's home policy committee which earlier this week decided that a future Labour government could not be asked to back up councillors fined or surcharged in fighting the Tory Rent Act.

'That was not just a stab in the back for us, but the whole movement, because in doing that they

overturned the conference decision,' he said.

'I suppose these 11 will appeal to the NEC. But the ironic thing is Transport House asked us to be the temporary co-ordinating committee to organize for the new district council elections next year.

'They tried to complain to us they didn't know what was coming to them. One told us how he'd been on the council for so many years, doing all those good things.

'One said we should take all this into account. And then he said he'd been "acting for the good of the tenants". But all this was a smokescreen for lack of principles,' added Cllr Wellon.

'All the time they were

telling us they wouldn't implement, Chesterfield had advertised for people to come and work out the rent rebates. Then in October they put the rents up £1.09.

'Then one or two councillors seeing this happening went round addressing tenants' associations, saying they shouldn't pay the rent and the council wouldn't evict them if that happened.

'Then we found out that Chesterfield council did not even have a motion down saying they wouldn't evict the tenants.

'All they were doing therefore was giving the tenants flannel. Well, they won't be able to do that from now on because we've put the skids under them.

'These people weren't politicians but administrators.'



Arthur Wellon . . . No more flannel

Huge loss of jobs in London

AT LEAST 177,000 workers lost jobs in manufacturing industry in London in the four years from 1966 to 1970, an MP revealed yesterday.

Labour MP for Acton, west London, Mr Nigel Spearing, called in the House of Commons for an urgent investigation into the social and economic consequences of the 'present free market' in land and property in greater London.

'Manufacturing industries have been leaving London at an enormous speed,' he said.

Jobs in manufacturing industries in the area decreased from 1.4 million in 1966 to 1.2 million in 1970—177,000 jobs had been lost.

This total—80,000 in engineering trades alone—represented the equivalent of perhaps two, or even three, decent-sized provincial towns, he said.

Spearing was opening his private members' debate calling attention to 'the dangers of unbalanced growth and development in greater London to the life and livelihood of its citizens'.

He pointed out that inner London was losing population very fast indeed. From a maximum of 4.5 million it was now down to 3 million.

Many office sites, he added, were being kept off the market to keep rents artificially high. House prices and rents were directly linked to this and, as a result, there was a high turnover of population in many areas of inner London.

Large numbers of people, particularly the young, were moving out to areas where house prices were lower.



Heal IRA split—call

A CALL to end the three-year-old split between the Official and Provisional wings of Sinn Fein will be made at the Officials' conference in Dublin this weekend.

A resolution from the Wicklow branch calls on the Officials to 'stop bickering' with the Provos and for all Republicans to come together 'in the fight against the common enemy'.

It says 'petty arguments' waste time and energy and play into the hands of their enemies.

Another motion, from Armagh, urges the Official leadership to seek contact with working-class leaders of militant Protestant groups, to develop an organization based on democratic workers' control.

The same resolution expresses concern at the 'increasing drift towards a sectarian civil war in the north'.

Many of the 319 resolutions deal with social and economic needs, north and south of the border.

Workers at the CAV factory in West London were among many in the last few days who have voted to strike for the day on Monday against the fines imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court on their union the AUEW. Theirs was a significant vote in view of the vote at CAV Sudbury to return to work. James Goad, the man who took the union to court, worked at the Sudbury plant.

Stoke Newington 8

March to jail over sentences

By OUR OWN REPORTERS

THE STOKE NEWINGTON Eight Defence Group has organized a march on Wormwood Scrubs today to protest against the savage ten-year sentences on four members of the group.

The march will start at Shepherd's Bush Green at 1 p.m. and a public meeting will follow in the Denbigh Hall, Denbigh Road.

The four who were jailed are Hilary Creek, Anna Mendleson, John Barker and James Greenfield, described by the police as associates of the 'Angry Brigade'.

One of the aims of the march is to protest against the conditions in Britain's prisons.

A leaflet says: 'All prisoners need our support, especially local support. We can help them fight back against their conditions by letting them know we are in solidarity with their demands.'

● Gartree prison in Leicestershire has again erupted in unrest. Sections of the inmates went on hunger strike yesterday and the Press claimed that another escape attempt has been foiled.

'Bank won't talk' complaint by registered union

THE NATIONAL Union of Bank Employees is protesting that the Bank of England refuses to get round the table with it to talk about union representation.

NUBE says it already has a number of members among the Bank staff and has been carrying on a vigorous recruiting campaign, but complains that all efforts to arrange a meeting with management have failed.

The union also says it has

been denied facilities to meet staff and put its case.

As a registered union under the Industrial Relations Act and one of the leading advocates of a breakaway from the TUC, NUBE feels somewhat aggrieved by this rough treatment. The Bank is acting contrary to the spirit of the Act, it squeals.

If the union continues to crawl before the Tories, however, things can only get rougher.

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WHEN THE CP SUPPORTED THE TORIES

BY CHARLES PARKINS

The Labour peer Lord Brockway — former MP Fenner Brockway, member for Eton and Slough, and chairman of the Movement for Colonial Freedom — was the guest of honour at a reception held in Lancaster recently by the local Constituency Labour Party.

The occasion was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1922 General Election, when Brockway stood as the first Labour candidate ever to contest Lancaster.

Among the old Labour Party members who gathered to swap reminiscences, some recalled the second occasion on which Brockway stood for election in Lancaster.

This was in the wartime by-election of October 1941. The Labour Party at this time had entered a political 'truce' with the Tories and did not contest the Lancaster election. But Brockway was at this period in his career a member of the Independent Labour Party, and stood as an ILP candidate.

The Tory candidate in the by-election was Brig-Gen Fitzroy Maclean. He was supported in his campaign by messages from Churchill calling on the electors to vote for him to show their support for the government.

An Independent also stood in the election, a naval Lieutenant Ross, who had Liberal support. He said he was standing to oppose the stifling of political discussion during the war and also to demand more aid for the Soviet Union.

20 per cent

The result of the Lancaster election was that the Tories held the seat, while the Independent candidate came second. Brockway came bottom of the poll, but he did succeed in obtaining more than 5,000 votes, almost 20 per cent.

This is more amazing when we consider that Lancaster was not a traditionally 'left-wing' constituency and the war was on, but that the ILP candidature ran into particular opposition and obstacles. The local Trades Hall management committee, for instance, refused to allow the ILP to use its premises for a committee room. There was also an attempted smear campaign to suggest that Brockway wanted 'Peace with Hitler' at any price.

The Brockway campaign was assisted by visits from Maxton, the well-known ILP leader, to speak at his meetings, and another speaker was Bro. Ballantyne, a leading member of the National Union of Railwaymen.

The 'pro-Hitler' smear was answered in a letter to the local paper, the 'Lancaster Guardian', on October 3, by a reader who said that, in fact, the ILP candidate stood for defeating fascism, but also for defeating capitalism which had given it birth. He added that they believed that only a socialist government in Britain could be a true ally of the Soviet Union and could also appeal to the German workers to overthrow Hitler.

In the course of his campaign, Brockway produced a

letter sent to him from east London ARP workers, thanking him for his help in getting them a 72-hour maximum week and wishing him success. He also produced a letter from Soviet Ambassador Maisky, thanking him for donating the royalties from a book of his to the Soviet Red Cross.

Nevertheless, the 'pro-Hitler' smear continued to be used. And those who were most assiduous in spreading it, not only at Lancaster but nationally, were the Stalinists of the British Communist Party. Having fully supported Stalin's GPU in its colossal smear campaigns against the former leaders of the Bolshevik Party at the time of the Moscow Trials, the British Stalinists showed that they could fully emulate their master when it came to vilification and unscrupulous attacks on their opponents on the left in this country.

Having previously correctly characterized the war as imperialist—and used this to defend the Soviet-Nazi pact—the Stalinists turned, once the Soviet Union had been invaded, into the most fervent supporters both of the war and of Churchill.

Outraged by the fact that the ILP was daring to oppose the Tories, in however limited a way, they denounced both Brockway and Maxton as 'Trotskyists'.

(Bearing in mind the previous record of these centrists, their opposition to the Fourth International and their inclination to compromise with Stalinism, the description was ludicrous; but perhaps some of those centrists who are flirting with the CP today might care to reflect on Stalinist 'gratitude'!) Then they went a little further, and coined the slogan 'A vote for Brockway is a vote for Hitler'.

Only a matter of months after their policy change, and while the 'Daily Worker' was still banned by the Tory government, the Communist Party members turned up to smash an ILP election meeting in Lancaster, and then went along to offer their help to the Tory, Brig-Gen Maclean.

Lancaster in 1941 was not an isolated incident. It was the first of a number of wartime by-elections in which the Communist Party gave full support to the Tories.

Again, in Cardiff, the following year, when Brockway put up for the ILP, the Stalinists called on workers to vote Tory, and used the 'pro-Hitler' slander against Brockway.

Patriotism

Around the time of the Lancaster by-election, there was a meeting held in the city on the topic of helping the Russian war effort. The speaker, Albert Inskip, of the 'Russia Today' movement, criticized in passing a statement by a leading Tory, Moore-Brabazon, who had declared that British policy should be to 'let Germany and Russia bleed each other to death, and destroy each other', after which Britain could emerge as the dominant power in Europe.

Undoubtedly, this was how a number of Tories were thinking at the time. Churchill himself was notorious for his hatred of the Soviet



Lord Brockway, who in 1941 stood as an Independent Labour Party candidate in the Lancaster by-election. He was faced with a combined opposition of Stalinists and Tories.

Union and of communism. Yet the following year, in 1942, when there was a by-election in Wallasey, and Moore-Brabazon was the Tory, the Communist Party in that part of Merseyside publicly declared that they would campaign on behalf of Moore-Brabazon!

The Tories were defeated in that election by an Independent. In fact, it became evident in the by-elections in 1942 that a wide section of the electorate welcomed any opportunity to express discontent with the government.

In 1944 the Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist Party fought a by-election at Neath, South Wales, and polled some 1,700 votes on a straight anti-imperialist policy.

So clearly the Stalinists were not only drifting along as opportunists with a mood of patriotism and 'national unity'; they were using their influence wherever they could to drum up support for the Tories.

This was, of course, particularly reflected in industry. The employers were still exercising their right to make profits during the war, and, as in every war, many of them did particularly well, as did the black marketeers.

(In fact, up to the outbreak of hostilities, a number of British firms were quite cheerfully supplying war materials to both sides; and under cartel agreements, the German I. G. Farben monopoly received patent royalties on the aviation fuel supplied to the RAF!)

Yet the workers were expected to put in maximum effort and surrender their normal union rights in order to help the war. The Communist Party, now that the British ruling class was Moscow's ally, pulled out all stops to help the employers. They explained in their publications and speeches that under these conditions, a worker who went on strike was a 'scab', while a strikebreaker—such as the CP member who crossed a picket line to work during the Hull dispute—was showing

the height of class-consciousness!

They went further, of course. In August 1942, William Wainwright—now deputy editor of the 'Morning Star'—produced his infamous pamphlet 'Clear Out Hitler's Agents' in which he alleged that Trotskyists in the factories were a 'fascist fifth column', out to sabotage industry on behalf of Hitler. Wainwright urged his readers to 'expose' every Trotskyist they came across and to 'treat him as you would an open Nazi'.

In one north London engineering factory engaged on munitions, a worker who opposed the Stalinists actually caught them trying to plant blueprints in his overcoat.

Needless to say, Wainwright was never able to offer a shred of evidence for his vicious witch-hunt, although as the case above indicates, some CP members were willing to manufacture some if they could.

But there was plenty of evidence that the Stalinists had become Churchill's agents!

In Palme Dutt's publication 'Labour Monthly', articles appeared calling on the government to take more vigorous action against strikers and offering detailed advice on legal means to be used. The same journal carried articles by such 'progressives' as the Tory MP Sir Thomas Moore—who had been notorious before the war as an outspoken supporter of Franco, the Anglo-German Fellowship, and Mosley's Blackshirts.

The Stalinists joined enthusiastically in attempts to whip up patriotic reaction against strikes, to help 'our boys' at the front, even though it turned out that the 'boys' were by no means convinced that the right to strike should be surrendered.

'Socialist Appeal', the Trotskyist paper was able to reproduce the front page of an issue of 'Eighth Army News' with the headline, reporting a debate among Royal Engineers, 'Right to strike is one of the rights we fight for', and quoting the soldiers as coming

out against any wartime ban on strikes.

In fact, the growing anti-Tory mood observed in the 1942 by-elections was, if anything, a great deal stronger among the forces. There was the famous event of the 'Cairo Forces Parliament', which came out of discussion-groups run for political education in the army.

Loyalty

A mock 'Election' held among troops stationed in Egypt resulted in a sweeping victory for 'Labour', on a programme of nationalization of the basic industries! The War Office got a report, took fright and that was the end of the 'Cairo Forces Parliament'!

But if the Tories were losing their popularity among the troops, they could still rely on one dedicated band of supporters—the Communist Party. Right up to the end of the war, the Stalinists maintained their policy of loyal support to Churchill. CP general secretary Harry Pollitt called for a new 'National government' to be formed after the war, to include 'progressive Tories' like Churchill and Eden!

Those who, like the Trotskyists, called for 'Labour to Power' were, at the very least, denounced as 'sectarian'.

In the event, of course, the British working class apparently became, to a man, 'sectarians' in 1945, and threw the Churchill government out on its ear!

In fact, after the war, at the 1946 Labour Party conference, Herbert Morrison was able to oppose the CP's request for affiliation, telling delegates that the CP election policy had been 'full co-operation with capitalism and a complete desertion of socialist principles . . . They are not a Party of the Left as far as I can see.'

From supporters of Stalin and his lies and murders, the British Communist Party had become supporters of Winston Churchill and British imperialism.

ATTACKS ON WEST GERMAN STUDENTS

A new wave of student unrest is shaking West German universities. The main issues of protest are problems within the universities themselves, not world questions such as Iran and Vietnam as in the 1960s. But the new development is a clear sign of intensifying class struggle in Germany.

The most significant issues are:

- The extension of the limitations on university entry—the numerous clauses which mean that about 30,000 out of 80,000 applicants cannot obtain places because each subject has been given a quota.

- The introduction of reactionary university laws in some provinces controlled by the Christian Democrats and the alteration of the more liberal laws which apply for example in West Berlin.

- The decision of the regional governments and the Federal Chancellor to bar from the civil service (including school and university posts) members or supporters of organizations which do not confirm their full support for 'free and democratic basic order' of the state and their complete loyalty to the constitution.

This regulation is being applied against members of the German Communist Party (DKP) and socialist groups. It has even been used against people who merely took part in demonstrations in 1968.

However, it has almost never been used against fascist teachers and lecturers. The agitation is not confined to the universities. In many cases it began in the technical colleges and teachers' training colleges.

In West Berlin a student strike started in the teachers' training college when the education authorities deprived certain teachers of the right to conduct examinations. The strike spread to the Technical University and the Free University, where it is still going on.

Tightening of the examination regulations also led to a strike in Kiel. When a crowd of 50 students confronted the rector demanding withdrawal of disciplinary action against three students, he slapped some of the delegation in the face.

In Bavaria there is growing opposition to legal moves aimed at abolishing university autonomy altogether. The government intends to take harsh disciplinary powers, abolish the students' rights to elect student parliaments and committees to look after their interests and deprive them of representation in the elected organs of the university.

Demonstrations against these moves have already taken place in Erlangen and Nuremberg and others are planned in Munich and Regensburg.

Surrounded

The most spectacular event took place in Heidelberg. On the morning of December 6, students found their university surrounded by 1,000 (some papers report only 600) heavily-armed and protected policemen carrying Roman-style shields.

Heidelberg students were in the forefront of the 1960s student struggle, but the university staff is dominated by a conservative majority, many of them members of the League for Freedom of Knowledge, a right-wing teachers' association.

Prof Rendtorff, the rector,



German police in action against student demonstrators in 1968. Now police action combined with the introduction of reactionary university laws is being used to attack students.

had resigned two weeks before the confrontation because he found it impossible to negotiate with the students in the atmosphere created by the rightist teachers.

The right wing were fully supported by the Education Minister and the government, which denounced student demonstrators as 'terrorists'.

The state government of Baden-Württemberg is dominated by the Christian Democrats who, with the support of the fascist National Democratic Party, recently implemented Draconian controls over organization, teaching and research.

The immediate issue which sparked the police intervention was the staging of a teach-in on 'The internal situation of the Federal Republic and the League for Freedom of Knowledge', where two left-wing university teachers were due to speak.

The Baden-Württemberg cabinet decided against Rendtorff's advice to prevent any students attending the teach-in by closing off the univer-

sity for the day.

The students organized a demonstration 4,000-strong in the town against the police repression and the following day the police were withdrawn to allow an indoor rally to take place. In protest against the police action, the students boycotted lectures for a week.

Similar police actions were taken in Heidelberg in 1970 when the radical SDS students' movement was banned to prevent demonstrations during a visit by former US Defence Secretary Robert McNamara. The SDS offices were occupied by force and its property confiscated.

Barracks

These attacks are accompanied by an outcry from industrialists against 'extravagant' spending on higher education. They want early specialization and courses geared to specific jobs in industry.

Far from giving reforms, the government is clamping down on the students and

turning the universities into educational barracks.

In the face of these attacks the student leaders have no programme which can fight them successfully. They have tried to turn back into the old protest channels, only this time in a more disciplined way without confronting or provoking the police.

They create and support the illusion that reforms are still possible if only they unite and demand them firmly.

The confusion is fed by the various revisionist and Stalinist groups which are unable to unite the students' fight with the growing militancy and struggle inside the workers' movement.

The only organization that can unite the struggle of the working class, the students and all layers of society that are hit by the capitalist crisis and the attempts to cut their living standards and professional prospects by the monopolies, is the young German section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

PAPER MONEY IN VENEZUELA

The banks in Venezuela have been enjoying a boom in the last 12 months. Never have their deposits been so high. Never have the vaults been so swollen.

Indeed the problem for Venezuelan bankers is that they are having difficulties in finding customers for all their money.

What is the origin of this deluge of money reflected in central bank statistics?

Venezuela has a single source of income—oil. And the 1,000 million bolivares provided by oil have been quickly eaten up by increased spending at the National Treasury over the past two years.

Imports went up and money left the banks with the same speed as it arrived, as did

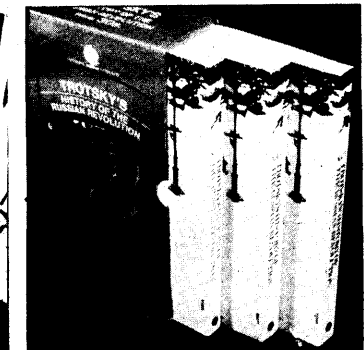
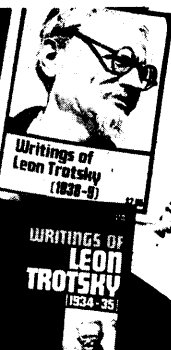
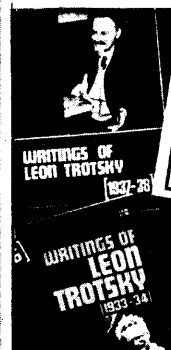
resources from loans which the Venezuelan government kept contracting.

The mass of money comes through transfers from foreign banks to their branches in Caracas. That money does not enter the country through the central bank, which according to law has a monopoly over the currency produced by oil or public credit.

In 1971, the private banks in Venezuela received \$900m from abroad. Since 1968 sums ranging from \$200m to \$500m have arrived.

Three banks, Chase Manhattan, the First National City Bank and the Bank of Paris and the Netherlands are responsible for the dollar flow, to take advantage of the high rates of interest on mortgages and deposits in Venezuela... until the money can find a happy haven in Europe and the United States.

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Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's fourth largest company, has enabled an ICI Staff Association to be founded and registered under the Industrial Relations Act. The association has become one of the founder-members of the Confederation of Independent Staff Organizations. The establishment of the association is a blow against the campaign by ASTMS, the largest white-collar union, to recruit ICI's 40,000 clerical, technical and managerial employees. It also sets back the union's drive for recognition in the company. ASTMS is in the process of complaining to the Commission on Industrial Relations about the conduct of a so-called 'independent' survey which paved the way for the staff association. It has said that the survey was not properly conducted and the body which carried it out, the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, has been declared *persona non grata*. In this article a special correspondent examines how ICI has waged its fight to establish a state-controlled staff association.

ICI VERSUS THE WHITE COLLAR WORKERS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

Michael Clapham's recent outbursts demanding cuts in the standard of living of the working class do not only reflect the views of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), of which he is president.

These views are also shared by the board of ICI, the country's biggest industrial company, where he is deputy chairman.

Clapham is one of the top five men controlling more than £1,750m of capital tied up in the manufacture of basic raw materials, artificial fibres, explosives and non-ferrous metals.

Irritation with the Tory government is based on big business's belief that Heath and company are not standing up to the working class with sufficient resolve.

The strength of the working class intensifies the economic crisis facing the monopolies like ICI, where white-collar workers are demanding resistance to redundancies and wage-cuts.

There was anger and embarrassment, therefore, at ICI's Millbank headquarters two weeks ago when directors received advance copies of an article in the 'New Statesman' by Peter Paterson which disclosed in considerable detail the machinations of the company over the past two years to prevent white-collar unions from gaining negotiating rights for ICI clerical staff.

He drew attention to the company's moves which have led to the setting up of a staff association—one of the first to register under the Industrial Relations Act.

To explain all the wheeling and dealing that has taken place it is necessary to examine part of the history of attempts to gain union recognition in the giant firm.

Before the end of 1969 ICI was faced with a drastic slowdown in the increase of its sales and the failure of the Labour government to tame the unions.

About this time management-

union discussions began for a new scheme of speed-up and work study—the Weekly Staff Agreement (WSA) for production workers and Staff Development Programme (SDP) for clerical workers.

At the end of 1970 two-thirds of production workers were on WSA and all staff were on the new SDP conditions. The 1970 annual report said:

'Following a series of discussions among work groups within factories and departments designed to improve performance... management had moved on to the next objective—making sure that improvement plans at every level played a systematic part in all company activity.'

And the result? 'Better working practices and relationships created by this productivity programme have played a useful part in reorganization of the factories.'

And in another internal memorandum it was noted: 'Notable improvements in productivity have already been made in recent years. The company believes that, given the right conditions, continuing substantial increases in productivity are possible. The foundations for this belief are experiences at the WSA sites, supported by a large body of research carried out inside and outside ICI.'

REDUNDANCY

The 'reorganization', of course, spelled big redundancies, because, in spite of the productivity-dealing, ICI was by no means out of the woods. The 1970 annual report made this point quite clear:

'As forecast by the chairman last spring, ICI had a difficult year in 1970. Rising costs of wages and salaries and the slower growth rate of world industrial production and trading, especially in the UK, all combined to cut profit margins down.'

A survey carried out by the Petrochemicals Division at that



time showed that ICI had a much higher proportion of administrative staff per unit of production than their Common Market competitors. Clearly big redundancies among clerical workers had been decided by the spring of 1970. Under this threat there was mounting interest in trade unionism and proper union representation.

Management strategy was to resist staff unionization without giving the impression that the company was hostile to the right of staff to organize. In this spirit the Central Personnel Department issued a notice in June 1970 which stated:

'Over the last few years staff unionism has increased in the country as a whole. It has been encouraged by government policy and influenced by the findings of the Donovan Commission and the Commission on Industrial Relations.'

'The company acknowledges the right of staff to have their conditions of employment determined by collective bargaining if they so wish, but it would expect certain conditions to be satisfied before agreeing to claims from a Staff Union or a group of Staff



Stan Davison of ASTMS

Unions to bargain collectively on behalf of their members. These are:

- (a) A company-wide policy for major conditions of employment. (The purpose of this clause was to prevent militant staff in any single department organizing to improve their own wages and conditions which would give rise to 'leap-frogging' throughout the ICI empire.) So it was specified:
- (b) The minimum size of group involved in collective-bargaining arrangements should be a company-wide "common-interest group".

Having laid down these basic lines of strategy the documents added, almost casually:

'Opportunity to discuss this statement and its implications will be provided in the first place through Staff Committees and the individual view of every member of staff will be sought by means of a survey conducted by an independent organization.'

So in June 1970, just before the General Election, the company set in motion what appeared like a wide-ranging discussion on the future organization that white-collar workers wanted.

But it was the role of this 'independent organization'—the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations—which was the key to the next stage of the company's strategy.

It sounded like a debate on 'freedom of choice'. But ASTMS assistant general secretary Stan Davison revealed that there were deeper and more bitter issues at stake when he wrote in 'ASTMS Journal' in August 1970: 'Whether or not the Tavistock Institute finally conducts its attitude survey is now almost irrelevant.'

It clearly is no longer

operating in an atmosphere where the staff can genuinely exercise their right to join a union of their own choice without any attempt to influence this choice. On the contrary, many forces are at work to goad, cajole and even threaten the staff into certain pre-determined directions.'

The Tavistock Institute was presented to ICI workers as 'an independent and impartial body', says Paterson in the 'New Statesman', yet its mode of operation on this occasion is bound to give rise to disquiet.

In the first place, the Tavistock researchers allowed the company to second to their team a consultant who was under contract to, and paid by, ICI—Professor K. F. [Kenneth] Walker, who is director of the Institute of Labour Studies at the headquarters of the International Labour Organization in Geneva.

Paterson says that Walker was involved in substantially amending the draft questionnaire sent to employees and he even insisted that the questionnaire treat staff associations and unions 'as equally as possible'. He says that when

Walker was introduced to union officials he was introduced 'not as an £80-a-day consultant under contract to ICI, but as a member of the Tavistock team'.

'RESIST'

Not surprisingly, ASTMS warned its members not to have anything to do with the Tavistock researchers.

A statement from the union said: 'The Tavistock Institute is an organization which employers may wish to call in to conduct surveys into union membership or staff attitudes, in connection with trade union recognition.'

'All members are asked to resist any such attempt in their factory, and to alert head office immediately. We do this simply because we are extremely unhappy with this organization and its methods. The Tavistock Institute is *persona non grata* with us.'

'We asked them not to intervene in the ICI situation, but they did. We told them we

would interpret this as a hostile action. But they did. So please treat this body as anti-ASTMS and refuse to collaborate with it. We are informing the TUC about our view and every TUC affiliated organization.'

Throughout the opinion-testing there was a subtle propaganda campaign which represented unions as 'external' bodies to ICI who might interfere with an individual's chances of promotion. On the other hand staff associations were boosted as bodies which would look after minor grievances for the membership.

Mr S. D. Lyon, the personnel director, went out of his way to assure that 'the company has no wish to influence staff in any direction except towards expressing a firm opinion on how best their views both as individuals and as members of a group can become known, considered and acted upon, whether by representation, consultation or negotiation'.

The result showed an overwhelming majority in favour of changes of some sort; it did not give an outright majority for either a union, staff association or an im-

proved staff committee system. Nevertheless, it paved the way for the formation of an ICI Staff Association registered under the Act.

CAUGHT

Since ASTMS is now de-registered, this means that ICI can call on the legal backing of the National Industrial Relations Court in their fight against union recognition. ASTMS is taking evidence of the company's 'anti-union' manoeuvres before the Commission on Industrial Relations which is examining the labour relations policies of multi-plant companies.

The continuing fail of ICI's fortunes on the eve of entry into the Common Market means that clerical workers are caught between a management bent on extracting the last ounce of 'efficiency' and the mounting inflation legalized by Heath.

Six hundred scientific and technical staff in Pontypool, South Wales, have already

Campbell Adamson, CBI director (left), with Michael Clapham, deputy chairman of the huge ICI consortium.

been told that their Research and Textile Development Department will be closed over the next two years and that only 100 can expect redeployment.

'Flexitime', a system for tailoring working hours to the flow of paperwork, is being introduced throughout the combine and threatens to push up productivity even higher.

The fight for trade union recognition among ICI's white-collar workers is becoming the focal point of resistance to the company's rationalization and speed-up plans.

ICI staff should join unions on a policy of total opposition to productivity plans and redundancies. Within the union they must take up a political fight against the plans of ICI chairman Jack Callard, Clapham and their friends in the Heath Cabinet.

This means a campaign to bring monopolies like ICI under public ownership. There can be no preservation of jobs or work conditions without such a fight.

RENEGADES IN ACTION— THE IMG

PART SEVEN

Following the articles 'Renegades from Trotskyism' dealing with the situation in Ceylon, JACK GALE now examines the British section of the revisionist Unified Secretariat of the Fourth International, The International Marxist Group (IMG).

The International Marxist Group faced such an enormous split in 1970 and 1971 between its leaders and the minority tendency supporting the Socialist Workers' Party of America, that serious work was impossible (see yesterday's Workers Press for the repercussions in the Glasgow branch alone).

Yet IMG leaders Pat Jordan, Tariq Ali and company were unable to deal with this politically. They could resort only to bureaucratic measures.

The disciplinary action taken against Alan Harris, without affording him any democratic rights, has been discussed in an earlier article. But this was standard practice.

One Glasgow tendency supporter was suspended without charges. Following protests, the leadership wrote to him saying they did not need to present charges because they had not suspended him from the IMG, but only from its Glasgow branch. 'Your status at the moment,' wrote Jordan, 'is that of a member at large.' (Page 83.)

The fact that the tendency had a majority in the Glasgow branch was neatly overcome by sending in people from other parts of the country and giving them voting rights in the branch. (Page 84.)

When this proved insufficient, the Political Committee sent in an organizer and placed him in charge of the entire branch. (Pages 96-97.)

This man had one member charged for not moving a resolution at a trades council meeting which he had handed to him as he walked through the door two minutes before the meeting began and which had not been discussed anywhere. (Page 84.) He had another charged for not giving up his job to build a Claimants' Union branch. (The IMG's intervention at UCS, when they finally got round to it, was to attempt to start a Claimants' Union.) This also had not been discussed anywhere. (Page 84.)

Another member went out of the country on holiday and returned to learn that his expulsion had been proposed in his absence. There were, of course, no charges. A commission was appointed by the leadership to investigate objections. This commission laid charges against him after hearing a report from the majority (which supported the leadership) but without listening to the minority (to which the member concerned belonged). (Page 84.)

The case of the Nottingham women was equally extraordinary. Here, as has been said, the tendency members were subordinating themselves entirely to the Nottingham

Socialist Women's Committee and its paper 'Socialist Woman'. It is fair to point out that the IMG leadership did not bother to correct this opportunist turn until the faction fight hotted up and they were able to use it in organizational measures against the tendency.

The Nottingham Socialist Women's Committee had been in existence for over a year, and 'Socialist Woman' for almost as long, before the IMG leadership discovered any objection to this activity.

However, when they wished to move against the tendency women supporters in Nottingham, they simply:

(a) Announced a policy of forming a national network of 'Socialist Women's Groups'. This national network never got beyond one branch—in London.

(b) Took over 'Socialist Woman' by edict—i.e. they published a new address for it (with an increased subscription) and told their Nottingham women to get the line accepted in the NSWC.

(c) Appointed a new editorial board, from which every member of the board of the existing 'Socialist Woman' was excluded.

(d) Instructed the Nottingham tendency members that they were barred from work among women.

(e) Abandoned an earlier project of a 'Red Mole' broadsheet which had been in preparation for five months.

The Nottingham women who were not in IMG, of course, would not accept all this, so that at the Women's Demonstration of March, 1971, two separate versions of 'Socialist Woman' appeared—with the Nottingham issue containing a duplicated slip condemning IMG.

Subsequently, the IMG leadership presented the Nottingham tendency women with a statement saying that they fully approved of the new 'Socialist Woman', and that 'personal reasons' had prevented them being active in the Nottingham group. In fact, of course, they did not approve the change and they had been barred from activity in the Nottingham group by the IMG leadership.

When they refused to sign this statement on the grounds that it contained lies, they were charged.

All this came to a head at the 1971 Congress. The attitude of Jordan, Tariq Ali and company at this conference is best illustrated by one of their supporters who resigned from IMG on the grounds that they had not been tough enough with the minority tendency. We quote:

'Comrade T.W. at the "kangaroo" majority meeting of November 6 and 7, 1971, told the meeting explicitly that democratic centralism was not a necessary principle of Leninist organization and that



It was at this Women's Liberation demonstration in March, 1971, that two separate versions of the journal 'Socialist Woman' appeared, the Nottingham publication carrying a slip condemning the IMG.

the IMG was only "sometimes democratic centralist" and this was quite sufficient.' (Page 124.)

Nowhere in the 151-page long report of the Fact-Finding Commission is this challenged.

Be that as it may, at the 1971 IMG Congress prominent IMG members who were supporters of the tendency were removed from the National Committee. In fact, tendency representation on the NC was halved, from two to one, although its support at the Congress was doubled.

NC members were removed for belonging to the tendency or for being 'too soft' on it. (Page 82.)

Equal time with majority National Committee presentation was not given to tendency documents on the grounds that the tendency had nothing 'relevant' or 'new' to say. In fact, the minority tendency was given ten minutes on Women's Liberation and seven minutes on youth work. (Page 95.)

There was, indeed, ample justification for the complaint of the minority tendency that:

'The method of election of the leadership at the national conference, with the full knowledge of the supporters of the majority, effectively excluded from the NC the views of those comrades in Scotland who, at that time, indicated their support of the general line of the tendency documents.' (Page 87.)

By this time, IMG was in such a state of internal collapse, that Jordan and company were compelled to ask the Unified Secretariat to come in and sort it out. This was the reason for the Fact-Finding Commission.

But even this created prob-

lems. Several hard-liners felt that the minority should simply have been 'dealt with' and no messing about with International Commissions.

One NC member wrote to the NC in the crudest terms objecting to people, being 'let off the hook':

'We have pissed about on this long enough. The conference was six months ago. Resolutions have been passed at NCs like confetti and still the PC prevaricates. What do comrades, not on the latter select body, have to do to get the PC to carry out decisions?'

'The trouble is that you, the PC, are allowing yourselves to be intimidated by the SWP and its allies . . . Each inconsistent action will add to the arguments of the opposition . . . We must proceed with the charges quickly, otherwise the SWP will make shit of us.' (Pages 77-78.)

How did the Unified Secretariat deal with this situation of open war within one of their sections? By urging both sides to get together and work amicably!

They did not deal with a single political issue in the whole sordid mess. They simply instructed the IMG leadership to withdraw all disciplinary measures—and this was not by any means due to any regard for democratic centralism.

When a minority was expelled from the Socialist Workers' Party for political disagreement (and subsequently became the American Workers' League) the Unified Secretariat showed no such touching concern for minority rights.

What they were concerned with in the case of the IMG

was simply patching up a dying organization in order to preserve a 'section' in Britain in opposition to the only real Trotskyist movement in this country—the Socialist Labour League.

So the Unified Secretariat, on receiving the report of its Fact-Finding Commission, simply said: drop all charges and find something that those who have fundamental disagreements can do so they don't have to leave the organization. Let them do '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 engagements'. (Page iv.)

If Lenin had sought, after the 1903 Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party, to find fields of work for the Mensheviks 'where their specific opinion could not come into conflict with efficient and enthusiastic engagement' there would have been no revolution in Russia in 1917.

And the political methods of the Unified Secretariat as revealed in the IMG case would prevent a revolution in this country—if it were left to them.

However, it will not be left to them. There is a principled Trotskyist organization in this country—the Socialist Labour League. And our organization will, as part of the preparation for the British revolution, politically destroy revisionism in every form in which it shows itself.

CONCLUDED

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

NEWTONISM

What has happened to Sir Gordon Newton, the 'fighting', 'crusading' editor of the 'Financial Times'? He has left the editorship and been promoted to the board of the parent company.

But just to ensure that he doesn't suffer in retirement, Newton has grabbed the chairmanship of Vavasseur, the banking and investment group.

Having served the City of London so faithfully in the Press, Newton now goes off to join the financial establishment.

On his departure the Tory Press began a chorus of praise for the man who ran the 'Financial Times' for almost 20 years.

A discordant note from David Malbert, city editor of the 'Evening Standard'. He revealed the other day a hidden subject of Newtonisms. Newton, it seems, is prone to the most sensational *faux pas*. Briefing a writer on one occasion, Newton declared: 'It's right up your pigeon.'

On another occasion, expressing his desire to support a friend, he said: 'I'd slip over backwards to help him.'

Referring to a painting on somebody's wall, he commented that it was 'an excellent Rio Tinto'. Malbert reports that a book of these astonishing statements might be compiled of the sayings of the luminary who guided the editorial policy of the 'FT' for a generation.

EXPLOITATION

French radical leader Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, author of the best-selling book 'The American Challenge', sees the Americans as defeating their European rivals in conquering the market in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

He told American journalist C. L. Sulzberger: 'Russia is going to be exploited by America which is moving in to do the job that western Europe could have done. Americans are winning the game everywhere.'

He goes on to say: 'Nixon has shown that he is the great

nationalist. The alliance of Nixon and George Meany is the dominating factor in the United States and "Buy American" is the dominating slogan.'

Servan-Schreiber sees American capital moving into eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in a big way, and he regrets that the European states had not been able to unite politically to get in first. 'The Americans have understood,' he says, 'that there is no use having troops on foreign soil; it is much more useful to have investments in the Ukraine.'

As a critic of American penetration of Europe, Servan-Schreiber has drawn the conclusions which necessarily follow from the latest US trade pact with the Soviet Union. The bureaucracy is flinging open the gates to capitalist exploitation of the resources and the working class of the Soviet Union.

GREED

The Welsh Nationalists have recently been demonstrating at property auctions to protest at Welsh country cottages being sold as holiday homes to people from outside Wales.

There is a real issue involved in these sales: cottages sold as holiday homes remain unoccupied for much of the year and the 'tourist market' pushes prices up. This means many working-class families in these areas cannot afford a home.

But the Nationalists' aim is to divert concern over this issue into a 'Wales-for-the-Welsh' issue.

The issue is not a 'Welsh' one at all. The issue has arisen in other holiday areas. In the Lake District the Westmorland Labour Party has said that housing formerly available to working-class families is being pushed beyond prices they can afford.

And in a recent letter to the 'Westmorland Gazette' a local resident points out, correctly, that it is the greed of property-owners and estate-agents that is involved in these sales.



THE BANKERS LOVE BRAZIL

Antonio Delfin Netto, the chubby-cheeked Minister of the Brazilian Treasury, has won a reputation for welcoming foreign investment in every branch of the Brazilian economy.

He recently rebuffed criticism that this had led to a concentration of the power of the foreign banks from Rio to Sao Paulo which threatened the national future . . .

'Fear of concentration of capital has no basis in fact. In organized economies between 80 and 90 per cent of the market is controlled by no more than eight to ten banks.'

What then is the state of play in the Netto-sponsored banking-houses, in the land that Michael Clapham of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) insists the first capitalist nation in the world may have to copy.

Let us take a look at the investment banks.

The largest is the Banco Real de Investimento, an

affiliate of the Adela investment company which has its headquarters in Brussels.

Next in the ladder is the corporatist 'miracle' of the Medici police state—Bradesco. But Bradesco has been engaged in long negotiations with the Union of Brazilian Banks, large sections of which are owned by the Deltec Banking Corporation, of Deltec Chicago, of the Rockefeller Group

Third in rank is InvestBank, a real international centre whose stock is owned by the Deutsche Bank of Frankfurt, the Credit Lyonnais of Paris, Hill, Samuel and Company of London and late of the AUEW, the Banco Nazionale of Italy, the First National City of New York and the Banco Popular Español of Madrid. The Fuji Bank of Tokyo also has a toehold in InvestBank.

Further down in the investment league table is an institution known as Crefisul which has just filled entire pages of the Brazilian Press to announce its association with the First National City Bank of New York, 'crowning a

Rockefeller (foreground facing camera) surrounded by heavy guard on a visit to Latin America.

process of understanding between the two institutions, always identified with the common aim of serving the development of Brazil'.

At the same time, Crefisul announced finance of more than \$4m for Rhodia, a subsidiary of Rhone-Poulenc of Paris, one of the largest chemical firms in the world.

Rhodia has quickly gathered funds for building a new factory. The sum injected via Crefisul comes from the Federal Economic Fund which is in theory accumulated for Social Security.

The penetration of foreign capital is no less evident in the commercial banks. Chase Manhattan recently took over, to mention just one example, the Banco Brasileiro to 'provide new and aggressive services in the financial area', declared David Rockefeller in Rio in November. But that's another story in the multifarious activities of capital in Netto's Brazil.

Fidel Castro's alliance with the anti-working-class regime of Juan Velasco, the Peruvian dictator, has, to say the least, sinister overtones.

At the beginning of December, the Havana government entertained another Peruvian military delegation. The delegation was headed by Lt-Gen Eduardo Rojas, President of Peruvian Armed Forces Joint Command, and included the chiefs of staff of the air-force, army and navy.

Rojas personally congratulated cadets who put on an 'impressive' demonstration of anti-tank defence as well as a display by tank crews.

The schools visited by the military were decorated with full-scale pictures of Velasco and children sang the Peruvian national anthem after shouting 'Peru, Cuba, united and victorious'.

Lt-Gen Rojas commented that the event was 'unforgettable, making us feel in this friendly land the same emotions and patriotism as if we were in our own country'.

As he left the school, the chant began of 'Viva Peru!' and 'Right on, Velasco, out with the Yankees!'

The official daily in Lima, 'The Peruvian', has just reported the granting of a \$20m loan to the National Development Corporation-COFIDE by the First National City Bank of the United States. This report confirms an earlier bulletin from City Bank vice-President Walter Johnson.

PERUVIAN GENERALS VISIT HAVANA



A Peruvian peasant woman displays a bomb used by Velasco's police against the struggle of peasants and workers. They starve whilst the dollar speculators grow rich, protected by Castro's friend.

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**WORKERS PRESS CIRCULATION DEPT.,
186a CLAPHAM HIGH STREET,
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REGIONAL TV

SATURDAY

CHANNEL: 11.10 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Puffin. 11.40 Bonanza. 12.30 London. 5.10 On the buses. 5.49 London. 7.00 Film: 'Brush Fire'. 8.30 Burt Bacharach. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 All our yesterdays. 11.55 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 10.45 Woobinda. 11.35 Gus Honeybun. 11.55 Faith for life. 12.00 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Let them live. 10.35 Stingray. 11.05 Cowboy in Africa. 12.00 Merrie melodies. 12.27 Weather. 12.30 London. 5.10 Persuaders. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Posse From Hell'. 8.30 London. 10.40 News. 10.50 Film: 'The Tattered Dress'. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.00 London. 9.50 Bugs Bunny. 10.00 Tomfoolery show. 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 Joe 90. 12.00 Farming diary. 12.30 London. 5.10 UFO. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Forgotten Man'. 8.30 Burt Bacharach. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Name of the game. 12.45 Weather.

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

ANGLIA: 9.00 London. 10.00 Rovers. 10.25 Film: 'Follow That Dream'. 12.20 Cartoon. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Prince of Pirates'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Night Caller'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 A place in the country. 10.35 Survival. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.05 Tomfoolery. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 Elephant boy.

12.30 London. 5.15 It takes a thief. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Man in the Attic'. 8.30 Burt Bacharach. 9.30 Upstairs, down stairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'The Priest Killer'.

ULSTER: 11.00 Thunderbirds. 12.00 Woobinda. 12.30 London. 5.15 Lucy show. 5.40 Sportscast. 6.10 London. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 McMillan and wife. 8.30 Burt Bacharach. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Journey to the unknown.

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

GRANADA: 11.00 Sesame street. 12.05 Clapperboard. 12.30 London. 5.10 Sky's the limit. 5.40 Doctor at large. 6.10 London. 7.00 Mr. Magoo. 7.05 Film: 'The Feminist and the Fuzz'. 8.25 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Seaway.

TYNE TEES: 9.15 Wild life theatre. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Film: 'Tarzan and the Amazons'. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'Hangman's Knot'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Edgar Wallace. 12.30 Epilogue.

GRAMPIAN: 12.00 Tomfoolery show. 12.30 London. 5.10 UFO. 6.10 London. 7.00 Film: 'High Noon'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Jason King.

TV

BBC 2

3.00 Film: 'The Unfinished Dance'. Margaret O'Brien, Cyd Charisse, Karin Booth, Danny Thomas. A ballet student tries to prevent an experienced dancer from taking the place of her favourite ballerina. 4.35 Play away. 5.00 African safari. 5.50 Man Alive.

6.45 **TELEVISION DOCTOR.**

7.00 **WESTMINSTER.**

7.20 **NEWS AND SPORT.** Weather.

7.35 **RUGBY SPECIAL.** Scotland v New Zealand.

8.20 **WAR AND PEACE.** Fortunes of War.

9.05 **FULL HOUSE.** Introduced by Joe Melia. Including André Previn with Kyung Wha Chung, Adhocism.

10.00 Countdown with Sheila Hancock and Clive Dunn. Adrian Mitchell, Le Grand Magic Circus. 10.50 Zinotchka, film adaptation of short story by Chekhov.

11.20 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

11.25 **FILM: 'THE BAD SEED.'** Nancy Kelly, Patty McCormack. A pretty little girl seems to have the soul of a cold-blooded murderess.

BBC 1

10.00 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.30 Aventura. 10.55 Weather. 11.00 Mr. Benn. 11.15 Harlem globetrotters. 11.35 Barrier reef. 12.00 Grandstand. 12.25, 12.50, 1.20 Racing from Ascot. 1.40 International boxing. Danny McAlinden v Willie Moore. 2.05 International rugby union. Scotland v New Zealand. 3.55 Lancer. 4.45 Final score. 5.05 Pluto. 5.15 Mary Tyler Moore show. 5.40 News. Weather. 5.55 Bruce Forsyth and the generation game.

6.45 **DIXON OF DOCK GREEN.** Ada.

7.35 **THE HARRY SECOMBE SHOW.** Guests Cilla Black, Maggie Fitzgibbon, Labi Siffre, Afon Taf Choir.

8.20 **FILM: 'THE MAN WHO FINALLY DIED.'** Stanley Baker, Peter Cushing, Mai Zetterling. A man who thought his father was dead receives a phone message, apparently from his father.

10.00 **NEWS.** Weather.

10.10 **MATCH OF THE DAY.**

11.10 **PARKINSON.** Michael Parkinson with guests Alistair Cooke and Peter Ustinov.

12.10 **Weather.**

ITV

9.00 Jobs around the house. 9.30 Getting your money's worth. 9.55 Return to Peyton Place. 10.20 Sesame street. 11.20 Merrie melodies. 11.30 Osmonds. 11.50 Junior police five. 12.00 Partridge family. 12.30 News. 12.35 World of sport. 12.40 On the ball. 1.05 International sports special. 1.20 ITV seven. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Nottingham. 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Catterick. 3.10 International sports special. Rallycross and scrambling. 3.50 Results, scores, news. 4.00 Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.10 Adventures of Black Beauty. 5.40 Sale of the century.

6.10 **NEWS.**

6.15 **THE REG VARNEY REVUE.** Guests Dorothy Squires, Semprini, Mrs. Mills, Joe (Mr. Piano) Henderson.

7.00 **FILM: 'THE OUTRIDERS.'** Joel McCrea, Arlene Dahl, Barry Sullivan. Three Southern prisoners escape during the Civil War.

8.30 **NEW SCOTLAND YARD.** The Money Game.

9.30 **BURT BACHARACH AND ASSOCIATES.** Guests Anthony Newley, Vikki Carr, Sammy Davis Jr.

10.30 **NEWS.**

10.40 **RUSSELL HARTY PLUS.**

11.40 **SIX CENTURIES OF SONG.**

11.45 **MCCLOUD.** New Mexican Connection. Dennis Weaver.

REGIONAL TV

SUNDAY

CHANNEL: 11.00-12.25 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Don't Ever Leave Me'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Yellow Rolls Royce'. 10.00 London. 11.20 Spyforce. 12.10 Epilogue. Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 12.25 Gardening today. 12.55 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.20 Barry John talks to George Best. 1.45 Gus Honeybun. 1.55 Farm and country news. 12.10 Faith for life. 12.15 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 Talking hands. 9.30 London. 10.30 Farm progress. 10.57 Weather. 11.00 London. 12.30 Bush boy. 1.00 Superman. 1.20 Primus. 1.50 Hogan's heroes. 2.15 London. 3.15 Beverly hillbillies. 3.45 Golden shot. 4.40 Aquarius. 5.30 News. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Once Upon A Dead Man'. 9.50 Film diary. 10.00 London. 11.05 Jason King. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 London. 12.30 A place in the country. 1.00 University challenge. 1.25 Love, American style. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Village of Daughters'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'War of the Worlds'. 9.30 Mr. and Mrs. 10.00 London. 11.20 Department S. 12.20 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 6.40-7.25 Serch hudol.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 10.30 Survival. 11.00 London. 12.30 Arthur. 12.55 Champions. 1.50 Weather. 1.55 Farming. 2.30 Name of the game. 3.55 Match. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Wait Till the Sun Shines Nellie'. 10.00 London. 11.20 Department S.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 London. 12.30 Citizens' rights. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Soccer. 3.00 Film: 'Man in the Moon'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Will Penny'. 10.00 London. 11.20

Spyforce. 12.15 Stories worth telling. Weather.

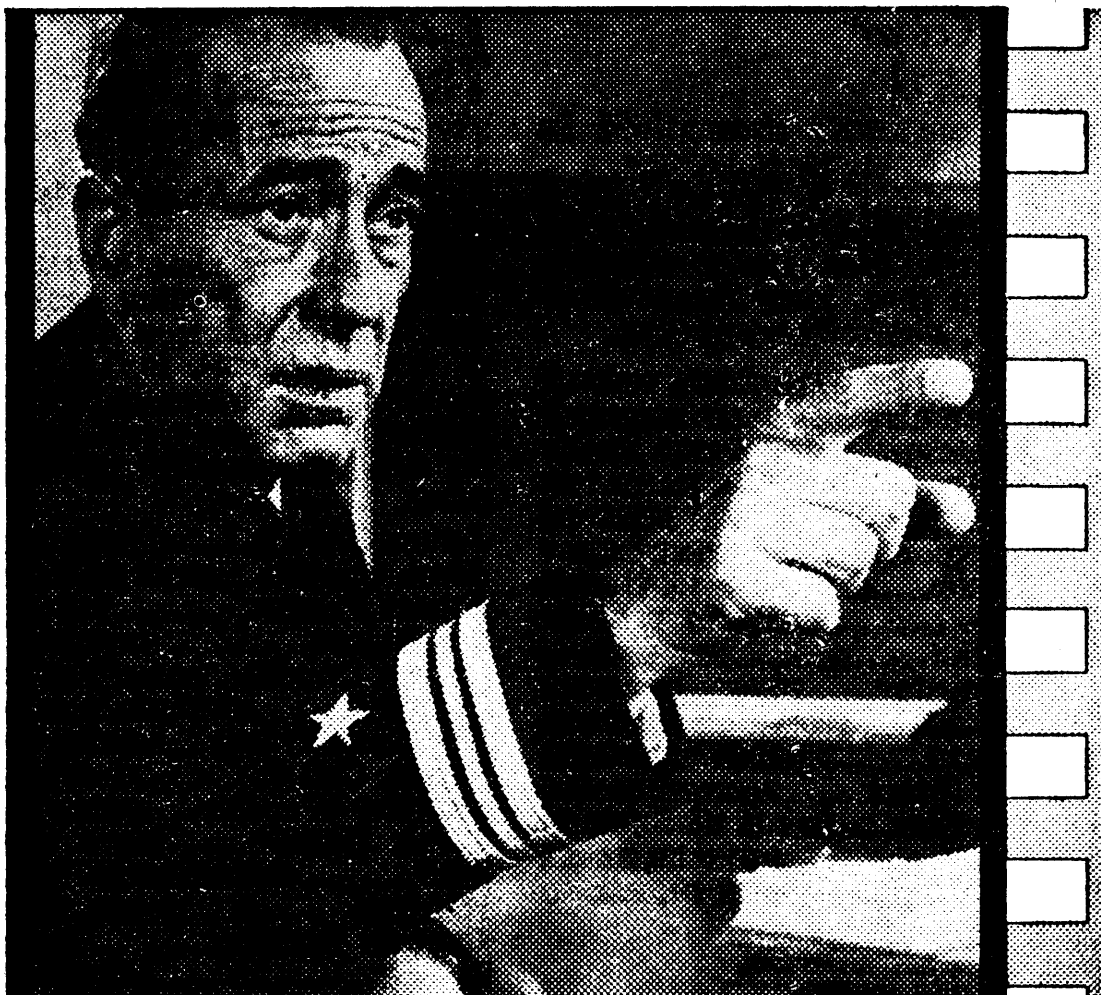
ULSTER: 11.00 London. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.30 HR Puffnstuf. 1.55 Women only. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Elopement'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.53 Sports results. 7.55 Film: 'The Yearling'. 10.00 London. 11.15 Department S.

GRANADA: 9.30-10.30 London. 10.35 Time to remember. 11.00 London. 12.25 Merrie melodies. 1.00 Saint. 1.50 Untamed world. 2.20 Football. 3.20 Film: 'Rock Around the Clock'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Long Duel'. 10.00 London. 11.20 Scotland Yard casebook.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 You and your golf. 11.00 London. 12.30 Jimmy Stewart show. 1.00 Farming. 1.25 World War I. 1.50 Where the jobs are. 1.55 Felix the cat. 2.15 London. 3.55 Film: 'The Huggetts Abroad'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Last Safari'. 10.00 London. 11.20 Challenge. 12.10 Epilogue.

YORKSHIRE: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 You and your golf. 11.00 London. 12.30 Nanny and the professor. 1.00 Farming. 1.25 Calendar. 1.55 Soccer. 1.50 Film: 'Just For You'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Last Safari'. 10.00 London. 11.20 It takes a thief. 12.15 Weather.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 12.30 You and your golf. 1.00 Collecting on a shoestring. 1.30 Farm progress. 2.00 Sport. 3.25 Film: 'Pirates of Blood River'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Paths of Glory'. 9.25 Adam Smith. 10.00 London. 11.20 Untouchables.



Humphrey Bogart in one of his more demanding roles—Captain Queeg, the man whose marbles aren't quite all there. 'The Caine Mutiny' is on BBC 1 on Sunday.

TV

BBC 2

4.25 Money at work. 5.25 Horizon.

6.15 **NEWS REVIEW.**

6.55 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.

7.00 **DOUBTS AND CERTAIN-TIES.** A. S. Neill, for 50 years headmaster of Summerhill.

7.25 **AMERICA.** Gone West.

8.15 **JOHN BARRY AND HIS MUSIC.** Royal Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by John Barry.

9.05 **BUT SERIOUSLY — IT'S SHEILA HANCOCK.**

9.35 **DEAD OF NIGHT.** A Woman Sobbing. Ghost story.

10.25 **UP SUNDAY.**

10.50 **FILM: 'THE LONG VOYAGE HOME.'** John Ford's film with John Wayne, Thomas Mitchell, Ian Hunter about a tramp steamer in World War II.

12.30 **NEWS HEADLINES.** Weather.

BBC 1

9.00-9.30 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 11.00-11.30 Seeing and believing. 12.50 Farming. 1.15 Made in Britain. 1.30 Look. 1.55 News headlines. Weather. 2.00 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 2.15 Shari Lewis show. 2.25 Story theatre. 2.50 Charlie Chaplin. Extracts from his most famous films and personal recollections by Claire Bloom and Douglas Fairbanks Jr. 3.20 Carols for Christmas. Morrision Tabernacle Choir, Mynydd bach Girls Choir, BBC Welsh Orchestra. 3.50 Film: 'The Other Love'. Barbara Stanwyck, David Niven. A famous pianist enters a sanatorium in Switzerland. 5.20 Cranford.

6.05 **NEWS.** Weather.

6.55 **SONGS OF PRAISE.**

7.25 **THE ONEDIN LINE.** The Challenge.

8.15 **FILM: 'THE CAINE MUTINY.'** Humphrey Bogart, Jose Ferrer, Van Johnson, Fred MacMurray. Officers of an American warship are disturbed by the eccentric behaviour of their captain.

10.15 **NEWS.** Weather.

10.20 **OMNIBUS.** Somewhere a Voice is Calling. An informal musical evening at home 1920 style.

11.15 **BETTE DAVIS.** Talking with Joan Bakewell.

12.00 **Weather.**

ITV

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

6.05 **NEWS.**

6.15 **ADAM SMITH**

6.45 **THE BIG QUESTION.**

7.00 **A CAROL FOR CHRISTMAS.**

7.25 **FILM: 'PICNIC.'** William Holden, Kim Novak, Rosalind Russell, Susan Strasberg. A stranger arrives one hot summer's day in a small Kansas town and changes people's lives.

10.00 **NEWS.**

10.15 **PLAY: 'THE PIANO PLAYER.'** Clive Revill, Gareth Forwood, Angharad Rees, Cyril Shaps, David Waller.

11.20 **UFO.** Timelash.

12.15 **SIX CENTURIES OF SONG.**

12.20 **SCALES OF JUSTICE.** The Undesirable Neighbour.

Tories increase stranglehold

BY ALEX MITCHELL

THE TORIES have tightened their stranglehold on the BBC by the appointment of Professor Sir Michael Swann as the new chairman.

Swann, the vice-chancellor of Edinburgh University, is a noted right-winger. In the first interview since he took over, Swann said with accustomed superiority that his students thought that he was 'perceptibly to the right of Genghis Khan'.

This may or may not be so. What is known, however, is that Swann has contributed to the Black Papers on education, a series of tracts arguing for the preservation of universities for a privileged élite.

His article was entitled 'Student Trouble—Edinburgh and Beyond'. The gist of his argument was that 'authority' had to exert itself over those who challenged it. It was the responsibility of those in power to stand up against those who tried to undermine them.

He has also delivered a number of lectures to staff and students along these general lines. One was called 'Flight from Reason'

on broadcasting

New

BBC



chief a
Black Paper
professor

and in June this year he made another veiled attack on students in a diatribe entitled 'Events and Non-Events'.

In this speech he said that confrontations in the university were engineered by people whose attitude to authority was immature. And he criticized the Edinburgh Student Representative Council for too often being dominated by activists. In other words, good old Tory stuff! They say the same about the dockers, the miners, the engineers, etc., etc.

Since 1968 Swann has been in two big disputes with the student body. When the students wanted to install a contraceptive machine, the rector, Malcolm Muggerridge, resigned in a fit of absurd anger. In the ensuing fracas Swann clearly came down on Muggerridge's side.

In 1970 students began to ask if the university had any financial interests in the racist republic of South Africa. The general council issued a public statement denying that it held shares in South African companies. However, students were later able to prove that the university had a £500,000 investment there.

The authorities were then forced to admit that their first statement was 'misleading'.

During these uproars Swann frequently showed anger at the

way students 'used the media'. He seemed to think that students received too much coverage by Press and television.

This is a brief biography of the man Heath has selected to control the state-run radio and television network.

He replaces Lord Hill, a former Tory Minister. At a Press conference in London Swann said that a newspaper had said he would be 'neither too permissive nor too authoritarian'. This is right, he said.

Another report said he would be 'very much in the back seat'. Swann dismissed this view.

'I am not sure this is my style. I want to be in the front seat alongside the Director-General who will be doing the driving. I and the board of governors will be doing the map reading—deciding where we are going. It will be our responsibility in planning where we will go.'

A measure of where the BBC will go can be gauged from the fact that the first telegram of congratulations he received was from Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the former Moral-Rearmer and now head of the Festival of Light brigade.

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 January 8
Marxism and the revolutionary party

FORRESTERS HALL
Trippett Lane, 7.30 p.m.

TODMORDEN

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 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.

Gasworkers strike over sackings

GASWORKERS in Bristol were on strike yesterday over the sacking of two of their number on grounds of discipline.

The 400 workers involved claimed that the South Western Gas Board had shown 'lack of compassion'. It had failed to use dispute machinery before carrying out the sackings.

Drivers, fitters, cleaners and other workers based at the Board's Bristol district offices at Bedminster, formed the core of the strike.

Eric Edwards, regional officer of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said the 400 were seeking support from gas board workers in other towns in the area. The Board was refusing to discuss the issue until normal working was resumed.

Jail for man who wanted to kill immigrants

A MAN described as a 'kind, generous, loving husband' has been sentenced to a year's jail for charges under the Race Relations Act.

James Hamilton, garage attendant, appeared in Leeds Crown Court charged with offences likely to stir up racial hatred.

He was found guilty of publishing written matter which was threatening, guilty of distributing written matter which was threatening and guilty of one charge of possessing an offensive weapon.

Detective Inspector Peter Walker said Hamilton had 12 previous convictions involving 19 offences. Nine of these were offences of violence and three were offences of possessing offensive weapons.

It was said in court that Hamilton wanted to train white gangs to exterminate coloured people.

Mr Barry Mortimer, QC, defending Hamilton, told the jury: 'He is taking no different stand than a Powellite stand. Whether you disagree heartily with it or agree heartily, he is entitled to take that stand.'

In evidence Hamilton said that his White Alliance Party aimed to get the three major parties to accept that Britain had a race problem.

On the opening day of the trial it had been stated that Hamilton had urged Hell's Angels, skinheads and Crombie boys to band together to stir up hatred against Asians and to fight them. He denied any intention to stir up hatred, but said he believed that immigration should be stopped and the Race Relations Act abolished.

Summing up, Mr Justice Wrangham said: 'There is a political aspect to this case which is closely bound up with the case made against Hamilton.'

'There are differing political opinions on immigration and both were legitimate opinions.'

'We are not in the stage where we commit a criminal offence if we disagree with the government's policy of the day.'

AIRLINE workers at Heathrow airport, London, staged a lightning strike yesterday because they claimed their firm had told a young colleague to get a haircut. Management staff left their desks to shift cargo after the unofficial walk-out from freight carriers, Seaboard World Airlines.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign

**THIS SUNDAY
CENTRAL LONDON**

All Trades Unions
Alliance meeting
(Press and Entertainments
branch)

RSC Rehearsal Rooms,
Floral Street, WC2,
7 p.m.

'Press Freedom in Britain and
Ireland
Lynch law and Toryism'
Speaker: Alex Mitchell
(Workers Press)

BRADFORD: Sunday December
17, 7.30 p.m. 'Talbot Hotel', Kirk-
gate. 'No fines on the unions'.
AUEW speakers.

LONDON TEACHERS: Monday
December 18, 8 p.m. Caxton Hall
(near St James's Park tube).

SKELMERSDALE: Monday De-
cember 18, 7.30 p.m. Quarry
Bank Community Centre.

SHEFFIELD

Monday December 18, 7.30 p.m.
'The Foresters Inn'
Division Street
'Defend the Engineering Union.
Force the Tories to resign'.

ROCHDALE: Tuesday December
19, 8 p.m. Rochdale Town Hall.

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

CAMBRIDGE: Tuesday December
19, 8 p.m. 'The Mitre', Bridge
Street. 'Fight rising prices'.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday December
19, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths,
Clapham Manor Street, SW4.
'Force the Tories to resign'.

KINGSTON: Tuesday December
19, 8 p.m. 'The Swan', Mill
Street. 'Way forward for trade
unionists'.

SWANSEA: Wednesday December
20, 7.30 p.m. YMCA. 'Defend the
AUEW. Force the Tories to re-
sign'.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thurs-
day December 21, 8 p.m. Dept-
ford Engineers' Club, New Cross
Road (near station). 'Build Coun-
cils of Action'.

CLAY CROSS: Thursday Decem-
ber 21, 8 p.m. Social Centre,
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Textile firm refuses to deploy from Asians' jobs

THE MANSFIELD Hosiery company, Loughborough—hit by a seven-week strike of 500 Asian workers—yesterday indicated they would not re-deploy workers taken on during the strike.

Peter Scott, for the company, told the final day of the government committee of inquiry into the dispute, held in Nottingham, that any such moves 'would crystallize resentment on the shop floor'.

For the strikers, Bob Hepple told the inquiry, chaired by former Labour Minister Kenneth Robinson, who is now personnel chief for British Steel, that the evidence of racial discrimination at the factory was 'overwhelming'.



PRENDERGAST . . . Confidence ?

He appealed to the inquiry to 'give a lead elsewhere' on the question of job discrimination among immigrant workers.

Peter Prendergast, president of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers, said he hoped in future the Asians would have confidence in the union and would take notice of advice given to them.

At Thursday's hearing it was revealed that union officials knew of large-scale recruitment by the company during the strike, but did not supply this information to the strikers.

The Asian workers planned to end their strike on November 27. But as soon as they returned to the factory, they discovered the 41 trainee knitters had been installed. The strike re-started immediately.

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For fourth week running Meat rises 4p a pound

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

MEAT PRICES will rise this weekend by an extra 2p to 4p a pound, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced yesterday. It is the fourth consecutive weekend that meat prices have edged up.

The Ministry said there is also expected to be an average 2p increase in home-killed lamb. The prices of meat, vegetables and fruit are allowed to rise in this fashion because they do not come under the Tory legislation. The 90-day Act specifically ignores these basic commodities.

In other words, while wages are held down—under pain of unlimited fines in the criminal courts—prices and dividends are allowed to soar up regardless. The outcome of such a situation is clear enough: millions of working-class families are having their standard of living drastically cut as the Tories rush into the Common Market.

It should be noted that the 2p rises which the Tories so glibly announce amount to something like 5d in the old currency. They began their prices fraud at the time of Decimalization and they haven't let up since.

The roaring state of inflation

in Britain is highlighted in a report published yesterday by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The communiqué, issued in Paris, said that British prices were rising at an annual rate of nearly 12 per cent in the six months leading up to the breakdown of the tripartite talks.

This is a far more accurate figure than the 8 per cent which the Tories and the CBI talk about.

Britain had the worst record in Europe for rising prices, the report said. The annual rate of price increases was 4.3 per cent in the six months to April, but it rose to 11.8 per cent in the next six months to October 31.

Britain is not the only victim of the inflationary crisis, but it is the worst hit. The annual pace of price increases throughout Europe has accelerated to an average of 9.6 per cent. This is the fastest European inflation since the Korean war, officials said.

COAL: Dangerous union-NCB 'unity'

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

MINERS' leaders and the National Coal Board have formed a 'united front' over a fuel plan for Europe. This is despite a policy of total opposition to entry into the Common Market on the part of the National Union of Mine-workers.

The plan was unveiled yesterday by NCB chief Derek Ezra and the right-wing president of the NUM, Joe Gormley.

Gormley said he would be fighting for 'British interests' in Europe when discussions on a fuel policy opened after entry next month. He said approaches would be made to the coal committees of the European trade unions—particularly in the main EEC producer country, Germany.

The NUM president added that

a 'unity of interest' had been established between the Coal Board and the unions. This sentiment was supported by colliery overmen's secretary, Joe Crawford, who is also this year's TUC chairman.

But both Ezra and Gormley insisted that there was no question of the European Coal and Steel Community dictating terms of expansion or rundown of the British industry.

Ezra said the community authorities had no mandatory power over these matters. They would only make recommendations.

The policy argues for an expansion of the British and European industry to deal with

part of the Common Market 'energy gap', filled at present by 992 million tons of coal and oil imports from outside Europe and Britain.

Ezra said the Community centres of Europe in the future would be in Britain and the Ruhr area of Germany. The Dutch industry was rapidly closing down and the coalfield in northern France would not last because of bad geological conditions.

Britain had the competitive edge on Europe, but costs would have to be kept down.

This has a particular bearing on the substantial pay claim the miners' leaders are to discuss with the NCB on January 10. Gormley said there would be no discussion of this claim with heads of the European industry.

STEEL: Massive cut-back to fit Tories' EEC plans

WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

STEEL INDUSTRY chiefs went to see Tory premier Edward Heath yesterday afternoon over the government's plan to close large sections of the industry.

The discussions are overshadowed by entry into the Common Market and the policy of the European Coal and Steel Community to rationalize the industry.

Apart from the 18,000 jobs cut-back already planned in Scotland, steel plants at Consett, Corby, Shotton and Shelton are thought

to be at risk. Some estimates say 40,000 jobs could go.

Closures at Irlam in Lancashire and South Wales have already been announced.

The most prominent factor affecting Tory policy is entry into the Common Market.

The European Economic Commission has already stated that steel production should be confined to several large groupings. I understand that five steel centres in Britain are envisaged.

The Commission has pointed out that the problems of the

Fight rising prices! Make the Tory government resign!

DEMONSTRATE
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.

Pound parity delayed by Barber

BY JOHN SPENCER

CHANCELLOR Anthony Barber made it clear yesterday that the sterling exchange rate will not be fixed before January 1, when Britain enters the Common Market.

In a written Commons reply to a question from former Industry Minister Nicholas Ridley, Barber said he had decided conditions were 'not yet appropriate for a return to the maintenance of margins round a fixed parity'.

Common Market central bankers meeting in Basle last weekend apparently gave up hope of seeing the pound parity fixed before British entry. Some of them think it will be well into the summer or later before Britain will be in a position to end the float.

The central bankers also adopted a new set of rules for the settlement of intervention debts between the EEC countries. The debts arise from the 'snake-in-the-tunnel' system which is supposed to be the first step to European monetary union.

Under the system each central bank is obliged to maintain its currency within 2.25 per cent of its central rate with every other Common Market currency. The pound, of course, is at present an exception to this rule.

The original scheme adopted last April specified that countries whose currencies were supported within these margins by countries should repay their debts in proportion to the composition of their reserves.

However Britain and Italy objected to paying in gold and special drawing rights under conditions where the free market gold price (over \$60 an ounce) was almost twice the official price of \$38 an ounce.

This objection was accepted by the Basle meeting, which decided that countries could choose between parting with their gold immediately to settle their debt or 'rolling over' the debt until 1975.

By then, they hope, the official gold price will have been brought into line with the free market. This decision is a further indication that the two-tier gold system set up in 1968 has irretrievably broken down.

By accepting this forced retreat, the central bankers have also seriously undermined the prospects for monetary unification within the Common Market—an essential if the European employers are to fight the trade war on the same basis as the United States.

steel sector can be solved by 'Working out of measures which will allow the ordered integration into the Common Market of a very few large concerns.'

It has warned that the British steel industry could 'threaten the Community's aim of achieving a fair competition in the steel sector.'

The Commission insists that any one group should not control more than 12-13 per cent of total European output. Production controlled by the British Steel Corporation is well above this figure.

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