

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● SATURDAY DECEMBER 30, 1972 ● No 958 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Chrysler non-unionist threatens to go to NIRC

MASS WALK-OUT

FROM DAVID MAUDE IN BIRMINGHAM

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He went on grimly: 'I am claimant, I am plaintiff, I am acting counsel for the plaintiff and I am conducting my own defence.'

But neither Langston nor the Chrysler (UK) management would disclose what had been said at the brief meeting in the personnel department.

It is known, however, that one of the management chiefs he saw was Mr Leon Levy. They discussed 'his general position', the company said.

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Several lorries were turned away from the gates as the crowd waited to see if the company would test their threat of strike action should the welder be taken back in.

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TURN TO BACK PAGE

TO DEFEND CLOSED SHOP



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plant, he took out County Court summonses against two company executives and shop stewards.

He alleged they had caused him 'nervous anxiety and fear' by operating a closed shop policy.

The summonses were later withdrawn. Langston left the company for 'private reasons'.

Black Monday for all housewives

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The signs are already unmistakable. The incredible rise in meat prices demonstrates that Europe will mean an attack on the 'frozen' budget of every housewife in the country.

Rump steak at £1 a lb is now as much as 25 per cent above levels last year. Even cheaper cuts like braising steak has risen this week to 54p compared with 38 to 40p last December.

Other meats too are becoming so dear as to be beyond the income range of the average working-class family.

English and New Zealand lamb are up between 20 and 25 per cent. Because of shortages in Denmark, bacon on the London markets has reached the all-time record price £525 a ton.

Rises of canned food from Australia are also on the way because of the devaluation of the Australian dollar. Increases of 2p per can of fruit are being talked about by suppliers.

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Take cereals. The European price for wheat, barley and oats will be

equal to the price in Duisberg, Germany, where cereal prices are highest.

While this goes on all cheap imports from the rest of the world will be shut out of Britain and the Common Market by tariffs.

Where prices are still lower even with the tariffs, levies will be imposed to bring them up to the Common Market prices.

This process, which will rapidly reduce living standards, will start on February 1.

Then a special compensatory amount system will be introduced to allow traders to sell high-priced French grain in low-priced British markets.

The 'compensatory amount' will go towards the trader to make up his loss.

But again it will be the working-class taxpayer who foots the bill.

Gradually this will be phased out over four years until prices in Britain will become as high as they are on the Continent. Then the consumer will directly shoulder the entire burden of the cost.

And the burden will be enormous.

The latest study on British and Common Market food prices came up with these facts:

● Beef and Veal prices 28 per cent higher.

● Butter 179 per cent dearer.

● Cheese 62 per cent dearer.

● Bread (wheat) 10 per cent dearer.

In addition prices of these commodities have been rising in Europe 24 per cent faster over the last year.

Add to this Value-Added Tax which will push up the prices of fares and services from April 1 and the enormous attack on living standards that Europe means can be gauged.

Monday will be a black day for every housewife.

It will be the beginning of the great prices hike.

The labour movement must mobilize the whole working class to kick out the Tories and take Britain out of capitalist Europe.

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

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CONSUMER ROUND-UP BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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Ruhr engineers set strike date

OVER 200,000 engineers and steelworkers in West Germany's Ruhr basin have won official backing to begin strike action on January 11 in support of their wage claim.

The strike will be the first major stoppage in the Ruhr since 1929. The area is the heartland of German heavy industry, particularly steel and coal.

Meeting in Frankfurt on Thursday, the executive committee of the metalworkers' union IG Metall decided to authorize strike action from 6 a.m. on January 11.

The executive took its decision in the light of an

By OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

overwhelming vote in favour of strike action in the union ballot conducted just before Christmas.

With a national membership of 2.2 million, the union is demanding wage rises averaging 11 per cent. But the leadership is opposed to a national stoppage to back the claim.

In past years it has restricted strike action to particular regions—the last big strike was confined to North-Rhine-Westphalia, but lasted nearly a month.

This time, however, it will face very firm opposition from the employers, who have offered only a derisory 5.6 per cent rise in reply to the union's claim.

The employers are beginning to feel the effects of

the international recession, particularly in the steel industry and are pleading poverty.

The workers, however, are confident that they can beat the bosses and are eager for a struggle with them. The re-election of Chancellor Willy Brandt is seen as a major victory by the workers in the factories.

However, their expectations in Brandt are misplaced. The government is publicly maintaining a studied stance of neutrality in the dispute. But there are already efforts underway to begin tripartite talks on the so-called concerted action committee.

The Ruhr strike is a sign of the mounting tension between the classes in Germany and the growing eagerness of the mass of workers to fight the employers.



Engineers collecting strike pay during last year's action.

Statement of the

THE INTERNATIONAL Committee of the Fourth International calls on its sections and supporters in every country to fight for the mobilization of the organized working class in defence of the Vietnamese revolution, against the genocidal onslaught of US imperialism.

The US army and air force are engaged on the greatest operation of mass destruction of human life in the whole of history. B52 bombing raids in North Vietnam have killed more people in less than two weeks than the Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The tonnage of bombs dropped by US imperialism in Vietnam is greater than the total dropped in the whole of World War II.

The attack now going on marks a decisive new stage not only in the Vietnam war, but in the world crisis of capitalism and the international class struggle.

Early in October 1972, US President Nixon, campaigning for re-election, cynically and deliberately gave the false impression that peace terms were about to be finally signed. The real meaning of that manoeuvre is clear. US imperialism played with the fate of millions of workers and peasants in Vietnam in order to win time and consolidate their power for their attack on the American working class and, through the trade war, on their rivals and on the working class throughout the world.

The mass extermination in North Vietnam today is the inevitable accompaniment of the new stage in the crisis of international capitalism. The continued heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people, despite US imperialism's genocidal policies, is the foremost example of the resistance of the working class.

Imperialism has no answer to the resistance of the masses except this mass destruction of life and of the means of production. Everywhere the capitalists turn, they need to smash the working class, an undefeated working class which resists every attack.

There is now not the slightest question of an agreed solution of the monetary crisis sparked off by Nixon's scrapping of the Bretton Woods system in August 1971. Special Drawing Rights, merely a new form of paper money, have accelerated world inflation and there will be no international agreement on them.

The controversy on IMF loans and Drawing Rights to 'developing' countries means only that 'aid' to these countries is at an end. The new bombing in Vietnam is the traditional capitalist 'solution' to their insoluble crisis—war and mass destruction. The colonial workers and peasants must now be physically wiped out.

Having in the past unloaded their crisis on to the colonial peoples, the imperialists will now turn with renewed ferocity to the repression and destruction of the working class in the advanced countries. It is in this brutal material form that the identity of interest of the workers of the advanced and colonial countries asserts itself.

Nor will the US imperialists flinch from pursuing the trade war to the point of military conflict, involving the deaths of millions of workers and wiping out of the means of production. They know no other way out of the crisis. The revisionist advocates of a 'neo-capitalism', reputedly free of the old imperialist contradictions and not needing to solve its crises in war, are guilty of the most treacherous deception and betrayal of the working class. This is the criminal responsibility of the (Pabloite) Unified Secretariat of Mandel, and of the Communist Party Stalinists.

Vietnam today is Europe and America tomorrow, unless the working class is mobilized to stop the imperialist attack and move through this struggle to the conquest of power.

There is no other way. None of the capitalist parties has any 'compromise' alternative. McGovern, supported by reformists, Stalinists and 'protesters' of all kinds as the 'lesser evil' against Nixon, has spoken against the new attacks only on the ground that the loss of US air crew is 'excessive'. In Britain and the rest of Europe, the reformist and trade union leaders play the classic role of social-democracy.

Bombers shock for Pentagon

THE ENTIRE American air force stock of B52 bombers could be destroyed in less than six weeks at the present rate of losses over North Vietnam.

On their own admission the Americans have lost 14 of the heavy bombers since raids on the North were started again on President Nixon's orders 11 days ago.

But the North Vietnamese say that the toll of B52s is far higher: 33 have already fallen to the aircraft rocket batteries around Hanoi and Haiphong.

The anti-aircraft gunners are reported to have adopted a new tactic, sending up large volleys

Six weeks could end B52s

BY JOHN SPENCER

of surface-to-air missiles in the expectation of knocking out at least some of the US air armada with the proximity-fused weapons.

Each of the bombers costs \$8m, though they are of Korean war vintage. And the cost of the bombers does not include the expense of training the pilots who are killed or captured by the North Vietnamese.

The B52 is one of the delivery vehicles for the US hydrogen bomb system, and administration officials are boasting that 97

per cent of their planes are 'getting through' to their targets in Hanoi.

One senior Pentagon officer said that this figure ought to alarm the Soviet air defence chiefs, as it indicated the US could strike at Soviet targets with B52s.

The boast is misplaced, however. What it does demonstrate is the low quality and quantity of Soviet military aid to North Vietnam, which is believed to have been supplied with obsolete or at any rate obsolescent SAM missiles.

There is no doubt that the Pentagon and the White House are very frustrated by the determined and heroic stand against the bombing taken by the North Vietnamese.

The rate of loss of B52s may explain the rumours in Saigon that Nixon is planning another bombing 'pause' for 24 hours at the New Year.

Yesterday's raids were the most intensive since the 'peace' talks in Paris broke down before Christmas.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Hanoi said large areas of workers' dwellings in the Kham Thien district of the city had been destroyed.

A Soviet correspondent said the bombing was turning the capital into a city of ruins. Similar reports were sent to Stockholm via the Swedish embassy in Hanoi.

All the major Swedish parties, including the Communist Party and the opposition Conservatives, are now taking part in a signature campaign expected to involve a third of the country's 6 million population in asking Nixon to sign a peace treaty in Vietnam.

Concrete working class action has been taken by the Australian maritime union which has imposed a boycott of all US shipping in protest against the bombing.

The Seamen's Union of Australia, which organized the ban, was backed by Clyde Cameron, Minister of Labour in the newly-elected Labour government.

He said: 'The reaction of the seamen's union reflects the thinking of people of all creeds. Their decision to boycott American shipping will come as no surprise to people who understand the facts.'

The seamen's boycott has been supported by the Waterside Workers' Federation, which has ordered its members not to help in the berthing, loading and unloading operations of US ships.

Tighter control in Rumania

AS PRESIDENT Nicolae Ceausescu extends Rumania's ties with the capitalist countries, far-reaching measures are being taken to tighten internal security and national defence.

A new defence law presented to the National Assembly on Wednesday by General Ion Ionita makes all citizens, regardless of sex, liable for military training. It provides for the continuous strengthening of the country's defensive capacity.

The law specifies that the right to decide on problems of Rumania's defence is a sovereign attribute of the Rumanian state, and that the state territory is inalienable and indivisible.

This is a clear intimation that Rumania does not intend to be bound by the Warsaw Pact.

Another new law extends Party and state control over social and economic life through a Central Commission of Control of Economic and Social Activity under direct Communist Party control.

This body will have extensive powers over the utilization of material and financial resources and the rational use of the labour force.

It will be assisted by so-called workers' councils of control of economic and social activity in each factory intended to ensure that plan targets are met and shortcomings dealt with.

These new laws were drawn up under Ceausescu's guidance. Their keynote is increased control by the bureaucracy over every detail of social and economic life. No nonsense about the withering away of the state.

While trying to establish independence from the influence of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact, Ceausescu's Rumania displays all the hallmarks of Stalinism.

● Yesterday the Thomson organization was paid a considerable sum for an eight-page propaganda insert in 'The Times'. It represents Rumania as a democratic paradise undergoing 'uninterrupted creative progress'.

● News was also released of a deal between the Rumanian Bank for Foreign Trade and Barclays Bank International and Manufacturers' Hanover Trust for the setting up of a new Anglo-Rumanian Bank to do business in London.

Socialist Labour League North West Rally

FORCE THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY!

SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 7 p.m.
The Everyman, Hope Street,
LIVERPOOL

'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM

A film made by ACTT showing the five Right-to-Work marches from Glasgow, Liverpool, Swansea, Deal and Southampton to London ending with a huge Rally at Empire Pool, Wembley on March 12, 1972.

Speakers:

G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)
CHRISTINE SMITH (Young Socialists)
In a personal capacity:
CONNIE FAHEY (Manchester Tenants)
ALAN STANLEY (Vauxhall Shop Stewards)
BRIAN GEENEY (U.P.W.)
WALLY FOUCHS (CAV Occupation Committee)

of the International Committee Fourth International

Mobilize to defend Vietnam revolution

Nothing could better exemplify the death of reformism than their utter failure to organize even the slightest opposition to the US attacks. The severity of imperialism's crisis reveals them for what they are—its lackeys. They are indicating to the working class the hangman's role, which they will play against the working class in Europe itself in the new stage of the struggle.

World Stalinism bears the main responsibility for the fate of the people of Hanoi and Haiphong, and for the absolutely criminal refusal to mobilize the working-class internationally against the new stage of imperialist attack.

Ever since Nixon's measures of August 1971, ending the convertibility of the dollar and launching the trade war, everything has depended on preparation of the working class to challenge for state power: all possibility of reform has vanished. The only alternative to the revolutionary struggle for power was and remains a series of wars and counter-revolutionary dictatorships, the only method by which the imperialists can deal with the working class.

But Stalinism, both in Moscow and Peking, draws closer to imperialism. Having betrayed the French revolutionary struggle of 1968 and suppressed the Czechoslovak working class, with imperialist blessing, the Stalinist bureaucracy now accelerates its plans for the European Security Pact and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, all the time continuing to encourage the secret diplomacy over Vietnam.

New long-term Soviet agreements with US imperialism, together with the new approaches of the Chinese bureaucracy, left Nixon free to enter the present bombing campaign. Thus the Vietnamese workers and peasants were sacrificed to the privileged interests of the Stalinist

and its governments in a struggle that would lead to proletarian state power.

Successful revolutions in these countries would be the greatest blow of all against US imperialism in Vietnam. Those who hold the working class back from these revolutions are deliberately isolating the people of Vietnam and condemning them to death. The numerically powerful Communist Party of France epitomizes this role in its 'popular front' alliance with the reformists and bourgeois radicals.

All those revisionists, and particularly the Pabloite 'Unified Secretariat', its sections like the British International Marxist Group and supporters like the US Socialist Workers Party, who accepted the ideology of the 'third world' as 'epicentre of the world revolution' and consequently restricted the role of the working class in the advanced countries to that of middle-class protest, share directly this responsibility of the Stalinists.

These revisionists propagated the lie that Stalinism had changed its nature and was no longer counter-revolutionary. But on the contrary, Stalinism was preparing its greatest betrayal. These Pabloite revisionists showed their bankruptcy by joining the liberals and Stalinists in announcing that Vietnamese 'victory' was at hand in the period of the US presidential election.

Only the International Committee, starting from the insoluble nature of the international capitalist crisis, could warn and prepare the working class for the new stage of the struggle. The only force which can stop US imperialism in Vietnam is the organized strength of the international working class in solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese workers and peasants.

In every trade union, every factory, every socialist and working-class organiza-



tion against the working class everywhere. It is the inevitable outcome, if left unchecked, of their Common Market imperialist strategy, their attack on democratic rights, their anti-trade union laws, their counter-revolutionary preparations.

The fight against the US in Vietnam is the same fight as that to mobilize and educate the force which can lead the working class to the overthrow of capitalist governments in every country.

To mobilize working-class action in this way will mean a thorough struggle against the reformist and Stalinist leadership. Thus, in taking up our responsibilities of international working-class solidarity with the Vietnamese revolution, we bring forward those forces which will have to build the alternative revolutionary leadership in the workers' movement. On the question of how to fight against imperialist war, how to unite the revolution in the colonial countries and the advanced countries, and how to build alternative leadership, the Marxist education of the youth and the most advanced workers proceeds.

The working class in the USSR, Eastern Europe and China now face an even greater threat of imperialist war to destroy the gains of their revolutions, because of the free hand given to Nixon in Vietnam by the betrayals of the Stalinist bureaucracy. The workers in these countries are taking up the fight against the bureaucracy on many questions.

But this bureaucracy seeks strength, against its 'own' working class, from its imperialist alliances. Every step we take to weaken imperialism in Vietnam at the same time weakens the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy, and opens the way for the workers of the USSR, Eastern Europe and China to restore their links with the international working class.

At the centre of the struggle stands the working class of the United States. Independent working-class action all over the world to stop the imperialist war, to bring down the capitalist governments, is the way to encourage the working class of the US to take the road of independent political struggle, independent of the capitalist parties: in the first place, the formation of an American Labour-Party.

This is what Nixon and the imperialists fear most of all. They are lying in wait, if they get away with the Vietnam outrage, bloodily to suppress the American

working class. The anti-strike laws and the 'Pay Board' are only the beginning.

Once again! The Vietnam bombing raids mark the imperialist response to the irreversible deepening of the crisis of their economic system. They signal the preparation of historically unprecedented destruction of the productive forces, above all of the working class itself.

There must be an end to secret diplomacy. Just as the 1954 Geneva agreement was the formula for depriving the Vietnamese people of the fruits of military victory and the screen for US intervention to reconquer Vietnam, so today the Stalinist support for these 'peace' talks provides Nixon and Kissinger with the cover for the bloodiest counter-revolutionary war in history—and this is only the beginning of the attacks they must undertake all over the world.

Every revolutionary fighter in the international working class, every section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, must fight for the strength of the entire working class to be used in every way—industrial action and mass demonstrations in the first place—to stop the imperialists in Vietnam!

The essence of this struggle is to turn the working class all over the world, in answering every imperialist attack, to the preparation of the conquest of state power. What is at stake is the death-throes of the capitalist system, lashing out in self-defence to destroy everything that stands in its way. The whole future of the working class now depends on building in time the alternative leadership which can take the working class to the smashing of capitalist state power. It is to this end that the working class everywhere must rally with mass actions against the US imperialists in Vietnam.

● Trade unionists in every country must stop the movement of all US and other imperialist supplies to Vietnam!

● Strikes in every country in solidarity with the Vietnamese revolution!

● Mass workers' demonstrations in every country against the bombing!

● Stop the bombing now! Immediate withdrawal of all US land and air forces!

● Victory to the workers and peasants of Vietnam!

December 29, 1972



The Socialist Labour League has consistently demonstrated and campaigned against US policy in Indo-China. Above: a demonstration in 1970 against Harold Wilson's visit to President Nixon in Washington.

bureaucracy, and workers all over the world were politically disarmed.

In the advanced capitalist countries, the Stalinists isolate the Vietnamese revolution by confining the working class of Europe, America and Japan to purely trade union and opportunist types of struggle. The single-minded aim of the Stalinist parties, in alliance with the corrupt trade union bureaucracy, is to prevent the working class from confronting the capitalist class

tion, there must be a fight for immediate industrial action and mass demonstrations against the bombing and for total US withdrawal from Vietnam.

Every working-class action against the US imperialist attack must be directed against the capitalist class within each country. Notwithstanding the grave inter-imperialist contradictions, the capitalists of Europe and Japan know that when Nixon attacks in Vietnam, it is the pre-

TRUMAN-FRIEND OF ZIONISM

Part two by Jack Gale on Harry S. Truman and the key role he played in setting up the state of Israel.

One of the lesser known aspects of Harry S. Truman's presidency is the key role he played in the establishment of that agency of world imperialism—Zionist Israel.

After World War II Britain held a mandate over Palestine and struggled for three years to prevent the emergence of such a state. This was not due to her promises to the Arabs—used to gain their support in two world wars—but to the desire of the British government to retain a base in the vital Middle East area.

Faced with the terrorism of Zionist groups such as the Stern Gang and Irgun Tsva'i Leumi, the British army retaliated with its usual vicious brutality. Some commanding officers made openly anti-Semitic statements. Lieutenant-General Sir Evelyn Barker, for instance, called for 'punishing the Jews in a way the race dislikes—by striking at their pockets'.

US INTERESTS

And one of the principal officers of a specially-created 'counter-terrorist' unit—Major Roy Farran—fled from Palestine (and later gave himself up) making public a mysterious case in which he was alleged to have done a young terrorist to death.

But the British were not the only ones interested in the Middle East. The Americans were also anxious to assert control in that area—and there was, in addition, a powerful Jewish vote in the United States.

In October 1945 an Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry into Palestine was instituted and in December the United States Congress passed a resolution calling for 'the upbuilding of Palestine as the Jewish National Home'.

The Americans were calling immediately for 100,000 European Jewish refugees to be admitted into Palestine within one year—although in that same period only 4,767 refugees (Jewish and non-Jewish) were admitted into the United States.

There was certainly some truth in Ernest Bevin's bitter comment that the American government wanted the European Jews in Palestine because it didn't want them in New York.

Many of the most enthusiastic Congress supporters of Jewish immigration into Palestine were equally ardent advocates of limiting entry into the United States.

The Arab states declared that they were not opposed to a Jewish minority in an Arab state of Palestine, but totally opposed to a Jewish state of Palestine.

They pointed out—with some justification—that the plight of the Jews was not the responsibility of Moslem Arabs, but of the rulers of Christian Europe.

The Anglo-American Commission sat on the fence. It did not recommend a Jewish state, but it called for 100,000 Jewish immigrants.

The Labour government, led by Clement Attlee, wanting a base in the Middle East, especially since British troops were due to leave Egypt, rejected the recommendations.

The American government simply declared its support for those recommendations which favoured the Zionists and rejected those which suited the Arabs.

Six weeks later Truman set up a Cabinet Committee to guide American policy on Palestine and the following year he sent a 'negotiating mission' to London.

Although their interests conflicted, the Americans were in a powerful position to exert pressure on the British.

As the British Prime Minister Attlee later confessed: 'We had to have a loan. . . . The Americans thought we'd over-stated the case. We had not. You can criticize the loan and the arrangements surrounding it—and we fought inch by inch throughout the negotiations—but the fact remains that we could not do without it.'

Truman's negotiating mission produced the Grady-Morrison plan for provincial autonomy for a Zionist area within Palestine, but this was insufficient for the Zionists and Truman rejected it.

The British Labour government was already beginning to bend. Attlee appointed Arthur Creech Jones, the strongest Zionist sympathizer among the



Arms cache discovered by British security forces in September 1946 before the outbreak of war. Above: Truman (left) with Dr Weizmann.

Labour leaders, as Colonial Secretary.

The British then proposed Jewish 'trusteeship' of a state whose boundaries were, in fact, similar to present-day Israel. This was to last from three to ten years, preparatory to self-government.

But in October, 1946, Truman supported a Zionist call for the partition of Palestine and the immediate entry of 100,000 European Jews.

On April 2, 1947, the British delegation at the United Nations asked for a special session, which led to the establishment of a United Nations Special Committee on Palestine.

This Committee recommended partition on terms



of Representatives Armed Services Committee:

'In the event of serious disturbance in the Middle East, there is cause for grave concern for the fortunes of American oil facilities throughout that area, and to those who might desire to deny the oil of the Middle East to us such disturbance could afford nice opportunities for interference.'

But the Zionists were not inconvenienced by this. While the Arabs were starved of arms, the Zionists found an alternative source of supply—the Stalinists. Czech arms were sold to known Zionist agents with Moscow's approval following negotiations between the Zionist representative Moshe Shertok and the Russian UN leader Andrei Gromyko.

The first consignment consisted of 10,000 rifles and 450 machine guns. In the later stages of the war, Czechoslovakia was, in effect, the Zionist arsenal. It was this which swung the tide of battle in the Zionists' favour. Stalinism made an important contribution to the establishment of the Zionist state in the Middle East.

It bears a direct responsibility for the fate of the 583,000 Arab refugees who had been driven out of Palestine by the end of 1948.

(The fact that all this was done with the full knowledge and co-operation of the entire Stalinist leadership in both Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union did not prevent the charge of 'Zionist agents' being used against Rudolf Slansky and his associates in the 1953 purge trial.)

Stalinism supported Zionism

at that time both by supplying arms and by voting for pro-Zionist resolutions in the United Nations. In March, 1948, for example, the Soviet Union again voted alongside the United States for a Security Council resolution saying that UNO would do 'everything it could to give effect to the recommendations of the General Assembly'—that is, to the eventual establishment of a Zionist state.

On March 14, 1948, President Truman had a secret meeting with the Zionist leader Dr Chaim Weizmann. Following this, an American proposal at the United Nations Security Council established a 'Truce Commission' consisting of the Consuls-General of France, Belgium and the United States.

PROCLAIMED

And Truman transferred American Palestinian policy from the anti-Zionist Loy W Henderson to the pro-Zionist J H Hilldring.

Following further contact with Truman, Weizmann sent an urgent message to Zionists in Palestine: 'Proclaim the state, no matter what ensues!'

On May 14, 1948, Ben Gurion announced the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine . . . to be called Israel.

President Truman, who had been told in advance what was coming, accorded *de facto* recognition as soon as he was 'officially' informed. American UN delegates, then arguing for a totally different policy, were called to the telephone and informed of the President's decision.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

DEFEAT FIANNA FAIL

AND BRITISH IMPERIALIST CONSPIRACY AGAINST IRISH WORKERS! BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY IN IRELAND!

Statement of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

British imperialism in Ireland working directly through the Irish bourgeois government of Lynch and the Fianna Fail Party has secured the imposition of the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act.

Under this new law many basic democratic rights in the Irish Republic are wiped out. Five-year prison sentences for membership of illegal organizations will be imposed on the sole evidence of a police officer's opinion or of Press reports. The police have new and unprecedented powers of interrogation of charged persons.

'Interference with the course of justice' through 'public statements, meetings or processions' is now a defined offence with prescribed jail penalties.

In effect, the 'emergency powers' of the British government in the north are now virtually extended into the south. Lynch and the Eire bourgeoisie agree to proceed with this law while British troops terrorize the north. To the hundreds of political prisoners in the north will be added hundreds more in Dublin.

After the arrest of MacStiofain, in direct response to the demands of the British Tory government, Lynch closed down the Irish TV authority and the court sentenced Kevin O'Kelly, TV reporter, to three months' in prison for contempt of court. The subsequent events showed the real situation in Ireland, the latent power of the working class, and the responsibilities of constructing alternative revolutionary leadership.

Reacting to O'Kelly's imprisonment and the repressive character of the proposed new laws, as well as MacStiofain's sentence, workers took industrial action in a number of places. Within a few days it became clear that Lynch's majority in the Dail would fall.

This would have created an intolerable situation for British imperialism and the Irish bourgeoisie, which could not afford to wait for a General Election, with all the attendant political risks, before having the necessary repressive machinery to control the working class for entry into the EEC.

Passage of the Act through the Dail was assured by the explosions and deaths in Dublin's centre on the night of December 1. After this provocation the parliamentary opposition collapsed.

Nothing could reveal more clearly the stage reached in the preparations of the imperialists. Facing the prospect of gigantic struggles from the British working class (as well as the Irish) on Market entry, the Tory government was desperately anxious to clear up the 'security' situation in Northern Ireland, which ties down over 20,000 troops. The Act passed in Dublin came in the same week as the repressive, three-pronged Tory attack in Britain—against 'restrictive practices' on the shop floor; against the unions in the National Industrial Relations Court and the sentences on the so-called 'Angry Brigade'.

In the north of Ireland the



Left: Fitt of the Social Democratic Labour Party. Right: Lynch of Fianna Fail. Above: Demonstrators after MacStiofain was jailed.

imperialists have been and still are actively preparing the physical forces for the next stage of the class struggle in Britain. They know there can be no question of legislation alone settling the questions with the working class. Defeat in battle, in the factories and on the streets, is necessary.

It has never been clearer, in the Irish struggle, that the fight of the British working class to force the Tory government out is a decisive question for the Irish working class. This raises the fundamental questions of the political inde-

pendence of the working class and the construction of independent revolutionary leadership.

To the break-up of Unionism in the north is now added the final stage of Irish bourgeois collaboration with British imperialism in the south. They are going along wholeheartedly with the main political strategy of the British ruling class—entry into EEC and smashing the working class.

The implementation of this strategy requires that Lynch attacks the last militant representatives of the Irish middle

class who cling to the bankrupt adventurist methods of individual terrorism, the IRA Provisionals.

Only the working class, led by a revolutionary party, can fight for the democratic revolution and national unity in Ireland, and in doing so it will have to move forward to socialist revolt, merging in this struggle with the British, European and international working class.

Only those revolutionaries who base themselves on Trotsky's theory of the permanent revolution can lead the working class out of the impasse of terrorism and reformism and establish a revolutionary workers' and farmers' government in Ireland.

It is because this is now posed so clearly that the reformists reveal their bankruptcy so completely. British Labour and trade union leaders crawl shamefully behind the policy of the imperialists. Fitt, Cooper and the SDLP vote to go into talks with imperialist supremo Whitelaw, on the same day that MacStiofain is sentenced.

A week later the new repressive laws in the south are signed by President De Valera, who in 1922 led the IRA intransigents into action against

the supporters of the treaty! Such is the bankruptcy of the bourgeoisie and its hangers on.

The Stalinist policy of a 'Bill of Rights' in the north is now utterly discredited.

This is the fruit of dependence on the 'national bourgeoisie'. The immediate demands of the working-class movement, in a campaign led by the sections of the International Committee in Ireland and Britain must be:

Free Sean MacStiofain and all political prisoners in the north and south!

Withdraw immediately all British troops and disband and disarm the UDR and all Unionist anti-working-class organizations!

Repeal immediately the Offences Against the State Act and the Emergency Powers in the north, as well as the Industrial Relations Act in Britain!

To accomplish this, united working-class action to force the resignation of the Heath and Lynch governments!

Organize demonstrations and industrial action in defence against every attack on democratic rights in Ireland. Unity of the Irish and British working class to bring down the governments of Heath and Lynch!

1972: THE WORKING CLASS SHOWS ITS STRENGTH

On January 1 this year Workers Press began with a front-page lead story which said: '1972 will bring even more vicious attacks on the working class by the Tory government.'

'Spurred on by the international economic crisis, encouraged by the growing unemployment, and taking confidence from the treachery of the Labour and trade union leaders, they want to defeat big sections of the working class in strikes and press home the attack.'

The Tories wasted no time in launching their offensive. Within days of writing this warning the Tories staged a confrontation with the miners—the biggest since the 1926 General Strike—and British paratroopers opened fire on unarmed, innocent civilians in Derry.

But the working class responded to this Tory arrogance. At Saltley coke depot in Birmingham, miners were joined by engineers in a massive picket which forced the police contingent to quit the pitch.

This was to be the pattern of events covering the simmering social crisis throughout the year. Whenever the Tories made a lunge at the trade unions and the working class they were met with militant determination. This was best shown in the case of the five jailed dockers.

The TUC leadership and Jack Jones, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, capitulated before the Tory National Industrial Relations Court. The T&GWU leadership made appearances before it and paid its fines. But the dockers were having none of it. They were put behind bars in Pentonville prison for defending their basic rights to black and to picket.

As the movement towards a General Strike gathered steam the Tories produced a mysterious legal personage called the Official Solicitor and—hey presto!—they were released.

The same stolid resistance to the government and all its anti-working class policies is involved in the wave of strikes which followed the fines on the second largest union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

But as Workers Press has repeatedly warned, militancy on its own is not enough to stop the host of reactionary legislation which the Tories are inflicting on the trade unions and the working class. To stop rising prices, unemployment, wage-cutting, the anti-union laws, the doubling of council rents requires a massive political and industrial mobilization to force the Tories out of office.

Each day the Tories remain in power they prepare more vicious measures to solve their economic crisis at the expense of the working class. Already Heath has drafted Phase Two of his state pay plan which will set up a permanent legal structure to hold down wages. Defiance of this proposed Act will mean unlimited fines in the criminal courts.

The Socialist Labour League has been the only tendency in the workers' movement which has consistently demanded the resignation of this government. In line with our campaign against the Tories we took bold steps in 1972 to prepare the working class for the next and more intense stages of the fight.

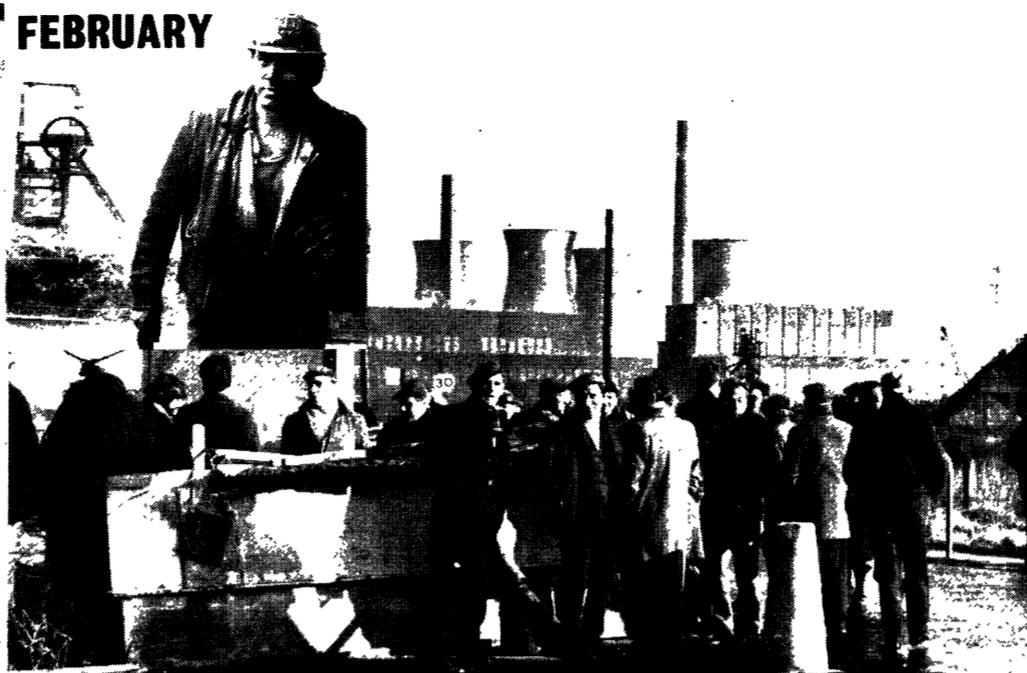
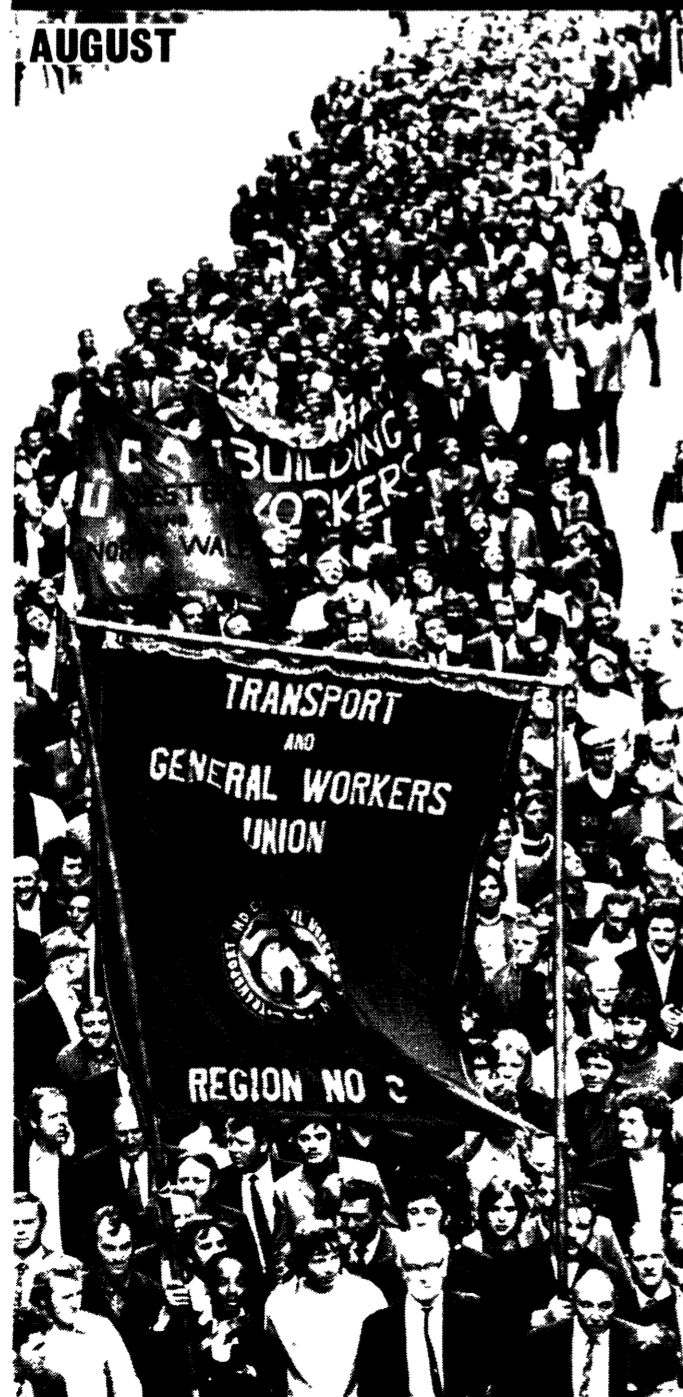
Workers Press was developed from a four-page broadsheet newspaper into a 12-page tabloid; the Young Socialists staged five Right-to-Work marches throughout England, Scotland and Wales and 9,000 people gathered at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 12 for our biggest-ever rally; on October 22 the All Trades Unions Alliance staged a national conference in Birmingham which unanimously adopted a document calling for an immediate campaign to transform the SLL into a revolutionary party.

Already we are far ahead in our planning for 1973. A pageant of working-class history will be held at the Empire Pool on March 11. Up and down the country we are receiving support in the form of signatures to our document on the building of the party.

If the first two and a half years of Heath's Toryism has been vicious we are compelled to warn the working class that the next stage will be much worse. Driven by the world economic crisis the ruling class will do everything in its power—using 'the armed bodies of men' of the state apparatus if necessary—to maintain its profits and privileges.

Our message for 1973 is this:

- Build the revolutionary party.
- Force the Tories to resign.
- Elect a Labour government pledged to repeal all anti-working class legislation and to nationalize all basic industries without compensation and under workers' control.





THE MAKING OF A TRAITOR

A two part article by Jane Brown on Ramsay MacDonald

Ramsay MacDonald is remembered by workers who lived through the Depression of the 1930s as the most notorious traitor to the working class the Labour Party has ever produced.

But he was more than merely a treacherous individual. His degeneration was part of the political degeneration of the Labour Party leadership which has continued to the present day.

After carefully studying its development, Lenin wrote in 1920: 'The Labour Party is a thoroughly bourgeois party, because although it consists of workers, it is led by reactionaries and the worst reactionaries at that, who act fully in the spirit of the bourgeoisie. It is an organization of the bourgeoisie which exists in order to systematically deceive the workers.'

The Labour Party was established at a later date than most European socialist parties; and at the outset it was uncertain whether the Labour Representation Committee would in fact become a 'socialist' organization.

This uncertainty was a reflection of economic developments during the 19th century.

Britain's industrial and colonial wealth had created a large 'aristocracy of labour'. Organized in powerful unions such as the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, these gentlemen had for many years

successfully improved conditions for their members without organizing an independent political party or attacking the capitalist state.

Most workers were content to vote for the Liberal Party, until the worsening of Britain's trading position intensified the class struggle once again. In the 1890s, the employers mounted a successful campaign to restrict picketing.

In 1901, the Taff Vale judgement resulted in a massive fine on the railwaymen's union, which set a precedent for the destruction of standards which trade unions had been able to win for their members in the years of prosperity. The legal protection of union funds, long since taken for granted, had been abruptly withdrawn.

The response could only be a political one. Only a parliamentary decision could turn back the attack being successfully mounted in the law courts.

TUC decision

Small bodies of socialists, such as the Independent Labour Party, the Social Democratic Federation and the Fabian Society had been trying to politicize working-class demands for some years. Although they disagreed among themselves on tactics for achieving the transition to socialism, all three organizations joined with trade union representatives to form the Labour Representation Committee in 1900.

Only a TUC decision had

made possible the construction of the Labour Representation Committee. So from the outset it was rooted in trade unionism. But at the same time, the comparatively small socialist bodies had enormous opportunities for winning the new mass organization to socialist politics. They had five of the 12 seats on the executive committee; and the first Committee secretary was ILP member, Ramsay MacDonald.

The history of the Labour Party has been the history of the failure of these 'socialists' to establish political leadership in the new, Independent Labour Party. Their socialist principles soon became submerged in pragmatic, compromise decisions on all issues of programme and policy.

The 'excuse', of course, was that it was necessary to adapt to the existing level of political consciousness in the trade unions in order to retain mass support. But the fact that the Labour Party was soon losing rank-and-file support from workers, who turned to syndicalist leadership in the strikes of 1911-1914, shows that more than 'practical' considerations kept MacDonald and his socialist friends from breaking with the bourgeois Liberal Party.

These men were the ancestors of our present-day reformists. They wanted to introduce socialism by peaceful changes in the existing system. They had no conception of the need to destroy capitalism, before the foundations of a socialist economy could be laid. Instead

of leading the working class forward, they held it back by using a smokescreen of socialist phrases to conceal their cowardly subservience to the ruling capitalist class.

The British working class unfortunately promises to serve quite long yet, as a sad example of how the divorcement from socialism of the labour movement necessarily leads to its becoming petty and affected by the outlook of the bourgeoisie,' wrote Lenin, five years after the Labour Representation Committee was established. The reformist leaders, such as MacDonald, bore the responsibility for this.

Though he fully understood the historical circumstances which biased the trade unions towards the Liberal Party and away from socialism, Lenin refused to let the reformists evade their responsibility. He protested against the wording of Kautsky's resolution for acceptance of the Labour Party as an affiliated member of the Second International (1908), because it tended to absolve British socialists of their responsibility for giving leadership.

While acknowledging that the Labour Party 'represents the first step on the part of the really proletarian organizations of Britain towards a conscious class policy and towards a socialist workers' party', Lenin insisted that it was a 'first step', only. 'The first part of Kautsky's resolution is wrong, because in fact the Labour Party is not a party really independent of the Liberals, and does not pursue a fully independent class policy.'

On this occasion Lenin was overruled. But the whole subsequent history of the Labour Party shows the correctness of his position. The reformist Labour Party leaders rapidly abandoned any serious intention of overthrowing the capitalist system. Indeed, their reformism has become an invaluable weapon in keeping the working class tied to that system.

Lenin followed the degeneration of the Labour Party with the closest attention. In 1912, he wrote of the Independent Labour Party: 'It is justly said that this Party is "independent" only of socialism, but very dependent upon Liberalism.'

Yet he found encouragement in the fact that the ILP conference of that year debated a motion calling for a clean break from Liberalism. He concluded that 'Liberal-Labour policy is maintained by the tradition, routine and agility of the opportunist leaders. But its bankruptcy among the masses of the proletariat is inevitable'.

Influential

Ramsay MacDonald, son of a Scottish farmworker, was the most influential of these ILP 'socialist' leaders. First secretary of the LRC, he remained leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party until 1914, then resumed its leadership from 1922 until his expulsion from the Party in 1931, during the fiasco of the National Government. From the outset, he subordinated the new working-class party to the beliefs and requirements of the British ruling class.

Even before 1914, as we have seen, the inertia of Labour MPs was causing frustration and disillusionment in the working class. The outbreak of World War I saw the disintegration of the Second International. Socialist principles were drowned in a deluge of 'patriotism'. The Labour Party duly succumbed and obtained representation in Lloyd George's War Cabinet as a reward.

Some sections held out briefly for the International's agreed policy of opposition to the imperialist war. As parliamentary leader, MacDonald was briefly one of them. As

a result of his 'anti-war' position, he was removed from the Party leadership.

But his 'pacifist' reputation was to stand him (and the Labour Party) in good stead, as it gave him the appearance of being a principled socialist, once the tide of working-class opinion had turned decisively against the war and had been influenced by the triumph of the Russian Revolution.

In fact, MacDonald's 'pacifism' was as much of a deception as his 'socialism'. One month after the war broke out, he expressed the view: 'We are in it: it will work itself out now... Victory therefore, must be ours'—and agreed to help recruiting efforts in his own constituency.

In 1922, he was re-elected to the leadership, having helped rescue the reformist Labour Party from its post-war crisis. The election of that year was a considerable success for Labour. MacDonald's 'pacifism' had won back support from workers who were in revolt against post-war unemployment and falling living standards. He had checked the 'communist infection' in the Party. In 1924, he became the first Labour Prime Minister.

The first Labour government depended on Liberal support for its existence. It lasted barely nine months and did not attempt to introduce a single socialist measure.

Indeed, its defeat eventually occurred because of a mismanaged attempt to prosecute the communist newspaper 'Workers' Weekly'. MacDonald apparently had such a guilty conscience about his Anglo-Soviet trade treaty that he made little attempt to defend



Stanley Baldwin, Tory leader who successfully used the forged 'Zinoviev Letter' in a 'red scare' campaign that ousted the Labour Party in the 1924 election. Left: MacDonald in early 1900s.

his Party against the Tories' scurrilous election tactics.

They successfully used the forged 'Zinoviev Letter' to create one of the biggest 'red scares' in history. It stampeded voters into electing a Tory government.

Paradoxically, this episode restored confidence among the Labour rank and file in MacDonald's credentials as a socialist leader. During his period in office, confidence had been shaken by the sight of a Labour Cabinet aping the rituals and costume of court ceremony; and still more so by the 'biscuits' scandal. (MacDonald had accepted a Daimler car and 30,000 shares in the McVitie and Price Company as a 'gift' from a wealthy friend—who, in turn, received a baronetcy!)

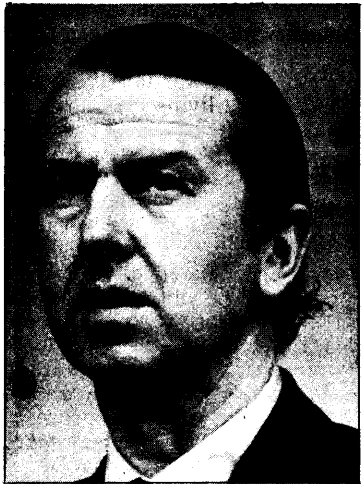
No doubt to his profound relief, MacDonald was not Prime Minister during the General Strike two years later. While he voiced sympathy from the sidelines, it was left to his political supporters in the TUC to crawl away from the Tory challenge that the logical extension of the strike would be for the unions to 'run the country...'

CONTINUED TOMORROW.

These articles are based on a recently published book: 'Ramsay MacDonald's Political Writings.' Edited by Bernard Barker. Allen Lane The Penguin Press, 1972. £4.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

FUN STUDY



Peter Walker of DTI

The Tories and the CBI are lashing out money on surveys of export and investment opportunities within the Common Market.

But one of the most astonishing of these surveys concerns the one-armed bandit industry. It has been announced that the Amusement Trades Association has commissioned a study of potential sales in Europe. The Department of Trade and Industry, headed by Peter Walker, is to provide two-thirds of the cost of the £12,700 survey.

The money is being made available under the export market research subsidy plan.

The research is going to be undertaken by MWS Services, the London end of the Chicago-based Middle West Services Company.

The company wants to secure basic data about the main category of machines: electronically-operated one-arm bandits, mechanical fruit machines, arcade pay-out machines, non-pay-out machines and football tables. The researchers will visit the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, Italy, West Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Norway studying local market conditions.

The survey will be handed over to the Amusement Trades Association which represents about 1,000 companies in the manufacture, distribution and operation of leisure machines.

MWS hopes to complete the analysis in March.

ABANDONED

The Nixon administration has virtually abandoned its much-publicised drive to force Federal contractors to employ more Negroes and other minority groups.

A recent survey of officials in the Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCC)—the agency charged with ensuring fair employment practices by companies receiving Federal money—indicates that the agency is now receiving virtually no support from the administration.

Enforcement of programmes such as the Philadelphia plan, designed to stop job discrimination in high-paid construction work in Federally-financed projects, has come to a standstill and no new projects are being initiated.

OFCC officials say that, although these programmes have not been officially curtailed, in practice there is no support for them from the higher levels of the Labour Department nor from the White House.

In fact, they claim that OFCC officers who have tried to enforce goals and timetables for minority employment by Federal contractors have been 'quietly reprimanded'.

A number of the agency's officers interviewed recently said they believed the decision to refrain from putting pressure on Federal contractors had come directly from the office of Mr John Ehrlichman, President Nixon's chief adviser on domestic affairs.

Below: Nixon



CHAPLIN SENDING UP THE FUEHRER

BY JOE HARPER

The revival of Chaplin's 'The Great Dictator' provides a timely reminder of the degenerate depths capitalism reaches under fascism.

More than that, the film contains two vital messages.

First, that key sections of society, to their cost, failed to take fascism sufficiently seriously last time, which Chaplin in vain tried to warn them about in this perceptive study made in 1939.

Secondly, that the only answer to fascism was for the people to mobilize themselves and to fight it, as the girl Hannah and the little barber finally decide to do.

Chaplin's main method of debunking fascism is to deride its sick pretensions, its brute arrogance and treachery and its farcical incompetence, without ever ignoring its deadly dangerousness.

Some critics have said that by making us laugh at the demented behaviour of Adenoid Hynkel, the Fooey of Tomainia, Benzino Napoloni, the Duce of Bacteria, and the stormtroopers, Chaplin committed a gross error of taste and judgement.

Not so. One of the fascists' major weapons was bluff. Hitler and Mussolini bullied and bluffed their way to more diplomatic victories in the early years than they could ever have achieved by force of arms, thanks, of course, to the willing connivance of the bourgeois and social-democratic leaders of the time.

Chaplin exposes the bluster as consisting mainly of boastful vanity, and the fascists' apparent invincibility as being mostly pretence.

Far from being a 'great man' as Western apologists claimed, Chaplin's dictator is a paranoid coward who banishes his inferiority by megalomaniac ravings and by petty bullying of subordinates.

The undistinguished origins of the upstart Fuehrer are further underlined by making the little Jewish barber his double with an undistinguished World War I background. What the real-life Corporal Shickelgruber might have ended up as, the barber has in fact become—a nobody.

Chaplin's send-up of Hitler's bombastic demagoguery is a masterpiece. Hynkel's party operates under the sign of the double cross. The brains of the outfit is Garbitsch, the propaganda minister, who tries to control the Fooey's capricious fits and orchestrate the pogroms, the threats of war, and the shooting of strike leaders in order to keep popular dissent at a minimum.

The contrasting normalcy of ordinary human beings is provided by life in the Jewish quarter, to which the barber has just returned after 20 years in hospital with amnesia.

He quickly and painfully becomes acquainted with the new official policy of Jew-baiting, but his naive resistance reduces the bullying swagger of the stormtroopers to the buffoonery of Keystone Cops.

He befriends Hannah, a laundry girl, who also fights back, though more consciously. But the political backwardness of the ghetto is revealed when they begin to place hopes for some respite from persecution in a Hynkel policy switch connected with loans from Jewish bankers.

The collapse of this policy and the start of new pogroms catches the barber in the act of buying Hynkel buttons for himself and his girl-friend. Hitler was, after all, a cult figure in Germany.

The renewed offensive prompts ideas of a fight back, but the ingrained domesticity of the ghetto—and the lack of political leadership—reduces them quickly to hopelessness.

The barber goes to the concentration camp and the girl and her family flee to Oster-

lich. But Osterlich is invaded following a hysterical summit meeting between Hynkel and Napoloni where the two dictators squabble like spoilt children in trying to outsmart each other.

The great speech at the victory rally in conquered Osterlich is made by the Jewish barber who gets mistaken for Hynkel while escaping over the border in an officer's uniform and is escorted to the capital with full honours.

Garbitsch declaims that democracy, liberty, and equality are words to fool the people. Only loyalty to the state matters.

But the barber quietly calls on the people to unite and restore to themselves the power taken from them by the brutes who hate and fear progress; to fight to restore liberty and universal brotherhood of Jew, Gentile, Black, and White, free from the system of greed which enslaves all men.

His call to fight for a new decent world of reason is heard by the girl Hannah, who was the first to fight back against the stormtroopers, and whose new home has just been destroyed by the advancing Hynkel armies. As the film ends, she looks up in hope and determination.

The film is unforgettably funny. Chaplin, as Hynkel and the barber, and Jack Oakie, as the braggadocio Duce, are superb.

The appeals to democracy and unity as the way to save mankind obviously lack political depth; and, as usual with Chaplin, the film is extremely sentimental. But the artist's scrupulous sincerity outweighs these weaknesses and survives the farcical form the plot takes.

The main message of the film, both as art and as a political work, rings true. Against all lies, hypocrisy, and servility. For truthfulness, simplicity, and humanity.

A great film.

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REGIONAL TV

SATURDAY

CHANNEL: 11.10 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Puffin. 12.30 London. 5.10 Sale of the century. 5.40 News. Film: 'Around the World in Eighty Days'. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 Upstairs, Downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Theatre of stars. 12.25 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 10.45 Woobinda. 11.10 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Gus Honeybun. 11.40 Bonanza. 12.25 Faith for life. 12.30 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 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 Comedians. 5.40 News. 5.45 Film: 'Around the World in Eighty Days'. 8.30 London. 10.40 News. 10.50 Film: 'Curse of the Werewolf'. 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. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'Incident in San Francisco'. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Don't Talk to Strange Men'.

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

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 show. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 Elephant boy. 12.30 London. 5.15 Dick Van Dyke. 5.40 News. 5.45 Film: 'Around the World in Eighty Days'. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Film: 'Companions in Nightmare'. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 Thunderbirds. 12.00 Woobinda. 12.30 London. 5.10 Merrie melodies. 5.40 Sports cast. 6.10 London. 6.15 Tarzan. 7.10 McCloud. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Journey to the unknown.

YORKSHIRE: 9.15 Tommy Thompkins. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Film: 'Fantastic Voyage'. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'The Pride and the Passion'. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 New Scotland Yard. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Mod squad. 12.25 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 Sesame street. 12.05 Clapperboard. 12.30 London. 5.10 Sky's the limit. 5.40 News. 5.45 Film: 'Around the World in Eighty Days'. 8.25 London. 8.25 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.35 Film: 'Yours Truly Jack the Ripper'.

TYNE TEES: 9.15 Wild life theatre. 9.40 Minutes that changed history. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Film: 'Fantastic Voyage'. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'Fort Apache'. 8.30 Julie Andrews. 9.30 New Scotland Yard. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Edgar Wallace. 12.25 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Tomfoolery show. 10.35 Joe 90. 11.05 Dave Cash. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 Saturday cavalcade. 12.30 London. 5.15 Hogan's heroes. 5.40 News. 5.45 Film: 'Around the World in Eighty Days'. 8.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 O'Hara.

REGIONAL TV

SUNDAY

CHANNEL: 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Charley's Big Hearted Aunt'. 4.30 Puffin. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Will Penny'. 10.00 London. 12.15 Epilogue. Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 London. 10.35 Survival. 11.05 Film: 'Tarzan's Triumphs'. 12.30 Champions. 1.25 Angling today. 1.55 Farm and country news. 4.30 Gus Honeybun. 12.15 Faith for life. 12.20 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 Talking hands. 9.30 London. 10.30 Farm progress. 10.57 Weather. 11.00 Torchy. 11.10 Name of the game. 12.30 Bush boy. 1.00 Superman. 1.20 Primus. 1.50 Hogan's heroes. 2.15 London. 3.15 Best of Lucy. 3.45 Golden shot. 4.40 Aquarius. 5.30 News. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Pink Panther'. 10.00 London. 12.15 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30-10.30 London. 12.00 All our yesterdays. 12.30 A place in the country. 1.00 University challenge. 1.25 Love, American style. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Assault on the Wayne'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Mr and Mrs. 8.25 Film: 'The Night of the Generals'. 10.00 London. 10.15 Film contd. 11.15 Hogmanay at McCue's. 12.25 Weather.

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

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 10.30 All our yesterdays. 11.00 Lions 71. 12.00 Nanny and the professor. 12.30 Farming today. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Soccer. 3.00 Film: 'The Truth About Spring'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Man in Grey'. 10.00 London.

ULSTER: 12.30 Lions New Zealand tour. 1.30 HR Puffstuf. 1.55 Women only. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Manfish'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.53 Sports results. 7.55 Film: 'Hotel'. 10.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'Sinbad the Sailor'. 12.30 Lions 71. 1.25 Farming outlook. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'Easy to Wed'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Will Penny'. 10.00 London. 12.15 Weather.

GRANADA: 11.00 Lions 71. 12.00 Film: 'Thunder in the Valley'. 1.50 Merrie melodies. 2.20 Football. 3.20 Film: 'Cattle Drive'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Trouble With Angels'. 10.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 London. 10.30 Sinbad the sailor. 12.30 Lions 71. 1.25 Farming outlook. 1.55 Shoot. 2.50 Film: 'Easy to Wed'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 7.55 Film: 'Will Penny'. 10.00 London. 12.30 A message for New Year.

SCOTTISH: 9.45 Master chefs. 10.00 World War I. 10.30 Women only. 11.00 Film: 'Clarence, the Cross-Eyed Lion'. 12.30 A place in the country. 1.00 Randall and Hopkirk. 2.00 Scotsport. 3.00 Film: 'Charley's Big Hearted Aunt'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Flipper. 6.05 London. 7.25 Film: 'The Hallelujah Trail'. 10.00 London. 10.15 Late call. 10.20 McMillan and wife. 11.40 A party for hogmanay.

TV

BBC 1

9.45 The herbs. 10.00 Hansel and Gretel. 11.10 Whale safari. 11.40 Harlem globetrotters. 12.00 The yellow slippers. 12.25 Grandstand. 12.30 Football preview. 12.55, 1.20, 2.20 Racing from Newbury. 2.40, 3.10 Rugby league. 2.55 Athletics. 3.50 Lancer. 4.40 Final score. 5.05 Basil Brush show. 5.35 News. Weather. 5.50 Dr. Who. 6.15 **DIXON OF DOCK GREEN.** The Loser. 7.05 **FILM: 'THE JOKERS'** Michael Crawford, Oliver Reed, Harry Andrews. Two brothers plan the crime of the century. 8.35 **CILLA.** Cilla Black with guests Alfred Marks, Donovan. 9.20 **A MAN CALLED IRON-SIDE.** The Gambling Game. 10.10 **NEWS.** Weather. 10.20 **MATCH OF THE DAY.** 11.20 **PARKINSON.** Michael Parkinson meets The Goons. 12.20 **Weather.**

BBC 2

3.00 Film: 'Cheaper by the Dozen'. Clifton Webb, Jeanne Crain, Myrna Loy. Comedy about a family with twelve children. 4.25 The dot and the line. 4.35 Play away. 5.00 Under London expedition. 5.50 Man alive.

6.40 **TELEVISION DOCTOR.**

6.55 **HORIZON.** Navigating Europe.

7.40 **NEWS AND SPORT.** Weather.

7.50 **RUGBY SPECIAL.** East Glamorgan v The All Blacks.

8.30 **WAR AND PEACE.** Escape.

9.15 **THEM AND US.** Germany. Series about the arts in the other Common Market countries.

11.40 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

11.45 **FILM: 'KING AND COUNTRY'** Dirk Bogarde, Tom Courtenay, Leo McKern. A Private faces court martial for cowardice during World War I.

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 The Osmonds. 11.50 Junior police five. 12.00 The Partridge family. 12.30 News. 12.35 World of sport. 12.40 On the ball. 1.05 International sports special. 1.20 The ITV seven. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Warwick. 1.45, 2.15 2.45 Racing from Catterick. 3.10 International sports special. 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 FROM ITN.**

6.15 **FILM: 'BARABBAS'** Anthony Quinn, Silvana Mangano, Arthur Kennedy, Katy Jurado, Jack Palance, Ernest Borgnine. Biblical spectacle.

8.30 **NEW SCOTLAND YARD.** We Do What We Can.

9.30 **THE JULIE ANDREWS HOUR.** Guests Jimmy Durante, Rich Little.

10.30 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

10.40 **RUSSELL HARTY PLUS.**

11.30 **RECONCILIATION.** PLAY: 'LOOK HOMEWARD ANGEL'. American production of the play set in North Carolina during the First World War. With Geraldine Page and E. G. Marshall.



Chief Ironside has a new girl assistant for his new series on BBC 1. Elizabeth Bauer plays Officer Fran Belding, seen here with Charlie, a small-time crook. Underneath the moustache is Bobby Darin.

TV

BBC 1

11.00 Seeing and believing. 11.35 The little angels. 12.05 Our relations. Laurel and Hardy. 1.15 The man who loves giants. 2.05 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 2.20 Barney bear. 2.30 Andre Previn's music night. 3.15 Festival of entertainment. 4.00 Film: 'North West Frontier'. Kenneth More, Lauren Bacall, Herbert Lom. 6.05 **NEWS.** Weather. 6.15 **THE CHURCH AND APARTHEID.** 6.40 **THE NEW BEGINNING.** 6.50 **SONGS OF PRAISE.** 7.25 **THE ONEDIN LINE.** Race for Power. 8.15 **FILM: 'A STAR IS BORN'** Judy Garland, James Mason, Jack Carson, Charles Bickford. A singer rises to fame while her actor husband sinks into alcoholism. 10.45 **NEWS.** Weather. 11.00 **TOP OF THE YEAR.** The Variety Club Awards followed by Welcome '73 with Bruce Forsyth, Clodagh Rogers and Neville King.

BBC 2

4.15 Money at work. 5.15 Ripples in the ether. Annual Christmas lectures to Young People by Geoffrey Gouriet, chief engineer, BBC research and development.

6.05 **NEWS REVIEW.**

7.20 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.

7.25 **AMERICA.** Domesticating a Wilderness.

8.15 **THE MOISEYEV BALLET.** Russian folk dances.

9.15 **BUT SERIOUSLY — IT'S SHEILA HANCOCK.** With Peter Hall, Alfie Bass, Michael Hordern, Ronnie Stevens, Paul McDowell, Dennis Plenty.

9.45 **THE VIEW FROM DANIEL PIKE.** Big Fleas, Little Fleas.

10.35 **UP THE CHANNEL.** A last half-hearted stand before Common Market entry by James Cameron, Kenny Everett, William Rushton, John Wells.

11.00 **FILM: 'TOBACCO ROAD'** John Ford's film about poor whites in America's deep South. With Gene Tierney, Charley Grapewine and Dana Andrews.

12.20 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.

ITV

9.30 Morning service. 10.35 Return to Peyton Place. 11.05 Film: 'Tarzan Triumphs'. Johnny Weissmuller. 12.30 Turnbull's finest half hour. 1.00 Thunderbirds. 1.50 Brian Connel interview. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Persuaders. 4.20 Golden shot. 5.15 Aquarius. Fat Tuesday—Mardi Gras in New Orleans, 1972.

6.05 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

6.15 **ADAM SMITH.**

6.45 **THE BIG QUESTION.**

7.00 **CAROLS FOR CHILDREN.**

7.25 **THE FENN STREET GANG.** And Baby Makes Four.

7.55 **FILM: 'ROBBERY'** Stanley Baker, Joanna Pettet, James Booth, Frank Finlay. A gang snatches a haul of diamonds to finance their next job.

10.00 **NEWS FROM ITN.**

10.15 **AT LAST THE 1973 SHOW.** Introduced by David Frost, with Ethel Merman, Jimmy Edwards, Stubby Kaye, Eartha Kitt, Harve Presnell, Maurice Woodruff.

12.15 **RECONCILIATION.**

Fighting the Tory rent Act

Govt inquiries into rent rebels

TWO MORE public inquiries were held yesterday in Scotland into Labour councils who have refused to implement the Tory government's 'fair rents' Act.

Ordered by the Secretary of State for Scotland, they were held at Dunfermline and Kilmarnock where the Labour councils are defying the Tories.

In effect the inquiries were a formality, the only task being to find out if the councils had in fact carried out their obligations under law.

The next step is for the authorities to be declared in default by the Tory government and then ordered to implement.

Inquiries have already been

held into the Midlothian and Clydebank Labour councils, although the reports are not yet ready.

The other eight Labour councils in Scotland still refusing to put rents up are: Alloa, Barrhead, Cowdenbeath, Cumbernauld, Dalkeith, Denny and Dunipace, Saltcoats and Whitburn.

Council house-building at low 1963 level

COUNCIL house building in Britain has slumped to 1963 levels, while private building levels are rising.

It is unlikely that many more than 150,000 council houses will be completed this year, the lowest since 1963's 124,000. In fact the November figure of 10,700 completions shows an annual average of only 125,000.

The slump in council building began in 1967 after a peak-level of 200,000 units in one year. Labour's attack on public expenditure started the slide

and the Tories have encouraged the fall.

On the other hand—encouraged by the prospects of inflation and speculation in housing—private builders have started over 19,000 units a month this year against 17,300 last year.

And the aim of the Tory government's Housing Finance Act has yet to be fully felt by local councils. They will find it harder to get the necessary cash to build new estates and at the same time the prospective tenants will not be able to afford the 'fair' rents.

Hosiery strikers attack union chiefs

A BITTER attack on the leadership of the National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers was launched yesterday by the strike committee representing the 500 Asian workers who have just ended a nine-week strike in Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Union leaders were accused of 'coercing and pressurizing for a return to work without giving assurances on anything'.

It was also alleged that there were a 'handful of racialists' among the NUHKW's executive 'who will have to be dealt with very firmly' by the membership.

The Asians, workers employed by Mansfield Hosiery company, went on strike in October for a pay rise for the lower-paid workers and the right to be trained for skilled knitting jobs in the plant.

A return to work in November was short-lived when the strikers discovered a number of non-Asians had been taken on

Return to former jobs and pay

during the strike to be trained as knitters.

The men were also bitter that the union leaders had known about the recruitment yet had not told the strikers.

NUHKW leaders had already been accused by the Race Relations Board of assisting racial discrimination on the question of job training by signing agreements with management which



The Asian strikers during their picket

had the effect of preventing Asian workers from being taken on as knitters.

The decision to return to work was taken at a mass meeting of Asian strikers on Thursday night in Loughborough. It followed negotiations between strike leaders and management since the publication of the Robinson report into the dispute ten days ago.

Any return will be made on the basis of several promises

made during negotiations. Any attempt to break them will be met by renewed strike action, it was said yesterday.

Strikers have been told there will be no redundancies among the Asian workers and that everyone will get their old jobs back on full pay for a 40-hour week.

A pledge of no victimization has been given by management which has been accepted.

An immediate £1 increase for

the low-paid barloaders has been accepted, separate from a £3 nationally-agreed rise.

A Department of Employment representative will sit on a selection panel with the Asian workers and management to decide on who is to fill knitting and other vacancies announced by the company.

In their statement, the strike committee members say they are going to 'fight' the union leaders 'to the finish'. The union had to consult its members in 'the democratic traditions... so painfully built up over the centuries'.

Bunny Bensee, the strikers' spokesman, told Workers Press yesterday that they were preparing documents on the democratization of the NUHKW.

'The whole hosiery industry has been shaken up by this strike. From now on the union must be run from below—by both black and white.'

'The majority of workers at the mill and in Britain don't want racialism and we must fight it all the time,' he added.

All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign
Support the Engineers

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).

EAST LONDON: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Chriss 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.

HARROW AND WEALDSTONE: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Railway Approach, Station Road, Harrow.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday January 2, 8 p.m. Clapham Baths, Clapham Manor Street. 'Transform the SLL into a revolutionary party'.

CROYDON: Wednesday January 3, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, south Croydon.

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

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday January 4, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road. 'Build Councils of Action! Defend the engineers!'

LETCWORTH: Thursday January 4, 8 p.m. Trades Hall. (please note changed date.)

SOUTHALL: Thursday January 4, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road.

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

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

HARROW AND WEALDSTONE: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Railway Approach, Station Road, Harrow.

ROCHESTER: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue.

HULL: Wednesday January 10, 8 p.m. White Hart Hotel, Alfred Gelder Street (near Drypool Bridge).

TONBRIDGE: Thursday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Foresters', Quarry Hill Road.

KINGSTON: Thursday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Liverpool Arms', corner of Cambridge Road and London Road.

SLOUGH: Thursday, January 11, 7.30 p.m. Slough Community Centre, Farnham Road.

SHEFFIELD: Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. 'The Grape Inn', Trippett Lane, Sheffield 1.

LEEDS: Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane.

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An appeal on behalf of the Fine Tubes strikers of Plymouth

The Plymouth Fine Tubes Strikers, their wives and 53 children have just spent their third Christmas on strike with very little money.

These men have waged a bitter struggle for the most basic right a worker can possess—the right to belong to a trade union.

Strike committee members have travelled over 100,000 miles to sustain their fight.

This Christmas has been the hardest of all. It has imposed a great financial burden. Now the 37 strikers face the rest of the winter with a depleted strike fund. January is always a difficult month to raise money to further their fight.

Yet they are determined to fight on. This is a struggle the working class cannot afford to lose. That is why the Socialist Labour League and the Work-

ers Press wishes to make a special appeal to all trade unionists to take collections in their factories and branches for the Fine Tubes men in order that their heroic and determined action can be carried forward. All money should be sent to:

Fine Tubes Treasurer
c/o 65 Bretonside
Plymouth, Devon.

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.....

