

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY DECEMBER 21, 1972 ● No. 952 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TENS OF THOUSANDS STRIKE TO DEFEND UNION ENGINEERS' FINE SNATCHED TODAY?

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

ENGINEERS from the key sections of British industry in the Midlands, Merseyside and Manchester yesterday stopped work in the second wave of strikes this week in defence of their union.

TUC sits on the fence

THE TUC General Council yesterday told unions to ignore Heath's bid to stop all pay talks—embarking on what could become a major clash with the Tories in a matter of weeks.

But they did so in an atmosphere of utter complacency, reminiscent of a vicarage coffee morning, with today's state seizure of £55,000 from the engineering union not even getting a mention.

And while bridling at the Tory premier's dictatorial letter to the gasworkers' leaders last week, the union chiefs decided to arrange a round-table discussion with him on prices early in the New Year.

Letters will go out today from Congress House, the TUC's London headquarters, advising unions 'to disregard any statement calling for the suspension of negotiations'.

There is nothing in law to stop unions concluding agreements with employers during the freeze 'or putting pressure on employers to reach agreements', the letters will say.

TUC general secretary Victor Feather yesterday spoke of the 'widespread resentment' which had been aroused among trade unionists by Heath's statement.

Feather also denied Heath's assertion made in the House of Commons on Tuesday that a number of unions had already accepted that no offers could be made.

'I made inquiries of all the General Council this morning and could find no union which had accepted advice to suspend negotiations,' he said. 'The Prime Minister must have been misinformed on this.'

The General Council's failure to mobilize decisive action to force the Tories out of office—and to try and return to back-stage dealing with the government—opens up enormous dangers in front of the trade union movement.

Despite Tory Press lies that the men were apathetic, the strike call was heeded magnificently in all areas. And the AUEW members received spontaneous support from other trade unionists. (Full reports of the demonstrations and pictures on page 12.)

The series of strikes were held on the eve of today's application in the National Industrial Relations Court to legally extract £55,000 from the union's funds. The fresh application to Sir John Donaldson follows a week of manoeuvring in which obtaining the fine and costs has run into a series of technical legal hitches.

'Ignore Heath letter'

As defiance of the Industrial Relations Act intensified, the TUC General Council yesterday decided to issue a directive that unions should ignore Edward Heath's dictatorial bid to stop all present pay talks. (See our Industrial Correspondent's article on the TUC decision this page.)

At the same time six Post Office unions, representing 320,000 workers, have slapped in a substantial flat rate pay claim—operative from January 1.

It is the first such common claim by the unions in the history of Post Office pay bargaining. The claim involves postmen, telephonists, counter clerks, inland and overseas telegraphists, clerical and administrative staff together with their supervisors and sales superintendents.

There can be no doubt left in anybody's mind that a major confrontation between the government and the union is now on the way.

Despite the craven capitulation of its trade union and Labour Party leadership, the working class has shown time and again that it will not surrender its basic rights and it won't stand for a massive attack on its standard of living.

Yet this is precisely the course which Heath and his government have set.

Preparing harsher attacks

But the bankers and speculators in the Tory Party won't surrender their guns without a fight. Every day longer they remain in office gives them time they desperately need to prepare even harsher attacks on the working class—in the next round using the police and army if necessary.

That is why the campaign to force them out of office must be made the call of the hour.

Mersey call for General Strike



WIDESPREAD industrial action hit Merseyside yesterday as an estimated 100,000 workers downed tools over the £55,000 fines imposed on the engineers.

One noticeable feature was the massive support for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers from workers in other trade unions.

Transport and General Workers' Union members on building sites joined the protest and dockers at Liverpool and Birkenhead went on strike halting work around the port.

The two major car plants—Vauxhall and Ford came to a standstill as did scores of smaller engineering factories in Liverpool.

The movement in Kirkby new town was particularly effective. Otis Elevators, Delco Engineering and GEC's were all badly hit by strike action.

The production of both local newspapers—the 'Liverpool Echo' and the 'Daily Post'—was halted.

About 1,500 workers held a march through Liverpool city centre calling for a General Strike and the removal of the Tory government.

At a Pier Head rally they

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN LIVERPOOL

heard Eddie Loyden of the Liverpool Trades Council call on union leaders to demand that the TUC organize a General Strike against the government and its anti-working class legislation.

'It will not be sufficient to continue with demonstrations and one day strikes,' said Mr. Loyden.

'More serious action is now necessary. As a first step the trades council are calling on the TUC for a General Strike. This also should be the role of the leadership of all the workers involved in the protest.'

'We have to continue the fight to commit the leadership to this militant action,' he said.

He warned that the Tory attack on basic rights went in hand with their policy to drive up unemployment. He called on workers to support the occupation by the CAV workers at Fazakerley against the plans by the Lucas management to close the factory in April.

Bill Creighton, chairman of the Merseyside Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions

said yesterday's demonstration was just a preliminary step.

On January 19 the Confederation was calling out the whole of the Merseyside area against the Industrial Relations Act.

'If this does not defeat the Act, then we should say there will be a complete stoppage throughout the whole working class in the country,' he said.

Gerry Russell, Merseyside divisional organizer of the AUEW, thanked other workers for standing by his union.

'We believe that with this kind of support the Act can be defeated. We believe it must be defeated if the rank and file continues its resistance against this government and its measures.'

● Three coachloads of demonstrators later went to mount a mass picket of the occupied CAV factory in Fazakerley, Liverpool. At the Pier Head meeting marchers were told that the trade union movement on Merseyside would have to give greater backing to the CAV sit-in strikers, who have completed more than ten weeks occupying the factory against closure.

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY DECEMBER 21, 1972 ● No. 952 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TENS OF THOUSANDS STRIKE TO DEFEND UNION ENGINEERS' FINE SNATCHED TODAY?

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

ENGINEERS from the key sections of British industry in the Midlands, Merseyside and Manchester yesterday stopped work in the second wave of strikes this week in defence of their union.

TUC sits on the fence

THE TUC General Council yesterday told unions to ignore Heath's bid to stop all pay talks—embarking on what could become a major clash with the Tories in a matter of weeks.

But they did so in an atmosphere of utter complacency, reminiscent of a vicarage coffee morning, with today's state seizure of £55,000 from the engineering union not even getting a mention.

And while bridling at the Tory premier's dictatorial letter to the gasworkers' leaders last week, the union chiefs decided to arrange a round-table discussion with him on prices early in the New Year.

Letters will go out today from Congress House, the TUC's London headquarters, advising unions 'to disregard any statement calling for the suspension of negotiations'.

There is nothing in law to stop unions concluding agreements with employers during the freeze 'or putting pressure on employers to reach agreements', the letters will say.

TUC general secretary Victor Feather yesterday spoke of the 'widespread resentment' which had been aroused among trade unionists by Heath's statement.

Feather also denied Heath's assertion made in the House of Commons on Tuesday that a number of unions had already accepted that no offers could be made.

'I made inquiries of all the General Council this morning and could find no union which had accepted advice to suspend negotiations,' he said. 'The Prime Minister must have been misinformed on this.'

The General Council's failure to mobilize decisive action to force the Tories out of office—and to try and return to back-stage dealing with the government—opens up enormous dangers in front of the trade union movement.

Despite Tory Press lies that the men were apathetic, the strike call was heeded magnificently in all areas. And the AUEW members received spontaneous support from other trade unionists. (Full reports of the demonstrations and pictures on page 12.)

The series of strikes were held on the eve of today's application in the National Industrial Relations Court to legally extract £55,000 from the union's funds. The fresh application to Sir John Donaldson follows a week of manoeuvring in which obtaining the fine and costs has run into a series of technical legal hitches.

'Ignore Heath letter'

As defiance of the Industrial Relations Act intensified, the TUC General Council yesterday decided to issue a directive that unions should ignore Edward Heath's dictatorial bid to stop all present pay talks. (See our Industrial Correspondent's article on the TUC decision this page.)

At the same time six Post Office unions, representing 320,000 workers, have slapped in a substantial flat rate pay claim—operative from January 1.

It is the first such common claim by the unions in the history of Post Office pay bargaining. The claim involves postmen, telephonists, counter clerks, inland and overseas telegraphists, clerical and administrative staff together with their supervisors and sales superintendents.

There can be no doubt left in anybody's mind that a major confrontation between the government and the union is now on the way.

Despite the craven capitulation of its trade union and Labour Party leadership, the working class has shown time and again that it will not surrender its basic rights and it won't stand for a massive attack on its standard of living.

Yet this is precisely the course which Heath and his government have set.

Preparing harsher attacks

But the bankers and speculators in the Tory Party won't surrender their guns without a fight. Every day longer they remain in office gives them time they desperately need to prepare even harsher attacks on the working class—in the next round using the police and army if necessary.

That is why the campaign to force them out of office must be made the call of the hour.

Mersey call for General Strike



WIDESPREAD industrial action hit Merseyside yesterday as an estimated 100,000 workers downed tools over the £55,000 fines imposed on the engineers.

One noticeable feature was the massive support for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers from workers in other trade unions.

Transport and General Workers' Union members on building sites joined the protest and dockers at Liverpool and Birkenhead went on strike halting work around the port.

The two major car plants—Vauxhall and Ford came to a standstill as did scores of smaller engineering factories in Liverpool.

The movement in Kirkby new town was particularly effective. Otis Elevators, Delco Engineering and GEC's were all badly hit by strike action.

The production of both local newspapers—the 'Liverpool Echo' and the 'Daily Post'—was halted.

About 1,500 workers held a march through Liverpool city centre calling for a General Strike and the removal of the Tory government.

At a Pler Head rally they

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN LIVERPOOL

heard Eddie Loyden of the Liverpool Trades Council call on union leaders to demand that the TUC organize a General Strike against the government and its anti-working class legislation.

'It will not be sufficient to continue with demonstrations and one day strikes,' said Mr. Loyden.

'More serious action is now necessary. As a first step the trades council are calling on the TUC for a General Strike. This also should be the role of the leadership of all the workers involved in the protest.'

'We have to continue the fight to commit the leadership to this militant action,' he said.

He warned that the Tory attack on basic rights went in hand with their policy to drive up unemployment. He called on workers to support the occupation by the CAV workers at Fazakerley against the plans by the Lucas management to close the factory in April.

Bill Creighton, chairman of the Merseyside Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions

said yesterday's demonstration was just a preliminary step.

On January 19 the Confederation was calling out the whole of the Merseyside area against the Industrial Relations Act.

'If this does not defeat the Act, then we should say there will be a complete stoppage throughout the whole working class in the country,' he said.

Gerry Russell, Merseyside divisional organizer of the AUEW, thanked other workers for standing by his union.

'We believe that with this kind of support the Act can be defeated. We believe it must be defeated if the rank and file continues its resistance against this government and its measures.'

● Three coachloads of demonstrators later went to mount a mass picket of the occupied CAV factory in Fazakerley, Liverpool. At the Pler Head meeting marchers were told that the trade union movement on Merseyside would have to give greater backing to the CAV sit-in strikers, who have completed more than ten weeks occupying the factory against closure.

Property really hurts... especially when confiscated

FROM IAN YEATS

NOTHING has revealed more graphically what lies closest to Tory hearts than Uganda president Idi Amin's seizure of foreign-owned firms—most of them British.

Twenty tea plantations owned by the London-based Mitchell-Cotts group have already been nationalized along with six which are non-British. Amin plans to take over the assets of at least 15 foreign companies—only one of them non-British.

They are Brooke Bond, British American Tobacco, Securicor, Dunlop, the British Metal Co, Chillington Tools, Consolidated Printers (Lonhro) and Ugandan Transport (British Electrical Traction).

One US company, International TV Sales, has already been expropriated.

The President has also said he intends to withdraw trading licences from the hundreds of small import-export firms which, although they have no assets in Uganda, have nevertheless been creaming off fat profits.

Amin has raised his hand to try to halt the exploitation of his country by imperialism once and for all. If much else that he has done recently was barbaric, in this he is unquestionably right.

Uganda was seized by Britain and its resources and people

systematically plundered during decades of colonization throughout Africa.

After independence the exploitation continued with Britons taking plum jobs, ranchers farming the best land and companies exporting huge profits back to Britain.

In his speech last week Amin directly accused British imperialism of milking his economy, but in the House of Commons this week Tory Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home described his remarks as a 'historical travesty' and said the speech was riddled with 'insulting references to this country'.

Yesterday the Tory 'Daily Telegraph' reported that Home attacked the Ugandan leader in some of the toughest language the Commons has heard used by a Minister about another country's leader.

Commenting on the takeover of British companies, Sir Alec said: 'On any count these actions are outrageous by any standard of civilized behaviour and certainly incompatible with the behaviour expected within the Commonwealth partnership.'

How the Tory tune changes when instead of Asians being persecuted it is British big business which is being raped.

What we think

HAROLD WILSON'S protest at Tory premier Edward Heath's ban on wage settlements reveals the complete political bankruptcy of the Labour leaders. Speaking in the Commons, he asked: 'By what authority did you threaten the negotiations in the gas wage discussion and tell them they were not to go to the point of making offers?'

The answer, of course, is that Heath did this by the 'authority' handed to him on a plate by Harold Wilson in June 1970. Four years earlier Labour had been returned to office with a majority of 97. Instead of using this to carry out socialist measures, the Labour leaders used it to attack the workers who put them there. They:

- SOUGHT to introduce 'In Place of Strife' to cripple the trade unions.
- ALLOWED unemployment to top 600,000.
- DEVALUED the pound and forced up the cost of living.
- INTRODUCED a vicious Immigration Act.
- SUPPORTED slavishly American imperialism in Vietnam.
- TRIED to reach a sell-out deal with the Smith regime in Rhodesia.
- CUT into the welfare services (for example, by taking milk away from secondary school children).

The result was that thousands of disillusioned workers refused to vote in 1970, while the middle class swung to the Tories. If Wilson complains to Heath now, it must never be forgotten that he held open for him the door of 10 Downing Street.

More than that. The Tory government is still there today only because of the support it gets from the Labour right wing. In October, 1971, 69 Jenkinsites marched into the Tory lobbies in the Common Market vote. Every worker knows that Tory rule could have been ended on that day. Yet still no action has been taken against these Tory supporters in Labour's ranks.

Neither is any action taken against Reg Prentice, the Labour shadow Minister, who consistently attacks workers in struggle.

Throughout 1972, when one section of workers after another has gone into battle against the employers and their government, the Labour leaders and their allies at the top of the unions have striven to hold them back.

The miners defeated the government in their wages strike, the dockers forced the release of the five jailed stewards and now the engineers are in revolt against the National Industrial Relations Court fines. And at the same time, hundreds of thousands of Labour voters, together with some Labour

councils, fought the Tory-imposed rent rises.

Such actions, if developed, were and are capable of bringing the government down. Wilson and Feather, however, refuse to mobilize the working class for this. They moan and protest to Heath, but they would rather have him still in power than use the strength of the working class to drive him out.

Instead, Wilson complains about Heath's 'inadequate authority' in words almost identical to those of Enoch Powell.

Powell's demagoguery about 'dictatorship' is, of course, a bid to gain some support among the middle class and some sections of backward workers. Powell's immigration and 'free market' policies would be impossible without dictatorship.

If Wilson's opposition is feeble, however, that of the working class is not. Hundreds of thousands of engineers have shown that this week. Just as Heath misjudged his strength when he took on the miners, he must be shown to have misjudged again in trying to impose wage control on the entire working class.

But the union leaders must be forced to use the strength of this class opposition to the Tories by calling a General Strike to bring the government down.

Heath must be fought not just with words but with deeds. The time to act is now.

Paris talks WERE cloak for a bloodier round of war

BY JOHN SPENCER

PRESIDENT NIXON has resumed full-scale bombardment of the towns and cities of North Vietnam, making it abundantly clear that the so-called peace negotiations in Paris were simply the preparation for another even bloodier round of war.

The background of these negotiations demonstrates that the talks had the sole purpose of hoodwinking the American electorate and allowing Nixon and Kissinger to pose as peace-mongers while the southern puppet regime was strengthened for the next stage of war.

A key role in setting up the talks was played by the Soviet leaders, who made it clear before the presidential election that they favoured Nixon for another term in the White House.

His foreign policy was acclaimed in Moscow as 'realistic and peace-loving'. Three weeks before the election the Soviet leaders signed a mammoth trade deal with the United States.

The Paris talks which made Nixon's re-election a certainty were set up by the Moscow bureaucracy with visiting American officials following Nixon's trip to the Soviet capital at the end of May.

His welcome there indicated to the Americans that they could do just as they liked in Vietnam without fearing the Soviet Union would interfere.

A few days before the visit they had blockaded Haiphong and bombarded Hanoi.

Throughout the secret talks in Paris the Workers Press warned of the dangers posed to the Vietnamese revolution. The paper pointed out again and again

'Peace' deception by revisionists and CP



Workers Press of October 25. 'Red Mole' of October 30.

that Nixon was planning to intensify the war as soon as the negotiations were over.

We described the elections as a vote-catching manoeuvre in which the Soviet and Chinese Stalinists had played a major part. Behind the scenes they had tried to force Hanoi to the conference table.

By contrast, the 'Morning Star' of the British Communist Party professed to detect peace around the corner, just as did the sinister Dr Kissinger.

As late as November 18, over three weeks after the American refusal to sign the nine-point draft treaty, the paper's diplomatic correspondent Chris Myant wrote from Hanoi:

'The possibility of peace is very close. This will show in the coming talks between the US and the Vietnamese side. This is what I was told when I interviewed Hoang Tung, etc., etc. . . .

The Stalinists were not the only ones who saw peace round every corner.

THE 'Red Mole', of the International Marxist Group went even further. This pitiful revisionist organ detected an imminent prospect of victory for the Indo-China revolution.

Under the heading 'Victory in Sight', the paper wrote:

'Unfortunately many militants will substitute their own moods and impressions for a clear analysis of the terms of agreement and of the balance of forces in Indo-China.'

This was exactly what the 'Mole' proceeded to do. It pontificated that 'a first analysis of the agreement terms suggests that it is the Americans who have substantially modified their positions and not the Provisional Revolutionary Government'.

The only problem being that the Americans had no intention of actually signing the deal.

The article went on into detailed and arid speculation about the possible form of a coalition government in the south, concluding that there was

'nothing to fear' from such a government provided that 'the smashing of the . . . puppet armies is only temporarily delayed'.

The paper concluded: 'The handling of these problems will decide whether Ho Chi Minh's prophecy comes true and the locust succeeds both in disembowelling the elephant and in cleansing Indo-China of the filth it leaves behind.'

THE 'state capitalist' International Socialism group was equally complacent, though its attack of peace fever was tempered with its customary scepticism and anti-communism.

Ian Birchall, writing in 'Socialist Worker' for November 4, proclaimed that 'At long last peace in Vietnam seems to be in sight.'

'The news cannot fail to be welcome to those who have spent the last eight years campaigning against the brutal US war of aggression.'

Unlike the 'Mole' writer, Birchall considered it was

the North Vietnamese who had made all the concessions:

'It is clear that in recent weeks the North Vietnamese have made far more concessions than the US.'

He added sceptically: 'It is clear from these concessions that, while North Vietnam could still hold out for years, it has no prospect of winning the war outright.'

The implication is that the North Vietnamese should accept what terms they can get from the imperialists and end their 'hopeless' conflict.

Just so that he can be covered from both sides, Birchall warns: 'Socialists who have been chanting "Victory to the NLF" for the past eight years will have to look very carefully which way the rifles are pointing.'

BEHIND the line of both the 'Red Mole' and the 'Socialist Worker' is the unspoken assumption that the imperialists really desire peace in Vietnam.

Nothing of course could be further from the truth. Nixon wants peace only on his terms—with the Indo-China revolution crushed.

The breakdown of the Paris talks indicates that Nixon has been unable to get his way in the negotiations.

But the danger remains acute for the Vietnamese revolution. While the bombs rain on Hanoi and Haiphong the Moscow and Peking bureaucrats will certainly be striving to get the talks restarted on behalf of the US.

The British Stalinists are still spreading the illusion that the 'peace' talks can be made to come up with a solution.

This is the essence of the 'sign now' campaign which is petitioning the US President to sign the nine-point draft agreement. The revisionists' confusion actually supplements that generated in the workers' movement by the CP campaign.

The latest turn in this cringing and totally fraudulent campaign is a lobby held last weekend by the British Communist Party.

Members gathered outside No 10 Downing Street on Saturday last bearing posters with the message: 'Heath tell Nixon sign now'.

At the time of greatest danger to the Vietnamese revolution, the Stalinists and their hangers-on in the Vietnam protest industry prove to be a transmission-belt for disorientation and illusions which aid the American propaganda campaign to present Nixon as a peace lover.

These 'friends' of the Indo-Chinese revolution are all tailing behind the Stalinists and adapting to the requirements of the bureaucracies which wanted Nixon returned to office and are still fuelling illusions in the US president's love of peace.

Army would have police power: Dangers for British workers as well

Martial law proposed for Ulster

BY ALEX MITCHELL

THE DIPLOCK COMMISSION yesterday recommended the total abolition of normal judicial procedure in Northern Ireland and the introduction of martial law. The new judicial procedures are similar to those that the Greek colonels established after their military coup in 1967. They also bring Northern Ireland's powers into line with the dictatorial powers already seized by the Green Tories in the south.

In his White Paper published yesterday Lord Diplock made these recommendations:

- Trial by jury should be scrapped for people accused of so-called 'terrorist' offences. These cases should in future be heard by a single judge.
- The army is to assume sweeping powers of arrest.
- The military should be able to detain suspects for up to four hours without charging them.
- The onus of proof be switched to suspects in firearms cases.
- Written evidence by anonymous witnesses to be made admissible. This would prevent cross-examination of people making statements against the accused.

Diplock was one of the judges who sat on the House of Lords appeal in the Transport and General Workers' Union action against Heaton's Transport. The judges rejected the appeal, confirmed the £55,000 fines and thus strengthened the authority of the National Industrial Relations Court.

Considered

The Diplock recommendations are under consideration by William Whitelaw's Ulster Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Attorney-General's Department and the Home Office.

After various reports are considered, the Cabinet will make a statement, probably early in the New Year.

The measures which the military are seeking have immense implications for the working class in Northern Ireland and Britain.

They must be seen against

Loyalist extremists were to continue.'

The commission also recommends that the armed forces should be given power to arrest without warrant and power to detain suspects for up to four hours to establish their identity.

It should be an offence to refuse to answer or to give a false or misleading answer to any question reasonably put for that purpose by a member of the armed forces or a police officer.

It says it is not practicable in present conditions for the initial arrest of a suspected 'terrorist' to be made by a police officer. This should be made by soldiers, it adds.

No bail

Diplock recommends that no bail should be granted except by the High Court and then only if the applicant satisfies the court that a number of stringent requirements be met.

The release of charged 'terrorists' on bail has had a serious effect upon the morale of troops, the report says, as they see 'known terrorists', whom they have arrested, perhaps at the risk of their own lives, walking the streets a free man in the area from which he has been operating'.

The commission suggests that the onus of proof as to possession of firearms and explosives be altered to require a person 'found in certain circumstances' to prove on the balance of probabilities that he did not know and had no reason to suspect that arms or explosives were where they were found.

Onus

With this change of onus of proof the commission feels there is 'no serious risk of an innocent man being convicted especially as, if our previous recommendation is accepted, the trial will be by judge alone. (!)

The commission suggests, too, that signed written statements made to anyone investigating the offence should be admissible in court if the person who made the statement cannot be produced in court 'for specific reasons'.

Certainly the last two recommendations leave the way open for guns to be 'planted' on people and for the wholesale use of agents provocateurs and 'narks'.

Lyon devours Churchill tool plant

THE CHURCHILL Machine Tool Company's plant at Broadheath, near Altrincham, Cheshire, is to be flattened.

The new owner, Lyon Group (Northern) Limited, is to redevelop the site as a £34m industrial estate. The project will take three years to complete.

Lyon's bought the 22-acre site for more than £1m.

The redevelopment plans mean an end to the job hopes of the remaining 500-strong work force of the once-famous factory.

Its closure was announced over 12 months ago and followed the recession in the machine-tool trade.

Mike Oglesby, director and general manager of the Lyon Group, said: 'We have been told we can have possession in April. There will then be a complete closure for nine months while new buildings are erected and existing buildings refurbished.'

The group specializes in taking over rundown industry. It took over the Plessey factory at Alexandria, Scotland, and has also purchased similar properties in Wales.



'Arrest' in Ulster . . . Troops would take police role.

A factory that didn't come out

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

UNION ACTIVISTS at the CAV factories in Rochester, Kent, were angry and bitter yesterday morning at the response of their convenor towards moves to strike.

Even a local full-time official of the engineers' union described a letter put out by convenor Jock Simpson as 'disgraceful'. Some workers wanted to apologize to those on strike yesterday for being at work.

The sequence of events which led to this situation began last Thursday, when mass meetings rejected a call from the shop stewards to come out.

These decisions were taken under the impact of the right-wing coup at Lucas in Birmingham, where a decision to stay in had been won the previous day, and that morning's return-to-work vote at CAV Sudbury.

But over the next few days the mood in the factory changed. There were moves in shop after shop to back the strike.

But on Tuesday convenor Simpson put round his letter, a section of which is worth reproducing in full.

The general conclusion being reached in the various shop discussions that had taken place, he said, was that 'you had let your shop stewards down badly'. Simpson went on:

Throughout the three factories many of you have tried to make amends by changing your decision, and by asking others to strike with the shop stewards on Wednesday.

The finish-off and test shop

led the way and soon members from the autos, 718, 713, assembly shops, cutter grinders and maintenance joined in saying that they would be out on Wednesday.

The position at Chatham escalated, and all of the maintenance there and at Gillingham promised full support.

Members from short order and nearly every other department promised to follow their stewards out of the door. There was going to be such serious disruption that the company said they would have to consider sending home those who reported for work. . .

However we have to consider the aftermath of Wednesday. If decisions of mass meetings are to mean anything in future, then like it or not we have to abide by the decision made last Thursday.

I feel that your actions of the past few days have proved beyond all doubt that you support your shop stewards, and you have shown this in a fashion that has bewildered the management.

Let us now heal the breach among us by honouring last Thursday's decision to come to work on Wednesday.

As one steward commented yesterday morning, 'People were working to try and get their sections out when this letter came through. If it had not done so we could undoubtedly have stopped the factory.'

BOOKS — AN IDEAL XMAS PRESENT

A wide selection of paperbacks—special giftpacks—
children's books all available from

PAPERBACKS CENTRE

28 Charlotte St
London W1



OPEN:
9 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon-Thurs
9 a.m.-7.30 p.m. Friday
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday
Book Tokens welcome

BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS



DEFEND THE ENGINEERS

Sir John Donaldson, president of the National Industrial Relations Court, is not a man to mince his words. Whenever he speaks, he means business.

This is not to say that everybody necessarily takes what he says seriously. Indeed, during the Midland Cold Storage dispute a number of dockers passed the unkindest judgements on His Worship.

Walter Cunningham, one of the Hull dockers' leaders, also did some straight talking: 'I am standing firm. I won't recognize the court and I won't go to it. Even if they fine me, I won't recognize it and I won't pay the fine. If he wants me in that court he's going to forcibly have to take me there.'

But although the working class has signified a sharp degree of contempt for him and his court, the Tories and their backers have come to treat his public pronouncements with the utmost respect. To them Sir John is already hoisted on the barricades and they want to see how he survives.

In this respect it is intriguing to watch his changed attitude in relation to the capitalist Press. Shortly after the court began its unpre-

cedented rule, he summoned a number of handpicked industrial correspondents to a private briefing. He read the 'riot act' on the law of contempt.

He warned that interviews with union members disobeying the court's orders could put newspapers or television at risk.

This had followed an extraordinary telephone call which he had personally made to a BBC news controller after the 6 o'clock news. He was 'displeased' to see an interview with a railwayman who said he would oppose the court's cooling-off instruction. The interview disappeared from later bulletins.

By the end of the year the court president had altered

tactics. Last month he was guest of honour at a dinner for court journalists at which he made a special appeal for sympathetic coverage. This was followed by a 'New Law Journal' article which said the court was 'misunderstood' because of the sensational treatment it had received in the Press.

If the Press did give sensational coverage to Sir John, then it must immediately be admitted he was doing pretty sensational things. Like jailing five dockers who were defending their basic right to picket and fining Britain's largest trade union £55,000.

This brings us to the Goad case. The capitalist Press has noted Sir John's remarks and those of various Ministers

over private luncheons.

The message has gone to Fleet Street to 'cool it'. Because the Goad issue is something of an embarrassment to them, the ruling class is hoping that by not reporting it, it will go away!

Thus workers have been treated to the spectacle—or non-spectacle—of their fight being relegated to obscurity in the capitalist media. The massive stoppages have rated only minor items in the Press while television regards it as third rate news—at best.

These organs of the ruling class want to deliberately distort and belittle the fighting capacity of the working class. They want to hide the fact that on Monday large sections of industry were brought to a halt: the Fleet Street Press, British-Leyland's giant car plant at Cowley and the Ford Motor Company's plant at Dagenham.

They want to write off the response to the strike call by tens of thousands of engineers in north and south London, Portsmouth, Sheffield, Slough, Reading and Watford. They also want to hide the fact that in all these strikes other trade unions gave unhesitating support.

Yesterday saw another day of immense strike activity in Manchester, Merseyside and Birmingham.

We can say without fear of contradiction that Workers Press has been the only daily newspaper in the country which has consistently followed the activities of Donaldson and his court and fully reported the response of the working class.

When the Act was first mooted we said the Communist Party's and 'lefts' 'Kill the Bill' was an inadequate campaign. The Bill couldn't be killed without first 'killing' the government. We were proved right.

We warned that the Act would mean a new era of fines on trade unions and jailing of their members. Those who then put up the slogan 'Don't co-operate with the court' were equally proved wrong.

We were right once again.

We have consistently called for an industrial and political campaign to force the Tories out—the only policy which can ensure the protection of the trade unions and their members from the Tory jackals.

By censoring the militancy of the working class in its media, the ruling class believes that the struggle can be dissipated.

But like Canute trying to turn back the waters, the Tories face imminent drowning.

Below: James Goad (left) and Sir John Donaldson





Left: London engineers on the march on Monday. Right: The national Press closedown on Monday. Top left: Car workers, members of the T&GWU at the British-Leyland plant, joined striking engineers in a big march through Oxford on Monday. Top right: Merseyside. engineers at the start of yesterday's demonstration.



PRICES: THE GREAT TORY FRAUD

Stephen Johns investigates the cost of living this christmas.

Even the briefest investigation of the government's much-vaunted 'price freeze' reveals one outstanding fact — there is no freeze at all!

Instead the Tories are involved in perhaps the biggest confidence trick ever pulled on the consumer. They say that workers can exchange wage increases for a 'standstill' on prices.

This argument is a complete myth, and as the Christmas rush reaches its frantic crescendo this weekend, more and more housewives are waking up to the gigantic deception prac-

tised on them by Ted Heath and his Cabinet.

This examination in the field of food—still the most important item in the family budget—shows that far from prices being stabilized, they have risen more after the 'freeze' than before it.

To get the true picture, all idea of price control should be abandoned. No food is subject to price sanctions. This is made quite clear in the Act on inflation passed in parliament at the end of November.

Food can be divided into three categories, food from abroad, home-grown or caught fresh food and processed food made from one or both of the

first two categories.

The Tories have conveniently freed all imported food from control and all fresh food from control and therefore by implication have freed all processed food from control. You are left with no control at all!

PUBLICITY

The Tories are saying to the big food manufacturers and retailers that they can put the prices up at will but their profits or margins must not be allowed to increase.

The secret is that this policy has been presented deliberately

in a way to kid the housewife into thinking prices are controlled. Hence all the massive publicity in the Tory Press on the 'prices hotline'—we hear nothing now of the team of watchdogs surveying the retail scene from the bowels of Whitehall.

The policy on margins is also a fraud designed to stifle protest in the high street.

First, all the big groups in manufacturing and retailing rushed in before the freeze and pegged up prices. The trade was well prepared for the freeze.

'The Grocer' magazine, one of the main organs of the industry, carried leaders warn-

ing of the clampdown week after week before the measures were announced on November 6.

Figures from this magazine reveal the extent of the prices stampede designed to boost margins and profits before the so-called anti-inflation laws.

In August, for example, 'The Grocer' recorded 477 price increases. In the month up to November 4, immediately before the 'freeze', the figure nearly doubled to 772.

There had also been a fundamental shift in the type of price increases. Until the autumn fresh foods had registered an unprecedented rise. During October they began to fall slightly. This is the area of the food industry that is the least affected by price control, since the firms do not have the power to control prices. But what did rise during October was processed food. This sector of the industry is highly monopolized.

In other words, prices were being increased as a deliberate act of policy by the food barons.

Even 'The Grocer' com-

mented on this development. In its monthly survey for October, it noted: 'The suggestion that October would see a considerable movement in processed food prices seems to have been justified by the large number of increases during the month.'

A second important point when considering the 'margin' argument is this: Every housewife has had her income frozen. She cannot plead 'increased costs' to the Tories, yet her costs, because of the Tory prices fraud, are rising. Bluntly stated, the Tories have decided to allow people to get poorer.

A third consideration involves the existing margins of the big monopolies. The food industry is an extremely profitable business for the big boys. Even if their margins were halved, most of the companies would be earning better than the average rate of return on capital.

Here are a few examples: Lyons (catering, Brook-Bond tea, etc.) over 50 per cent on company profit on food. Profit for 1972, £6.2m, a record.

Heinz (50 per cent of soup

market, canned beans, etc.), trading profit £12.3m — a record.

Associated British Foods (one of the big four bakers, owner of Fine Fare, etc.) controlled by the Garfield Weston family of America, profits for 1972—£32.7m.

Unigate (dairy monopoly, United Dairies, Cow and Gate, etc.) profit for last financial year, £13.05m — more than double ten years ago.

PROTECTION

Cavenhams, controlled by financier Jimmy Goldsmith, the largest retail chain in the country (Allied Suppliers-Maypole, Home and Colonial, Liptons-Wrights and Moores Stores, etc., plus food holdings from the Bovril takeover), profits for the 32 weeks to November 11, £11.6m—compared with the £1.8m for the same period of 1971, before the retail chain was purchased from Unilever.

Unilever (the biggest food

company in the world, monopoly of margarine, soap, etc.) last profit 23 per cent up on year before.

Tesco (supermarkets) trading profit £20.8m—15 per cent up in one year.

United Biscuits (McVities, Crawford's, Penguin, etc., 50 per cent of biscuit and cake market) profits £11.7m, almost four times the level ten years ago.

These are the massive profit-margins (made in all cases by taking from the working class part of the value it creates) are being protected by the Tories who allow prices to rise. So much for 'curbing' the profits in the industry.

While the big monopolies continue to reap in the millions; therefore, the housewife faces the most expensive Christmas in history.

The trend of prices has been up and up, despite the 'freeze'. Again the figures in 'The Grocer' are instructive.

According to the magazine, index food prices fell (as explained earlier because of the fall in fresh food prices not processed foods) by 0.25 points

in the week ending October 28. During the week ending November 4 there was another fall, this time of 0.41 points. Again fresh food accounted for the drop.

But since the week ending November 11—that is since the freeze—apart from one week, the food index has risen steadily.

On November 11 the index was 0.17 up. On November 18 0.33 up, on December 2 it was 1.32 up (one of the highest rises of the year) and on December 9 it was 0.86 up. Both processed and fresh foods are now rising rapidly, in fact food prices as a whole on December 9 were 9.5 per cent higher than the same period last year, one of the biggest increases over 1971 recorded over the last 12 months.

POVERTY

Add to this that fresh meat prices are around 25 per cent up on last year, fruit prices around 27 per cent up and

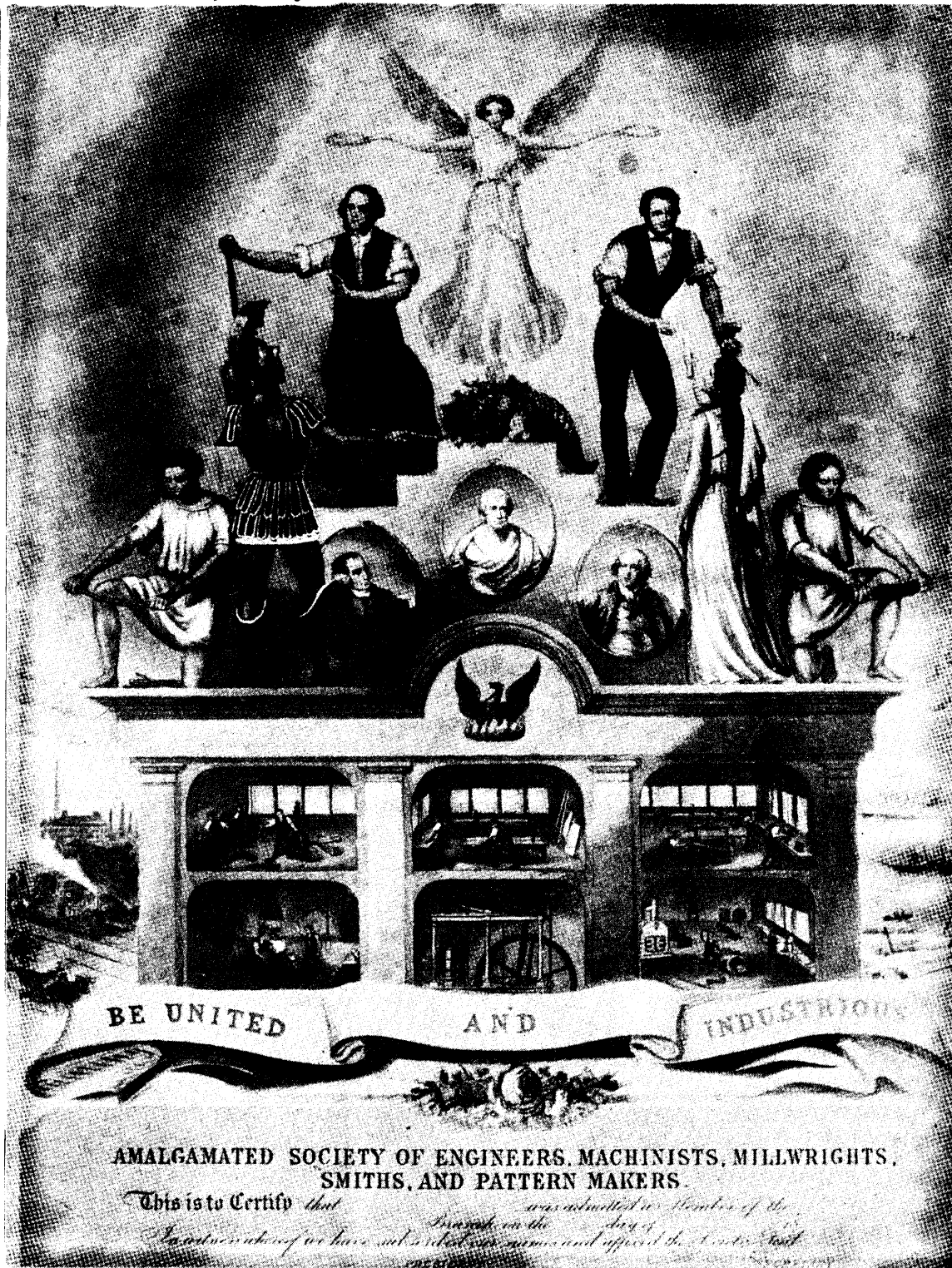
bread 9 per cent, and the full impact of the Tory drive to impoverish whole sections of the working class can be gauged.

This process, of course, is bound to go on. The Common Market will herald another enormous leap in the cost of living.

Many observers point to the development of synthetic foods, like the 'kosp' idea introduced by Courtaulds. This is a 'synthetic meat' made from soya beans. Many experts now believe that this is the working class food of the future—in Europe the cost of fresh commodities will be far beyond the weekly budget of the ordinary consumer. The steak will become what it was 100 years ago—the exclusive food of the very wealthy. The workers will eat 'kosp'.

● Tomorrow a London grocer gives his views on the prices swindle.

PRIMA-FISH-7
DOVER-SO
SALMON-HAL
PRICE-SKI



The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is today in the forefront of the struggle against the Tory government's Industrial Relations Act. Here a special correspondent highlights important and significant episodes in the history of the engineers' fight to build their union against the employers, their governments and their courts.

HOW THE ENGINEERS BUILT THEIR UNION

Part one: From the Combination Acts to the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

The ghosts of the Combination Laws of 1799-1800 and the Taff Vale judgement of 1901 leap out of the past into new living form to preside over the present conflict between the organized working class and the capitalist state.

By implementing the policy of non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act, the 1.2 million-strong Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) is now in the forefront of the resistance to the plans of the Tory government to confiscate union assets as a step towards the destruction of all trade union rights.

In 1901 after the Law

Lords had imposed a fine of £24,000 on the Amalgamated Society of Railway Workers for damages incurred by the Taff Vale Company during the strike called by the union against the victimization of one of its members, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers' general secretary George Barnes, writing in the union's 'Monthly Journal' [of August] expressed the fear that:

'The judges may even make the unions liable to action raised at the instance of executive members in respect of their claims upon the unions.'

Although, at the time, Barnes' alarm was justified, the courts did not intervene against any union in that specific instance. But 70 years later, by bringing his case before the National Industrial

Relations Court James Good has provided a convenient pretext for the Tory government to continue its offensive against union rights.

The Taff Vale judgement negated that legislative protection won by the trade union movement in the period from the repeal of the Combination Laws in 1824. In principle, the Act of 1825 conceded the right of collective-bargaining and the right to strike unattended by the use of violence or intimidation. The Trade Union Act of 1876 appeared to reaffirm these rights by sanctioning peaceful picketing and the legal status of unions regarding the security of their funds.

Taff Vale threatened to demolish all safeguards, returning the unions to the pre-1824 position of illegality.

At various times throughout the course of the 19th century, the forefathers of the modern engineers, firstly in the form of separate craft societies which joined together in 1851 to constitute the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (the predecessor of the AUEW) played a prominent part in the struggle to build and maintain trade unions and wrest legal rights from the employing class.

Action taken by the master millwrights of London against their journeymen formed the prelude to the introduction of the Combination Laws of 1799. The standard 18th-century practice, whereby employers in particular trades procured parliamentary prohibition of association of journeymen who sought to raise wages, was taken up by the London master millwrights. Alarmed at the strong network of combinations among journeymen in London and within a 25 mile radius, they petitioned parliament to enforce the Statute Law empowering Justices of the Peace to fix the rate of

STRIKE ! ON THE Taff Vale Railway.

Men's Headquarters,
Cobourn Street,
Cathays.

There has been a strike on the Taff Vale Railway since Monday last. The Management are using every means to decoy men here who they employ for the purpose of black-legging the men on strike.

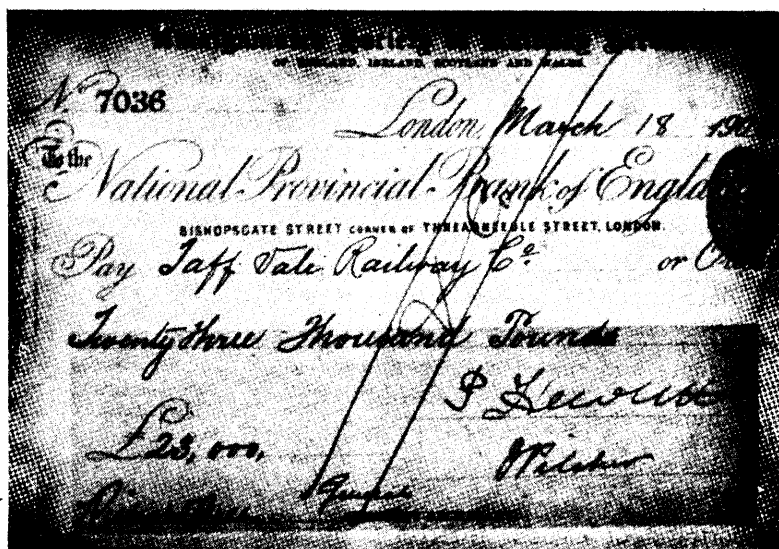
Drivers, Firemen, Guards, Brakesmen, and SIGNALMEN, are all out.

Are you willing to be known as a

Blackleg ?

If you accept employment on the Taff Vale, that is what you will be known by. On arriving at Cardiff, call at the above address, where you can get information and assistance.

RICHARD BELL,
General Secretary.



Cheque paid by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Workers to the Taff Vale Company for strike damages. Above: Strike poster. Above left: membership card of Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

an expanding sector of the economy in which there were distinct opportunities for individual self-betterment, engineers and machine-workers as a whole preferred to stay outside the mass working class Chartist movement of the 1840s. But during the period were embroiled in a number of bitter confrontations with their employers.

In 1844, a powerful combination of Manchester employers attempted to smash unionism by the use of the 'quittance paper' which carried details about the character of the workmen. It was to be presented before a prospective employer, and intended to victimize prominent union men out of a job. This attack only served to stimulate into existence the Mechanics Protection Society of Great Britain and Ireland—a strong federation with pretensions of being a national body.

Forced to withdraw after an eight-month-long strike in Bury against the 'quittance paper', the Manchester Masters in 1846 invoked the law. They charged the strikers with 'conspiracy' and the strike leaders were imprisoned.

After riding out the cyclical trade depression of 1847-1848, which resulted in heavy unemployment in the engineering trades owing to the end of railway speculation and the closing down of textile mills, the upturn in trade which followed restored much and increased membership. In 1851, when several organizations were brought together to form the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, it had a membership of 10,841. It was an historic landmark in trade unionism.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

wages and to take all necessary means to suppress the combinations.

The journeymen counter-petitioned in vain. When the Bill was introduced in the Commons, William Wilberforce, the champion of the abolition of the slave trade, succeeded with his suggestion that the scope of the proposed legislation should be widened so as to make all combinations illegal by Statute Law, since they were 'a general disease in our society'.

However, despite the harassment of the law, the millwrights managed to maintain their craft privileges and standards, resisting the attempts of the employers to introduce non-union men and flood the trade with cheap apprentice labour.

With the expansion of the textile industry as the leading sector of the Industrial Revolution, Lancashire and Yorkshire, by the 1830s, had replaced London as the main centre of engineering. This development created a new and more concentrated class of engineers and machine-makers employed in the construction and servicing of machinery for the large textile enterprises.

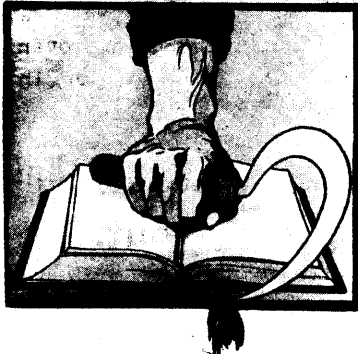
Although they remained outside the great upsurge of general unionism, influenced by Owenite ideas and culminating in the Grand National Consolidated Trades Union of early 1834, from the mid-1830s the engineering craftsmen of the north built up unions at district level and divided by trade. The fruitful amalgamation of Lancashire and Yorkshire unions gave rise to the Journeymen Steam Engine and Machine-Makers Friendly Society.

As collective bodies, society policy refrained from involvement in political movements. As an aristocracy of labour in

THIS ANGRY POET

BY FRANCIS WYNDHAM

BOOK REVIEW



'Beware, Soul Brother' by Chinua Achebe. Heinemann, 40p.

Whenever reference is made to Chinua Achebe, he is usually described as 'the best living African novelist'. It would be more accurate, and less patronizing, to say that he is among the best living novelists anywhere in the world.

His books—'Things Fall Apart', 'No Longer at Ease', and 'Arrow of God' and 'A Man of the People'—have classic qualities of simplicity, irony, beauty and profundity which make them peculiarly accessible to European readers: but it would be wrong to assume from this that he has adopted the style of an alien culture and denied his native roots.

His work is essentially African, preserving the traditions of Ibo folklore in its vivid portrayal of modern Nigerian society. The Ibos are among the most recent of African peoples to become westernized; at the same time, they are among the least 'primitive'. Their pagan beliefs had little to do with magic but were predominantly rational, based on a series of subtle and sensible 'proverbs' which seem to stretch back in history beyond the romantic superstitions of the Christian era to the clear-eyed philosophy of ancient Greece.

At the start of the Biafran war, Achebe made several trips to England in a fruitless attempt to persuade the Wilson government to alter its policy of support for Federal Nigeria against the new state. He became so disgusted by British

foreign policy, which was concerned only with preserving Nigeria as a vast and convenient market for British commercial interests, that after a while he refused to return here, although he continued to receive pressing invitations from academic institutions.

Instead, he remained in his beleaguered country and was largely responsible for the 'Ahiara Declaration'—a long speech delivered by General Ojukwu on June 1, 1969, which was the nearest that Biafra got in its short life to framing a constitution.

The war had begun as a simple struggle for survival; after Ahiara, it defined itself as 'the Biafran revolution'. When I visited Biafra in July, 1969, I found Achebe in a mood that was both embittered and exalted. 'Our society has to be new', he told me. 'You see, we have always admired western technology, we have needed your science and your education, and for years we have respected your values. But now we are beginning to wonder about any of the values coming from the west. We feel we must develop our own, and create for the first time in history a real black African state. Rejection of Nigeria is merely negative—what we must put in its place is real social justice.'

It will be remembered that at this time General Gowon's military regime was being armed not only by the UK but also by the Kremlin.

I asked Achebe if he was going to write about the war,—here, I thought, was a great novelist provided with the theme and experience for a great book. But he replied: 'I don't see this war at all as material for writing. It is too big, too terrible. I have no wish to interpret it: I just want us to get out of it somehow and for people to leave us alone. Even if I return to writing when it is over, it will have to be a different kind of writing. Only some new form of expression could do justice to this horror.'

During the three years since Biafra's defeat, Achebe has only produced two slim volumes. 'Girls at War' is a collection of short stories, of which many were written long before the war and only one, the title story, deals directly (and unforgettably) with the war itself. The second book,

which has just been published, is a collection of poems: and in 'Beware, Soul Brother' it seems to me that Achebe has taken a step towards that 'new form of expression' which alone might 'do justice to this horror'.

The title is misleading, with its overtones of Black Pantherine mysticism: the poem from which it is taken is in fact a warning against this sort of confused emotional anarchy.

'But beware soul brother of the lures of ascension day the day of soporific levitation on high winds of skysong; beware for others there will be that day lying in wait leaden-footed, tone-deaf passionate only for the deep entrails of our soil; beware of the day we head truly skyward leaving that spoil to the long ravenous tooth and talon of their hunger.'

Only seven of these 30 poems are directly about war—for example 'Air Raid':

'It comes so quickly the bird of death from evil forests of Soviet technology'

and 'The First Shot', which might have been written about Ulster:

'That lone rifle-shot anonymous in the dark striding chest-high through a nervous suburb ...'

Two of these—'Refugee Mother and Child' and 'Christmas in Biafra (1969)'—deal with the starvation which was a hideous side-effect of this particular war.

The western public became only too familiar with photographs, by Donald McCullin and others, of pathetic children with distended stomachs dying in the arms of their distraught mothers—and it must be hard for a poet to match in words these heart-rending images. Achebe does so with characteristic simplicity:

'The air was heavy with odours of diarrhoea of unwashed children with washed-out ribs and dried-up bottoms struggling in laboured steps behind blown empty bellies.'

Most mothers there had long ceased to care but not this one; she held a ghost smile between her teeth and in her eyes the ghost of a mother's pride as she combed the rust-coloured hair left on his skull and then—singing in her eyes—began carefully to part it ... In another life this would have been a little daily act of no consequence before his



breakfast and school; now she did it like putting flowers on a tiny grave.'

Even those poems which do not appear to refer to the Biafran war can be interpreted as metaphors for some aspect of the crisis. Many deal with Ibo legends, with proud pagan resistance to the white myths of the missionaries; others concentrate with infinite exactitude on a tiny incident, domestic or in nature, and extract its full human significance by distilling its poetic essence.

A yellow butterfly burst open on a speeding windscreen; a mango seedling struggling for life on the concrete canopy of a modern office block; motes in a sunbeam; two vultures making love; a public execution in Lagos ... these are among Achebe's subjects.

But behind the precision of his observation, the economy of his phrasing, the perfectly chosen words beautifully placed in the elegant phrase, there is always anger. Sometimes the anger is explicit, as in the searing 'Non-commitment':

'Hurrah! to them who do nothing see nothing feel nothing whose hearts are fitted with prudence like a diaphragm across womb's beckoning doorway to bar the scandal of seminal rage. I'm told the owl too wears wisdom in a ring of defence round each vulnerable eye securing it fast against the darts of sight ...'

More often the anger is understated, or fiercely ironic, as in 'He Loves Me: He Loves Me Not'—lines provoked by the news that a street in Port Harcourt has been named after Harold Wilson.

'"Harold Wilson he loves me he gave me a gun in my time of need to shoot my rebellious brother. Edward Heath he loves me not he's promised a gun to his sharp-shooting brother viewing me crazily through ramparts of white Pretoria ... It would be awful if he got me." It was awful and he got him. They headlined it on the BBC spreading indignation through the world, later that day in emergency meeting his good friend Wilson and Heath his enemy crossed swords over him at Westminster and sent post-haste Sir Alec to Africa for the funeral.'

This desperately jaunty little jingle sums up all the sordid cynicism of neo-colonial power-politics as it must strike its bewildered victims. I would like to send copies of this book as Christmas presents to Mr Wilson, Mr Heath and Sir Alec Douglas-Home. No doubt they would wonder at the sophistication of Achebe's fastidious art—and it is possible that they might even wince at his rage.

GIVE A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO WORKERS PRESS AS YOUR GIFT FOR XMAS

Special offer £20 includes postage

Complete the form below with name and address of person to whom you would like the paper sent.

NAME

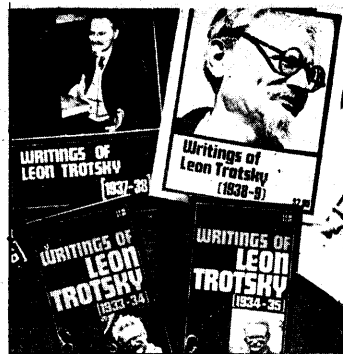
ADDRESS

Date to start sending

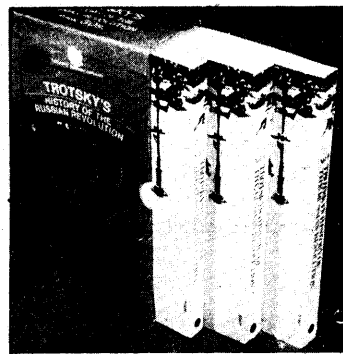
Amount enclosed (£20) £

Complete form and post immediately to:
WORKERS PRESS CIRCULATION DEPT.,
186a CLAPHAM HIGH STREET,
LONDON, SW4 7UG

BUY A BOOK FOR XMAS



Six volumes of Trotsky's writings during years 1929-1940 £8.00 includes postage



History of Russian Revolution—special gift pack of three volumes £1.70 includes postage



Trotsky—a documentary by Francis Wyndham and David King £1.65 includes postage

Please tick those you require. Amount enclosed £

Name

Address

Complete form and post to:
New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG

All Trades Unions Alliance MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign
Support the Engineers

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

HOLLOWAY: Thursday December 21, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'Support the Engineers'.

PRESTON: Thursday December 21, 7.30 p.m. 'The New Cock Inn', Fishergate. 'Fight the Industrial Relations Act—Force the Tories to Resign'.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday December 21, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, New Cross Road (near station). 'Build Councils of Action'.

CLAY CROSS: Thursday December 21, 8 p.m. Social Centre, Derby Road. 'Fight Tory rent rises!' 'Make this government resign'.

DAGENHAM: Thursday December 28, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, corner of Fanshawe Ave/Longbridge Rd.

WATFORD: Monday January 1, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall (upstairs), Woodford Road, opposite Watford Junction station.

LIVERPOOL: Thursday December 28, 8 p.m. 'The Mitre', Dale Street.

CENTRAL LONDON (Press and Entertainments branch): Sunday December 31, 3 p.m. Inns of Court Mission, Drury Lane/Broad Court. 'The Common Market'. Speaker: John Spencer (Workers Press).

ACTON: Monday January 1, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Crisp Street Market, E14.

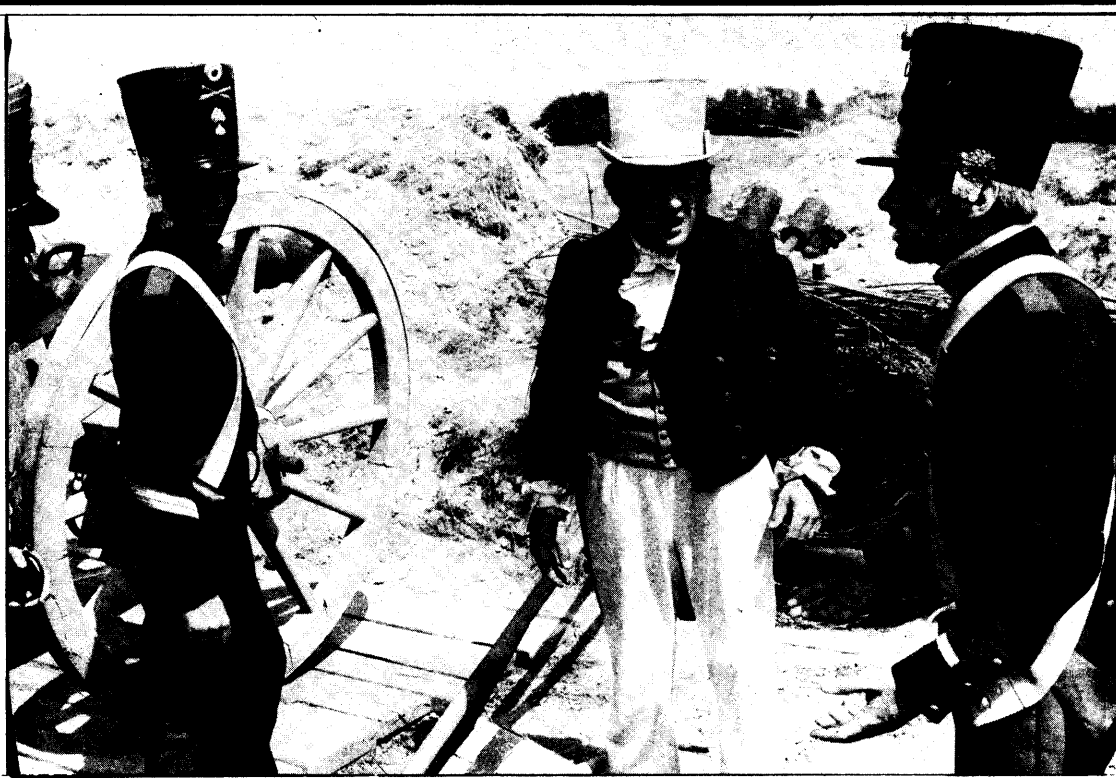
WEST LONDON: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, King's Cross.

BRACKNELL: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre.

LETCHEWORTH: Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. Trades Hall.

TOTTENHAM: Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayer's Arms', Tottenham High Road.

WOOLWICH: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road.



Anthony Hopkins (centre) as Pierre Bezuhov in the 13th of 20 episodes of Tolstoy's 'War and Peace' on BBC 2.

TV

BBC 2

- 11.00-11.25 Play school.
- 7.30 NEWSROOM. Weather.
- 8.00 EUROPA. The circus in East and West Europe.
- 8.30 WAR AND PEACE. Bordinio.
- 9.15 FANATICS. Mod Stock Mad.
- 9.25 HORIZON. Their Life in Your Hands.
- 10.15 FACE THE MUSIC.
- 10.45 NEWS ON 2. Weather.
- 10.50 JUDEE SILL. In concert.
- 11.25 POEMS AND PINTS. The Welsh look wryly at themselves.

BBC 1

- 9.40 Sky at night. 10.05 Desert crusader. 10.25 Before the event. 10.50-11.00 Huckleberry hound. 11.45-12.10 Engineer's world. 12.15 Boomph with Becker. 12.30 Disc a dawn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Pogles' wood. 1.45 One man and his dog. 2.05 Cradle of England. 2.45 Slightly quizzical. 3.15 Jimmy Young asks. 3.40 Music for pleasure. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Crystal Tipps. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 John Craven's newsround. 5.30 Yogi bear. 5.45 News. Weather.
- 6.00 NATIONWIDE.
- 6.50 TOM AND JERRY.
- 7.00 TOMORROW'S WORLD.
- 7.25 TOP OF THE POPS.
- 8.00 SYKES. Lodger.
- 8.30 HOLIDAY 73. Seychelles.
- 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather.
- 9.25 COLDITZ. Tweedledum.
- 10.15 MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS.
- 10.45 MIDWEEK.
- 11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS.
- 11.35 ANIMAL DESIGN. Designed for Flight.

ITV

- 9.40 A far better place. 10.30 Riptide. 11.20 Bellbird. 11.35 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Diane's panda part. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Jokers wild. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Out of town. 3.25 Rivals of Sherlock Holmes. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 5.50 News.
- 6.00 TODAY.
- 6.40 CROSSROADS.
- 7.05 FILM: 'AMONG VULTURES'. Stewart Granger, Pierre Brice, Elke Sommer. German-made western.
- 9.00 NEAREST AND DEAREST. Cindernellie.
- 9.30 THIS WEEK.
- 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
- 10.30 CINEMA.
- 11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY. Will the Real Ronnie Laing Stand Up?
- 12.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.
- 12.15 IT MATTERS TO ME.

REGIONAL TV

- SOUTHERN:** 10.00 Torchy. 10.10 Tricks of the good cook's trade. 10.30 A matter of life and death. 11.10 Southern scene. 11.35 Bush boy. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day 6.45 Junkin. 7.15 Film: 'The Big Drag-net'. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Guideline. 11.15 Film: 'The Black Torment'. 12.35 Weather.
- HARLECH:** 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Film: 'The VIPs'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Seven days to white tent. 11.30 Spyforce. 12.30 Weather.
- HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except:** 2.30 Hamdden. 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 4.50-5.20 Rovers. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.
- HTV West as above except:** 6.15-6.30 Sport West.
- ANGLIA:** 10.30 Other Lindisfarne. 10.55 Skippy. 11.20 Joe 90. 11.50 Cartoons. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 News. 4.30 Giants. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 Film: 'Good Morning Boys'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Baron.
- ATV MIDLANDS:** 11.15 It's one way of helping. 11.35 Better driving. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.20 Dick Van Dyke. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Loved One'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Angling today. 11.30 Film: 'The Ghost Train'. Weather.
- ULSTER:** 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Women today. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 Elephant boy. 4.50 Phoenix five. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 Film: 'The Ghost Train'. 9.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about? 11.20 Champions.
- YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 Sydney the big city. 10.00 Corwin. 10.50 Odd couple. 11.20 Gilbert and Sullivan. 11.55 Cartoon. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 4.25 Woobinda. 4.50 Lone Ranger. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 Caidar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Perfect Furlough'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 Place in the country. 12.00 Scales of justice. 12.30 Weather.
- GRANADA:** 11.30 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Paint book. 12.05 London. 2.30 Yoga. 2.55 London. 4.20 Lone ranger. 4.50 Adventures in rainbow country. 5.15 Dave Cash. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30 Crown court. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.10 Film: 'Cross-current'. 9.00 London. 11.00 On the line. 11.35 Dick Van Dyke.
- TYNE TEES:** 9.30 Cartoon. 9.40 Make a wish. 1.10 Tommy Tompkins Bushman. 10.50 Ugliest girl in town. 11.20 A season of Gilbert and Sullivan. 11.55 Cartoon. 12.05 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Let's face it. 3.00 London. 4.25 Bush boy 4.50 Funky phantom. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Cry for Happy'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police calling. 11.05 Cinema. 11.35 News. 11.50 Scales of justice. 12.20 Revolving chair.
- BORDER:** 11.05 It's one way of helping. 11.35 Better driving. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.15 Film: 'Incident in San Francisco'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Spyforce.
- SCOTTISH:** 10.15 Studio. 11.15 Katie Stewart cooks. 11.40 Phoenix five. 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London 4.25 Lost in space. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Beverly hillbillies. 7.00 Film: 'The VIPs'. 9.00 London. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Journey to the unknown.
- GRAMPIAN:** 11.00 Dr Simon Locke. 11.30 HR Pufnstuf. 12.02 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Rovers. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 4.25 Bush boy. 4.55 Merrie melodies. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Theatre. 7.50 Flare up at Shetland. 8.30 McCue's music. 9.00 London. 11.00 Spyforce. 11.55 Meditation.

Subscribe! workers press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)
£10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)
£5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:
£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)
£6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required	MONDAY	THURSDAY
(Please tick)	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for months.

Name

Address

Amount enclosed £

I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

Name

Address

SLL LECTURES

TODMORDEN

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

SHEFFIELD

Monday January 8

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.

Marxism and the revolutionary party
FORRESTERS HALL
Trippett Lane, 7.30 p.m.

BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY:
Germany 1931/1932
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½
Where is Britain Going?
Paperback 37½p
Revolution Betrayed
Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.050
Problems of the Chinese Revolution
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £1.87½
Permanent Revolution:
Results and Prospects
Paperback 75p
In Defence of Marxism
Paperback 75p
Lessons of October
Paperback 60p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from:
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG.

Despite blatant discrimination in Loughborough hosiery mill strike Inquiry chief turns attack on striking Asians

BY PHILIP WADE

THE ASIAN workers at Loughborough mills of the Mansfield Hosiery company met last night to decide whether to continue their two-month strike.



Former Minister Robinson



Union president Prendergast

Following the publication yesterday of the government inquiry into their dispute, strike leaders met Harold Gibson, general secretary of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers.

Gibson tried to persuade them to accept the findings of the report drawn up by former Labour Minister Kenneth Robinson and return to work.

But the inquiry report—which follows a two-day hearing in Nottingham last week—guarantees the strikers absolutely nothing and in fact whitewashes the company and most particularly the union for their roles in the strike.

Robinson—now personnel chief for the British Steel Corporation—declares that the 41 trainee, non-Asian knitters taken on during the strike should not be dismissed.

Third walk-out

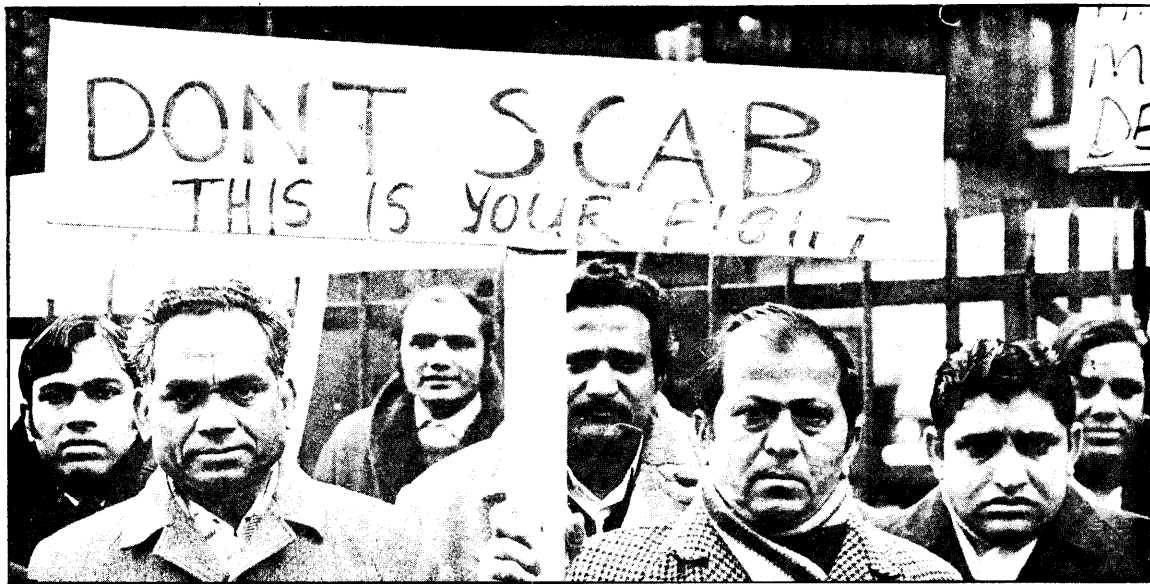
The Asian workers walked out for the third time on November 27 when they discovered the 41 workers had been recruited during their strike.

Union leaders have admitted they knew a great deal about the firm's recruitment, but did not tell the strikers. But the report fails to make this fact in any way clear.

Now Robinson recommends that the 41 'job opportunities for trainee knitters' should 'be placed in a pool of vacancies'. Then the 41 taken on during the strike and the Asian workers should compete for the vacancies!

The union leadership—which has all along refused to fight all the way for the rights of Asian workers, as Robinson admits, are only rebuked for making 'mistakes in handling the dispute'.

Of course, the fact that the



Some of the Loughborough strikers on their picket line.

leadership refused to back the strike until literally forced to by an occupation of their headquarters, is not mentioned.

Robinson, a Labour bureaucrat, is now in the top management in a corporation which plans to sack tens of thousands of workers in the coming few years.

So it is not surprising that his most hostile remarks are reserved not for union bureaucrats who have studiously avoided leading any major strike for years, but for the strikers and their supporters.

'Misguided'

'In my view the Asian workers,' the report says, 'were misguided in failing to pursue their claim through the established procedures within the industry for settling disputes and in spurning the assistance of their union when it should have become clear to them that this assistance was being sincerely offered.'

What is conveniently omitted is the fact pointed out by Workers Press that there is in fact no procedure contained within the National Joint Indust-

rial Council agreement for setting a strike in motion.

And for years and years, Asian bar-loaders at the mills have found it impossible to be trained for highly-paid, skilled knitting jobs.

Few laughs

Now Robinson talks touchingly about union 'assistance . . . being sincerely offered'. That should cause a few laughs in Loughborough.

Strikers are accused of pursuing 'their aims somewhat naively'. The 'outside leadership', including the strikers' agreed spokesman, sociology student Benny Bunsee, are alleged to have worked for the rejection of return to work agreements presumably to keep the strike going for the joy of it.

In what approaches witch-hunting techniques, Robinson talks of the 'fringe elements' who 'attached themselves to the strikers' and in the next breath of 'picketing which had at the outset been peaceful' being 'intensified'.

Any striker could have told Robinson that if picketing sud-

denly became a little more violent it was because of the intervention of extreme right-wing elements at the factory gates. In the absence of leadership, openly racist groups intervened to create confusion among white workers at the mills.

All the report can recommend is a new training agreement between the union and the company and training courses in English for the Asian workers and a shake-up in management at the mill.

Unity plea

The whole document is virtually a plea for unity between right-wing union leaders and a militant rank-and-file trying to find its voice.

What this strike has shown beyond all doubt is the need for a new principled leadership in the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers.

Only on the basis of construction of such leadership can the strikers make any gains out of their struggle and prepare for a real fight against the hosiery bosses and their backers in the Tory government.

Engineers' strike a test of leadership The bankruptcy of protest

THE BITTER FIGHT of the engineers against the £50,000 fine imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court has been an important test of leadership.

The executive of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers were obliged to stand firm on the union's policy of total non-co-operation with the Industrial Relations Act.

But their prevarication over the question of all out strike action did weaken the ranks and allowed the right-wing to make some gains in the early days of the dispute. Hence the original decision of Birmingham to ignore the call to action and the return to work at the Sudbury CAV plant.

The other movement which underwent a political trial was the Communist Party. Here a discernible weakening and swing to the right was noticeable. It was illustrated vividly when Kevin Halpin, leader of the Party's Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions raised his hand against a call at a London delegates' meeting which committed the AUEW leadership to national strike action in future battles over the Act.

This is a decisive shift to the right by Halpin, the man who said earlier this year at a Scottish Liaison Committee meeting: 'We must tell the Tories and those right wing trade union leaders that if this Act

is not withdrawn we will stop the country.' ('Morning Star', June 21). Halpin in June did not shrink from the General Strike. But now he considers it impolitic to call on the engineers' leaders to launch national strike action if they are challenged once more by the NIRC!

The malaise was not just confined to Halpin. Another noticeable feature of the London stewards' meeting on Monday was the general gloom and despondency spread by Party members. They considered the creditable turn-out in London and the south east a 'poor response', to quote George Anthony, president of the north London district committee. He was quite rightly challenged over his pessimism from the floor.

One could in fact have been forgiven for assuming that Party members did not have their hearts in the struggle, especially since it was yet another reminder that class confrontation is inevitable and the Tories—despite pleas from the 'Morning Star'—just do not seem to be responding to pressure.

It is also noticeable that in factories where Stalinists have some influence on shop stewards' committees the campaign

to mobilize the membership was a failure—Heathrow airport is an example.

One could contrast this with the Oxford demonstration centred on the Cowley car complex where stewards have consistently fought for the political policy of mobilizing the working class in industrial and political action to force the Tories to resign. This fight—which the Stalinists claim is way ahead of workers' thinking—produced one of the best actions in defence of the engineers. Most industries in Oxford came to a halt and hundreds of Transport and General Workers' Union members marched with the engineers demanding removal of the Tory government.

But perhaps the most bitter lesson of all came on the Clydeside. It was the Glasgow district committee of the AUEW that called off the one-day action on Monday, dodging behind the very policy that Halpin had rejected—a demand for national strike action!

This was a manoeuvre carried out behind leftist phrase-mongering by the Clydeside officials. A call for national action is right, but this in no circumstances can be used as a means to evade the primary responsibility to mobilize the

ranks for united action, no matter how limited such as a one-day strike. The AUEW leaders on the Clyde did just this.

Clydeside really illustrates the rotten end of reformist tactics. At one time the Stalinist-dominated Liaison Committee in Scotland could mobilize 500 stewards from all the major plants.

On at least two occasions they have called on the whole of Scotland to halt if any worker, union or trade unionist is penalized under the Act. On August 20 the Scottish Liaison Committee proposed specifically strike action if any union faced sequestration.

But now Clydeside is silent, and the Scottish Liaison Committee appears incapable of meeting its promises. The Stalinists, meanwhile, drift further into their gloom and further to the right.

This is an indictment of protest politics—which in practice protect the bureaucrats who lead the unions and demoralize the rank and file.

The engineers have put up a heroic struggle against considerable odds. They have come out in their hundreds of thousands and shown this government the working class are stronger than ever. But many will return wiser men. The days of protesting against this government are over, the big political battles lie right ahead.

Press claims wildly wrong Midlands plants out in force

CRIPPLING strikes reverberated throughout the Midlands yesterday as thousands of engineers went on strike to protest against the massive fines on their union.

The number of workers on strike or laid off was estimated to be almost 100,000. The nine Lucas factories making electrical parts for the car industry were shut down and 10,000 workers made idle. Of these 6,000 were on strike, and the rest were laid off.

The biggest factory to be hit was British-Leyland's assembly plant at Longbridge. On Tuesday the Birmingham 'Evening Mail' splashed a sensational story that 85 per cent of the Austin workers would disobey their stewards' call for strike action.

The Press was wildly wrong. Only a trickle of men went to

AT LEAST 13,000 members of the AUEW were out on strike in Enfield, north London, yesterday. In many cases they were supported by members of other trade unions.

At Gestetner's, in Tottenham, there was a complete shutdown with all 1,200 workers out—including AUEW, T&GWU, EPTU, metal mechanics, G&MWU and ASW.

Other factories out included British Oxygen, Standard Telephones, Enfield Small Arms, Brimsdown power station and many others.

SOME 700 workers in the Chatham district of the AUEW struck, including those at Winget's, Metal Box, Kent Alloy and Westport Tools. But the CAV factories at Rochester, which had been expected to come out, failed to do so after the convenor circulated an amazing letter (see p.3).

work. About 13,000 day shift workers were affected as shop stewards claimed 90 per cent support.

Nor was there any production at Leyland's other local factory—the car body plant in Castle Bromwich where 6,500 workers were affected. Tyre production at the Dunlop factory was at a virtual standstill and three-quarters of the 3,200 rubber workers were laid off.

Most vehicle production was halted at the Rover plant because about 1,500 workers at the main assembly plant in Solihull, Warwickshire, were on strike. Four of the company's east Birmingham factories making engines and transmission units were closed for the day with 2,000 workers on strike or laid off.

The car-component firms, SU Carburettors and Tractor and Transmissions were shut.

The Hardy Spicer group of factories—another group which the capitalist Press said would continue working—were closed

ABERDEEN AUEW shop stewards at their quarterly meeting on Tuesday voted unanimously to call on the union's Executive Committee to name a date early in the new year for a national strike over the fines levied on it by the National Industrial Relations Court.

down by strikers. In every case the AUEW men received warm support from members of other trade unions.

The success of the Midlands strike shows the strength of rank-and-file feeling for the defence of their union. It also marks a blow against the local officials and right wingers who tried to evade the strike call.

Les Hughes, senior AUEW steward at Austin Longbridge, told Workers Press:

'It is high time our executive council called a national total stoppage. They should have done this in the first place. It is the only way to beat this Act.'

At Wolverhampton no production took place at Villiers where all 1,200 workers—including TASS and T&GWU members—were on strike. No maintenance work was done there on Tuesday night.

At Darlaston the 4,000 workers at Rubery Owen stopped work, T&GWU members joining with the AUEW. Work also stopped at Garringtons and at all four Wilkins and Mitchell factories.

1,000 chant 'Heath out' on Manchester march



OVER 1,000 trade unionists from the AUEW, boilermakers', brass and metal workers', UCATT, TASS, CEU and the G&MWU marched through Manchester yesterday chanting 'Heath Out. Capitalist Press out. Socialism in'.

Also present were contingents from the Young Socialists, Communist Party, International Socialists and Labour Party Young Socialists.

A shop steward from Hawker Siddeley—one of the few plants that worked—told Workers Press that the men had voted against localized strike action and were demanding a national stoppage.

'There's no leading from the front. The executive are strong enough to beat the right wing.'

Hawker Siddeley convenor Bill Hampton, of the AUEW national committee, said: 'In my personal

opinion we shall have to go for an all-out stoppage.

'To get rid of the Act we will have to get a Labour government. Over wages, we shall still press ahead.'

Anthony Ormonde, an 18-year-old apprentice from AEI, Trafford Park, said: 'We need an all-out national stoppage to get the government out. They won't repeal the Act. The TUC must call for a General Strike. What we need is a new leadership.'

At the mass meeting John Tocher, AUEW district secretary, said: 'It is not just a fight for the AUEW. This Act is a licence for the government to break down the traditions of our movement built up over 200 years.'

Frank Taylor, an executive member of TASS, the technical section of the AUEW, told the meeting:

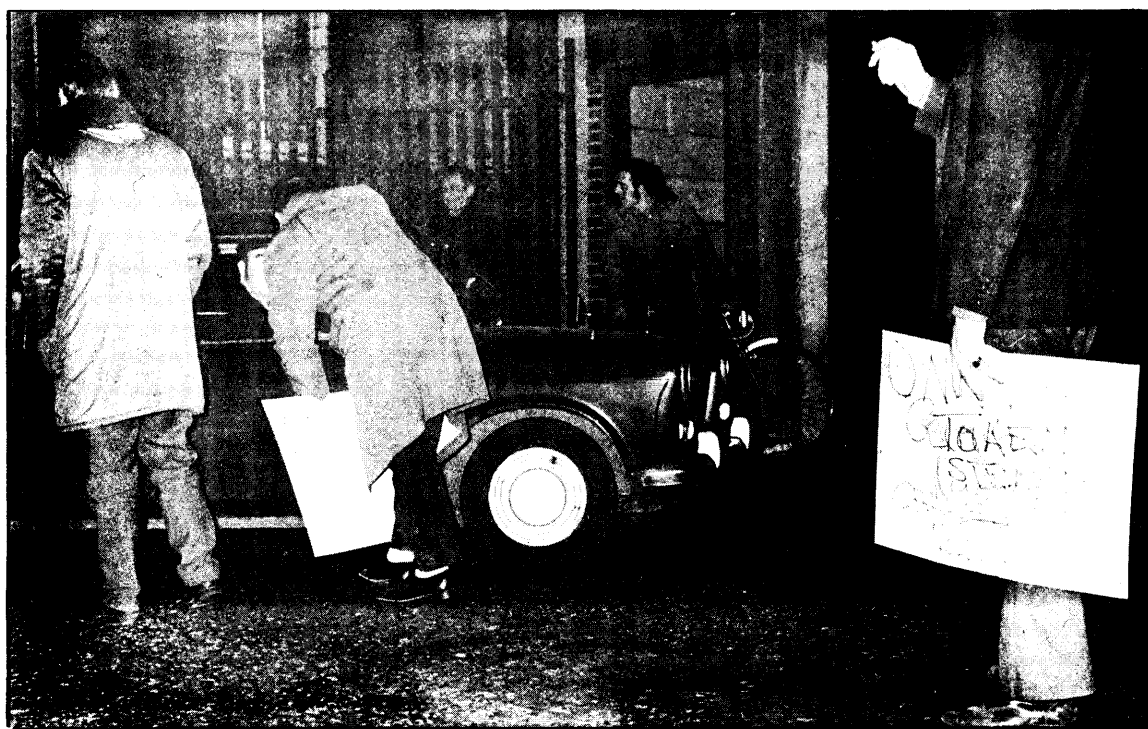
'We must be clear that the fine was imposed because we democratically refused membership to Goad.

'This law and others like it is really the final expression of the ruling class. It is like the Combination Act and Taff Vale.

'Workers fought against them then and we will fight now. Look at Northern Ireland. The judiciary found that the troops had no right to be there so Heath went to Ireland and in 24 hours it was legal, right back to 1921.

'The dockers showed how the law could be fought.' To cheers he concluded: 'I am convinced we have to bring out all the members and we need more than a one-day stoppage.'

After the meeting he told Workers Press that what was really required was a General Strike to get the government out.



Coventry right wing renege

THE RIGHT-WING dominated Coventry district committee of the AUEW has voted by a large majority to oppose a stoppage in defence of the union.

But the right wingers went even further. They voted 26 votes to six to call on the EC to recall the national committee to reconsider the union's policy on the Industrial Relations Act. And

they went on to vote 24 votes to ten to put down a resolution for next April's national committee completely overturning the present non-co-operation policy.

THE LABOUR Party leaders yesterday confirmed their capitulation to the Tories when they refused to back councillors and tenants fighting the Housing Finance Act.

A meeting of the party's national executive committee endorsed a recommendation from last week's home policy committee.

London's Royal dockers out in sympathy

OVER 5,000 London dockers from the Royal Group yesterday staged a one-day strike in support of the engineering union.

They came out in answer to a call late Tuesday afternoon from Division Two of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Hundreds of dockers—unaware that the strike was on—turned up at the Royals.

They were met by shop stewards who picketed the gates.

Despite some initial confusion, there was general agreement on the strike and no docker crossed the picket line.

Some dockers did, however, complain that the rest of the London docks, including Tilbury, the West India and Millwall, should have been brought out with the Royals.

**Workers
Press
MONTHLY
APPEAL
FUND**

**WE NEED
£701.94
IN 5 DAYS**

BY NEXT Monday, we must raise the final amount to reach our target of £1,750. We know with an extra special effort we can do it.

In spite of the tough struggle that you, dear readers, must be facing over the Xmas period with prices up record high, we are confident you will collect all you can for our Fund.

Determination is growing against this Tory government. The struggle to defend AUEW is increasing as trade unionists now begin to demand the TUC calls an all-out strike.

In this political situation, Workers Press is decisive. Our paper will provide a lead to all those joining the fight. So, help us give our Fund this month a special boost. We are sure extra amounts can and will be raised. Add something more yourself, if possible. Rush all your donations immediately to:

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