

Socialist Labour League secretary says: **TORIES ARE OUT TO SMASH BASIC RIGHTS**

ALEX MITCHELL

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SLL national secretary Gerry Healy speaking at the 'Keep Left' AGM. Seated is the paper's editor, Gary Gurmeet.

'Proud' 23 years

'KEEP LEFT' editor Gary Gurmeet said the Young Socialists could be 'justifiably proud' of the 23rd year of continuous publication of the only revolutionary youth paper in Britain.

He told the paper's annual meeting: 'No one should be under any illusions about the intentions of this Tory government in 1973. They have joined the Common Market in order to join hands with the reactionary capitalists that rule western Europe.'

In doing so they have consciously laid the basis for a huge increase in unemployment in Britain, a steep increase in the cost of living and more repressive actions against trade union and political rights. The Tories have already drafted Phase Two of their plan for state control over wages.

It would be completely wrong to describe the anti-inflation measures as a "freeze". We have here the structure for a permanent legal form of wage control. Any union or section of workers who oppose this rule by decree can be sentenced to unlimited fines or prison.'

A collection raised the magnificent total of £178.74. A full report on the annual general meeting and details of the national speaking contest will appear in this week's 'Keep Left', out on Friday.

Gerry Healy was bringing fraternal greetings from the SLL Central Committee to the annual general meeting of 'Keep Left', the weekly newspaper of the Young Socialists.

He spoke to an audience of 1,200 young workers and students from all over Britain who packed the East India Hall in London's East End on Saturday.

Healy said that in 1972 the working class, in one section after another, had shown its determination to fight the Tory government. 'But,' he went on, 'it would be impermissible to conclude that 1972 was a year on the side of the working class.'

The Tories made 'enormous legal inroads' into the basic democratic rights of the working class.

The Industrial Relations Act had stripped away every major right of the trade union movement.

'The right to negotiate has now been banned. The right to ask your boss for a rise, the right to defend your trade union—all this has been taken away. How can anyone interpret 1972 as a year of victory?'

Driven by the economic crisis, the British ruling class and its international counterparts were reacting in the same way: democratic rights had either been taken away or were in the process of being taken away.

'The full brunt of the capitalist crisis is being placed directly on the backs of the working class,' he said.

'The indignation will be bitter in the coming weeks when workers see that the Tories have fleeced away their rights. Workers will have no other choice but to fight back,' he added.

The fight for the defence of basic democratic rights meant a struggle to force the Tories out of office and the return of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

This was inseparable from the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party during 1973.

He said that the trade unions could not defend themselves by calling one-day strikes or strikes lasting only a few days.

In 1906 the trade unions founded the Labour Party be-

TURN TO BACK PAGE



2,000 marchers back rent rebels

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Price probe a fraud

THE TORIES are hoping desperately to damp down the anger growing over the soaring price of beef with their phoney committee of inquiry.

The three-man committee has a built-in Tory majority.

The only woman, Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, is a long-standing Party member and close friend of Education Minister Margaret Thatcher.

James Gulliver is the ex-head of Britain's second biggest food supermarket chain Fine Fare. He has just bought his own food manufacturing empire, Oriel Foods.

For the sake of appearances Heath has appointed Sidney Robinson, a right-wing Labourite and former general president of the

Boot and Shoe Operatives' union.

Prices have been high all year, but levels rocketed immediately after entry into the Common Market.

Within a week meat has almost reached EEC levels—a process that the Tories claimed would take five years.

Similar increases in other foods are on the way.

Since the freeze started on November 6, wholesale prices for a wide range of meats have gone up between 37 and 50 per cent.

Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd admitted over the weekend that the inquiry would not control prices but find out why they were rising.

Butchers, have already pointed to the main source—the vast exports to the EEC where meat prices are high.

Among the political delegations was a 150-strong contingent from the Young Socialists.

Ernie Roberts, assistant general secretary of the AUEW, told the marchers: 'An injury to one is an injury to all. We must come to the defence of these councillors who are only carrying out Labour Party policy.'

The Tories have threatened to stop £8m in subsidies due to be paid to Camden. The council meets again on Wednesday to discuss the next moves in its campaign.

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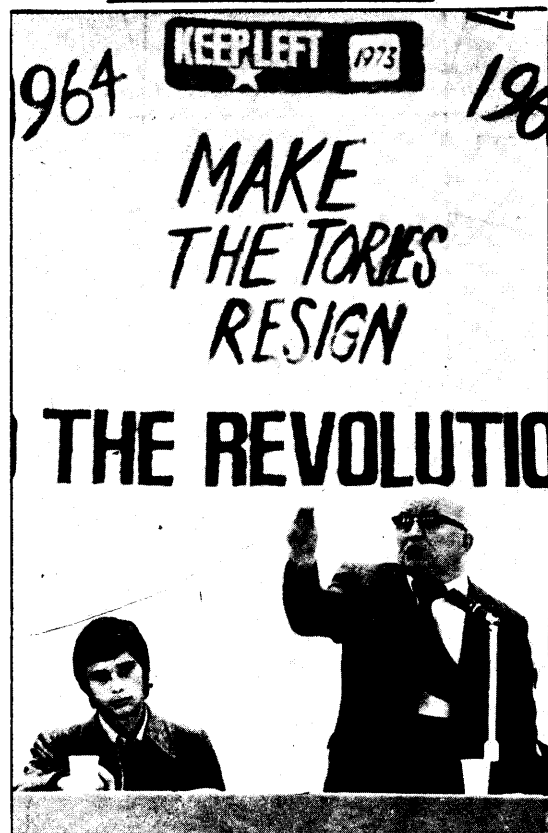
INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY JANUARY 8, 1973 ● No. 965 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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CHAIRMAN MAO . . . Supports any move, however reactionary, against US and USSR.

EEC counterbalance to 'super-powers' says Peking

Maoists welcome Market

THE CHINESE Stalinists have hailed the enlargement of the European Common Market as an important step towards checking the political and economic ambitions of the Soviet Union and the United States.

The 'People's Daily' and other newspapers throughout China carried commentaries on British entry into the EEC, under the heading 'West European countries strengthen their alignment of counter-balance the two super powers'.

The article stopped just

short of giving China's direct blessing to the enlargement of the EEC, but observers in Peking said there was no question that the Chinese leaders regarded moves to strengthen the EEC as a healthy development.

This puts the Chinese leaders firmly on the side of the British and European monopolists against the workers of Europe. They are supporting what is nothing more than a conspiracy of big capital to deprive the working class of basic rights.

In similar laudatory tones the 'People's Daily' described the results of the October

Common Market summit, attended by Heath, Pompidou, Andreotti, Lynch and other heads of state as 'a concentrated expression' of 'the notable progress made in strengthening economic and political relations among member countries'.

It was at this summit that the concerted so-called anti-inflation measures directed at holding down wages and cutting the standard of living were discussed and agreed.

The Maoists used to advertise their devotion to proletarian internationalism. Now they are vulgar defenders of the national interests of the Chinese bureaucracy.

The Chinese leaders consider the two 'super powers' as a military threat. So they support any move, however reactionary and counter-revolutionary, which tends to undermine the position of the USSR or the US.

The fate of the European workers—and that of the workers in Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world who are being enslaved by the EEC imperialists—is of no account.

We await with interest the reactions of the British Maoists under their official chairman, engineering union councilman Reg Birch, to Peking's stand.

Bangladesh riots: Stalinists call for law and order

BANGLADESH unofficial sources report that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman bloodily suppressed nationwide riots by students and workers, culminating in a Dacca massacre on New Year's Day.

The plight of Bengali workers has worsened considerably since independence and significantly the four days' rioting was in Dacca, Chittagong and Khulna cities.

Rahman mobilized students loyal to the government and peasants from rural areas to help put down the disturbances.

In Dacca, where a General Strike was declared, police fired on demonstrators, killing two and wounding six others.

There are signs that the

demonstrations, originally called by the pro-Moscow National Awami Party in protest against the US bombing of Hanoi, quickly got out of hand turning into general opposition to the government.

National Awami Party opposition to Rahman has been notoriously lacking and the anti-US demonstration may have been staged to provide workers and students with a diversionary outlet for their mounting frustration and unrest.

Police move in

Rahman's supporters and police combed the streets of the troublesome cities rooting out rioters and dislodging 'left-wing' students

from hostels they had occupied.

The NAP's pro-Moscow faction leader, Professor Muzaffar Ahmed, immediately condemned the violence and asked Rahman to formulate a code of conduct for the current General Election campaign.

Since riots, by their nature, are in defiance of all codes of conduct, this can only be taken as advice to Rahman to tighten up internal security.

Ahmed also referred to an incident two months ago in which his party's headquarters were set on fire by members of the pro-Rahman Bangladesh Student's League.

'Democracy in Bangladesh is in danger' the pro-Moscow Party leader said. He warned that without a code of conduct there would be more violence leading up to the March General Election.

PEKING, Reuter—Italian Foreign Minister Giuseppe Medici had more than three hours of talks at the weekend with his Chinese counterpart, Chi Peng-fei, ranging over questions of European unification and security.

Medici, the first Italian Foreign Minister to visit China since the 1949 revolution, began his talks

in Peking's Great Hall of the People soon after arriving for a six-day official visit.

The sources said Chi welcomed the enlargement of the European Common Market and reaffirmed the Chinese view supporting the process towards West European integration, both in the political and defence fields.

Saigon attacks sympathy strikes

ON THE eve of a new round of 'peace' negotiations between Henry Kissinger and North Vietnamese spokesman Le Duc Tho, Saigon has broadcast a vicious attack on international support for the Vietnamese revolution.

Saigon radio claimed that the action of 'pro-communist Australian workers and the pro-communist dockers at a few harbours in southern Italy'

was of no advantage to the North Vietnamese.

This statement followed praise for Nixon's policy of 'bringing the communists back to the negotiating table through a hail of bombs . . .'

Bob Hawke, the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, showed once again the reactionary nature of the 'left' illusions in the peace talks when he called on the seamen's union to call off its work ban on American ships.

Hawke told seamen that they could re-impose their ban if the Paris talks failed to reach a solution.

The seamen's executive meets tomorrow to discuss the ban. Its decision will be put to mass meetings of members in all Australian ports on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Lisbon bombs in war protest

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

SMALL BOMBS exploded in Lisbon over the weekend in protest against the colonial wars fought by Caetano's regime in Africa.

The protest was organized by the 'revolutionary workers' group, who also distributed leaflets.

There were similar protests expressing solidarity with 13 anti-colonialists in Lisbon jails on the eve of the New Year message

from Portuguese head of state, Admiral Americo Thomaz.

Thomaz praised the civilian achievements of Portuguese imperialism in Africa, claiming that '500 years in Africa gave Portugal a right to what really belongs to it'.

His enthusiasm is neither shared by the Portuguese youth conscripted to fight in Caetano's army nor the national liberation fighters in Angola and Mozambique.

\$3,000m Soviet aid to Cuba

A NEW economic aid agreement between the Soviet Union and Cuba is hailed by Fidel Castro as 'a truly ideal form of economic relations between an industrialized country and a poor, under-developed country like ours'.

The Soviet Union will buy the bulk of Cuba's sugar crop and its nickel at prices above those ruling on the world market.

Soviet credits and loans will assist the modernization of sugar harvesting equipment, the textile

industry, the railway system and oil-refining facilities.

Cuba will have until 1986 before it begins paying its \$3,000m debt to the Soviet Union. The agreement follows Castro's recent visit to Moscow.

The benefits of these huge investments are doubtful. Support for Castro is a stumbling block to the improvement of relations with Nixon's administration the Soviet bureaucracy's main goal.

Castro may have to reach a compromise with the US as the price of Soviet aid.

Soviet crops in danger

THE MILD winter weather may plunge the Soviet Union into a still more desperate agricultural crisis this year.

Snow is badly needed to provide frost cover for planted areas. If the frost comes first, millions of tons of grain may be lost. Last year about a third of the crop was destroyed in this way.

The prospect looks equally bad for potatoes and cabbages, essential items in the Russian diet. A front-page article in 'Pravda' says: 'It is not just a question of fulfilling set plans, but of making up for last year's poor harvest. The task is to gather 197.4 million tons of grain.'

Newspapers are calling on consumers to conserve food. Bread is being sliced more thinly and bakeries have been told to make smaller loaves.

● DAIRY produce prices have been increased by up to 50 per cent.

Milk now costs 7.5p a litre compared to 5p. Prices for cheese and butter have gone up by 13 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

When the new economic reforms were announced last November and blessed by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev during his December visit to Budapest, government economists estimated that consumer prices would increase by 2 per cent.

BRIEFLY

number of European countries are prepared for similar moves.

A GO-SLOW by dockers at Israel's main ports, Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat, entered its third day yesterday, seriously disrupting trade, in particular citrus exports, one of Israel's main sources of foreign currency. Dockers are demanding a 50 per cent increase in wages and have turned down a 40 per cent government offer.

URGENT talks are taking place in Wellington, New Zealand, to avert a strike by airport workers. Minister in charge of State Services Robert Tizard and the chairman of the State Services Commission are negotiating with the 40,000-strong Public Services Association. The dispute is over airport firemen's pay.

ITALY'S giant Fiat factory in Turin has announced flexible working hours for its 25,000 workers. From February 1 workers will be permitted to start at any time between 8 a.m. and

WEST GERMAN Foreign Minister Walter Scheel arrived in Malaga, Spain, yesterday in a military aircraft. He is on his way to the Canary Islands where Chancellor Willy Brandt is enjoying a winter holiday in the sun.

EAST GERMANY and Uganda have established full diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. The official East German news agency said the agreement had been reached in Kampala last week during a visit by Dr Klaus Wilberding, deputy East German Foreign Minister. Military dictator General Idi Amin says he now counts East Germany as his 'best friend'.

JORDAN will spend more than £49m on its armed forces in this year's £185.7m state budget. The decision to strengthen military resources was announced by Prime Minister Ahmed Allawzi after a Cabinet meeting on Saturday.

THE US is prepared to discuss diplomatic relations with East Germany. This move follows the conclusion of the 'good neighbour' treaty between East and West Germany. A

Socialist Labour League North West Rally

FORCE THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!

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SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 7 p.m.
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'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM

- 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)

DEBUT OF MOSLEY'S STEPSON

BY PHILIP WADE

The Lincoln by-election—scheduled at the moment for March—will be an important event in the life of Oswald Mosley's stepson, Jonathan Guinness.

Edward Heath was reported to be a little shocked when the local Tories adopted Guinness as their candidate in the election, caused by pro-Marketeer Dick Taverne's enforced resignation as sitting Labour MP.

For Guinness, as chairman of the Monday Club, the right-wing group in the Conservative Party, has made things a little too uncomfortable at times for Heath.

Born into one of the three or four richest and most influential Tory families—Guinness the brewers—Jonathan at 42 is moving into a position of some sway.

He was the candidate for the 'right' in last year's elections for the Monday Club chairmanship. He romped home by 676 votes to 228. The Club was elated.

They had won a man who was a director of several Guinness firms, chairman of Park Royal Development Company Ltd, which deals with the firm's property, and also a director of his brother's car-racing firm, March Engineering.

On election he gave us a hint of his glorious philosophy. He said he hoped the Club would become the 'spiritual home for the industrial classes', adding: 'I do not mean the working classes. We all work, at least I do.'

In another interview Guinness condemned the 'treason of the educated', which sounded something like a plea for book-burning, and also called for a return to 'the principles of honour and decency' which, he said, the intellectuals had been trying hard to destroy.

Pro-European, Guinness comes from an illustrious



family. His mother, Diana Mitford, was the first wife of Lord Moyne and she later became Oswald Mosley's second wife.

Now a merchant banker, Guinness's first job was with Reuter's, the news agency, from 1953 to 1956. He worked on their Central Desk and in the Caribbean and Germany. After this he first entered banking with Leopold Joseph and Sons.

The Monday Club is, of course, full of a whole host of luminaries among its 8,000 members.

An interesting fellow is George Young CB CMG MBE, once described as the 'single most powerful political figure in the Monday Club'.

Young, who works for mer-

chant bankers Kleinwort Benson, has an interesting pedigree. With a first class honours degree in modern languages from Yale University, he joined the 'Glasgow Herald' in 1936. His career in journalism, then with British United Press, seemed to be interrupted by the 1939-1945 war.

While serving with His Majesty's Forces, Young was suddenly seconded to a 'specially employed list' to work with the invading Allied forces in western Europe and Italy between 1943 and 1945.

His work must have endeared Young to someone because—after a brief period with BUP again, this time in Berlin in 1946—he joined the Foreign Office. And, then from 1953 to 1961, it was the

Ministry of Defence, where he reached the high position of under-Secretary.

And then there is Geoffrey Stewart-Smith, Tory MP for Belper, where he defeated George Brown in 1970.

Stewart-Smith edits the vehemently anti-communist monthly, 'East-West Digest', which has in the past exchanged articles with 'Monday News', the monthly paper of the Monday Club.

After he left the army—he was an officer in the Black Watch—Stewart-Smith began to enter publishing with his first book in 1964 entitled 'The Defeat of Communism'. In 1966 his third literary effort, 'Non-Military Warfare in Britain' saw the light of day. Earlier this year, however,

Stewart-Smith, who describes one of his recreations as 'stalking', was shown to have taken part in the formation of a private army called the British Military Volunteer Force.

'The Sunday Times' revealed that Stewart-Smith—the Sandhurst product—had been engaged in detailed discussions to send the private army to Vietnam to help US imperialism.

These are just a few of Guinness's friends.

And, judging by the recent anti-immigration rally at Central Halls, Westminster, which was heavily stewarded by National Front members, he has some acquaintances who would also like to become more friendly.

THE GREAT NORTH-EAST OIL BALLYHOO

The most fulsome tribute to the Tory government by a prominent Communist Party member since Clydebank shop steward James Reid paid homage to John Davies at the height of the UCS struggle was delivered in Aberdeen recently.

Following a visit to London by a delegation from the North Sea Oil Action Committee, Jim McCartney, CP member and leading shop steward in Hall, Russell's shipyard, reported to the committee that he was convinced the yard had a 'great future'.

He based this optimistic forecast on his discussion in London with Tory parliamentary under-Secretary to the Department of Trade and Industry, Anthony Grant.

McCartney and Action Committee chairman, John McConnochie, both paid tribute to the reception Grant had given them and to his awareness of the north-east situation.

McCartney effused over Grant's knowledge of Hall, Russell's production figures and excellent 'industrial relations'.

He said he was convinced that shipbuilding right down the east coast would benefit

from the 'oil boom', as would the engineering industry in the area.

Tory or not, climaxed McCartney, the government was going to do everything in its power to get the best out of the North Sea for the British people. All that was required to ensure success was continued pressure from the trade-union movement.

The North Sea Oil Action Committee was set up some weeks ago by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions with the backing of shipyard shop stewards in Aberdeen. It has been endorsed by the Stalinist Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions in Dundee.

Its sole perspective is to pressurize the Tories to see that more orders for oil supply vessels, etc., come to Scotland.

The Committee has announced a competition with a £30 first prize, which is to be judged at the end of January. Entrants are invited to invent a slogan for the Committee's campaign.

Competitors with a sense of the obvious will be tempted to suggest—Make the Tory government resign! Return a Labour government pledged to nationalize North Sea oil, shipbuilding, and all basic industries under workers' control and without compensation!

Writings of Leon Trotsky

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

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Left: US Marines under shell-fire in Korea. Inset: General MacArthur, head of the American occupation forces in Japan and later Commander-in-Chief of United Nations forces in Korea.

These involved General MacArthur, head of the American occupation forces in Japan, General Omar Bradley, head of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, and US Secretary of Defence Louis Johnson.

Statements made by John Foster Dulles, chief Republican advisor to the US Secretary of State, a matter of days before fighting broke out, are also highly significant.

This virulent anti-communist witch-hunter—who in 1939 had declared that talk of fascism launching a world war was 'hysteria' and who repeatedly called during the war for a settlement with the Axis powers—was appointed year after year by President Truman to membership of the various American delegations to the United Nations General Assembly.

It was he who perfected the manoeuvre which enabled the Americans to avoid the Soviet veto in the Security Council in order to get a fiction of 'legality' for their aggression in Korea.

On June 21—four days before war broke out—Dulles told reporters that he expected 'positive' results from his Tokyo meeting with MacArthur.

At that meeting he declared: 'Our material might was exemplified by the atomic bomb, our moral might is exemplified by General MacArthur.'

Next day, according to Associated Press, he predicted 'positive action' by the United States in south-east Asia.

Three days later, the war was on. The United States needed the lie about an unexpected attack to give some legality to the war and also to railroad the other western powers into involvement in it.

Perhaps it was just convenient that ships were ready and waiting to evacuate the families of the 500 American officers and 700 civilian technicians already in South Korea before the war began.

The conflict was, without a doubt, not a day too soon for the imperialists. In May 90 per cent of the electorate had voted in the South Korean elections. The main issue was the brutality of Syngman Rhee's police and, despite the latter's goon squads, his party secured only 45 out of the 210 seats.

The north was mounting an intensified and increasingly effective campaign urging the people of the south to throw out Rhee and unify with the north.

In Japan anti-American demonstrations and rallies were so popular they had to be banned by MacArthur and in the June 4 elections the right-wing, pro-American Liberal Party saw its share of the vote drop from 45 to 36 per cent. The Socialist Party, which was opposed to the American base in Japan, emerged as the second largest party.

So, the outbreak of war: 1. Gave Chiang Kai-shek's supporters the opportunity to carry through an American pledge to defend Formosa from any attack from the Chinese mainland.

2. Shelved the question of a general peace treaty with Japan and put off the withdrawal of occupation troops and the abandonment of American bases there.

3. Gave Syngman Rhee a sudden 'respectability' and the support of the United States and the United Nations at the very moment when his hold on South Korea seemed to be ending.

The war also lifted US arms production from \$13 billion a year in 1950 to \$60 billion a year by 1953.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

TRUMAN'S WAR

BY JACK GALE

The 'Truman Doctrine' enunciated in March 1947 that 'it must be the policy of the United States of America to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities, or by outside pressure', originally meant pouring in aid to the ruling classes of Greece and Turkey.

That same month Congress authorized the appropriation of \$400m for aid to Greece and Turkey up to June 1948.

But capitalism was in danger of collapse throughout Europe. To preserve it required both economic aid (in the form of the Marshall Plan, discussed in last week's article) and military aid.

The idea of a western military alliance had been mooted in 1946 by Winston Churchill and the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Louis St Laurent.

In January 1948, a similar proposal was put forward by the Foreign Secretary in the British Labour government, Ernest Bevin.

On March 4, 1948 a military alliance of Britain, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands was formed by the 'Brussels Treaty'. From July on the meetings of this alliance were attended by United States and Canadian representatives—for the very good reason that the member countries could not finance the military outlay involved.

On April 28, 1948, the idea of a single military alliance between western Europe, Canada and the United States was put forward in the Canadian House of Commons by Louis St Laurent.

It was immediately warmly welcomed in the British parliament by Ernest Bevin.

The outcome of all this was the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, set up by the North Atlantic Treaty of April 4, 1949. Its original members were the 'Brussels Treaty' countries plus the United States, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Norway and Portugal.

Those other two freedom-loving countries, Greece and Turkey, joined in September 1951. West Germany was recruited in May 1955, when NATO decided on a 'forward defensive policy'—i.e. that any war should be fought as far east as possible.

Immediately on the formation of NATO, the Truman administration authorized it to spend over a billion dollars on arms and military equipment. Military aid was also given to Iran.

The first shipment of American arms reached Europe in April 1950. Britain and France undertook to rearm and General Eisenhower was appointed Supreme Commander of NATO forces.

But although, thanks to the collaboration of the Stalinists and the social democrats, things were going Truman's way in Europe, life was much more difficult in Asia.

The biggest blow was the final defeat of Chiang Kai-shek

in China in 1948. This pill was all the more bitter to swallow since Stalin had done his best ever since the Potsdam conference of 1945 to prop up the Chinese dictator and to persuade the Mao Tse-tung forces to accept his rule.

Prior to the loss of China, the United States had deliberately reduced the Japanese economy to the level of 1930-1934. This policy was now reversed and Japan deliberately built up as a powerful industrial force and military base.

The test of whether American imperialism could dominate the east as it dominated Europe was to come with the outbreak of the Korean war.

The attitude of Marxists to any armed conflict between states is not based on speculation as to who did or did not fire the first shot, but on the class nature of the states involved.

Accordingly, when the Korean war broke out on June 25, 1950—and when China entered the war later—Trotskyists unhesitatingly supported the north and China against the imperialist puppet regime in the south and the imperialist United Nations forces.

The Korean war was central to the split between Trotskyism and the state capitalist (later, International Socialist) group of Mr Tony Cliff. The Cliff organization maintained from the start that there was no fundamental difference between China and the United States, nor between North Korea and the Syngman Rhee police regime of South Korea.

They refused support for victory to China and the north

saying that this would be no better and no worse than a victory for the United States.

The origin of the war is important, however, from the point of view of understanding the interests of imperialism in such a war. There can be no doubt that it was extremely convenient for the American leaders.

Certainly, the story put out at the time that the south had been the victim of a totally unprovoked and unexpected attack from the north just does not stand up to investigation.

A United Nations Commission report issued on September 14 revealed that the possibility of war had been discussed between the Commission and the South Korean government in January 1950 and then again in February and May.

Syngman Rhee had appealed for more combat planes in May and Brigadier-General William L. Roberts, head of the American Military Mission to South Korea, had also urged that more American airpower be supplied.

Rhee had a right to be hopeful that his wishes would be met. At the Seoul ceremony which established his regime in August 1948, General Douglas MacArthur had proclaimed: 'An artificial barrier has divided your land. This barrier must and will be torn down.' (My emphasis.)

Rhee was also aware in May 1950 that top level British, American and Australian military authorities were holding conferences in the Pacific area.

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE FRENCH GENERAL ELECTION

BY TOM KEMP

The French working class is approaching the most crucial election campaign since the formation of the Fifth Republic after General de Gaulle took power in 1958.

A victory for the workers' parties in March will open the way for the overthrow of the Pompidou regime and create the conditions for the eruption of the working class onto the scene as in May 1936 and May-June 1968.

The common electoral programme of the Socialist Party, the Communist Party and a section of the Radicals is intended to preserve the institutions of bourgeois democracy in the Common Market and to hold back the working class. The correct revolutionary policy in this situation is to call for maximum support for the communist candidate in the first ballot and the best-placed CP or SP candidate in the second ballot.

On no account, however, should workers support the candidates of the 'left' Radicals who represent the most bankrupt wing of the French bourgeoisie. As Trotsky put it in 1936: 'The Radicals are the democratic party of French imperialism—any other definition is a lie.'

The purpose of supporting the SP-CP candidates is to force the workers' parties to form a government of their own, to break their alliance with the bourgeoisie and to enact socialist policies. Such a demand is a necessary education for the working class to enable these treacherous leaders, and their real role, to be exposed.

Any action which cuts across this objective can only sow confusion and plays into the hands of the bourgeoisie.

What, therefore, are we to make of the fact that two revisionist organizations, claiming to be Trotskyist—the Ligue Communiste and Lutte Ouvrière—have come to an agreement to put up over 300 candidates?

What are these organizations and what principles, if any, lie behind this electoral combination?

The Ligue Communiste is the French section of the revisionist Unified Secretariat (Pabloite) whose best-known figure is Ernest Mandel. It grew out of a mainly student organization, the Jeunesses Communistes Revolutionnaires which sprang to prominence during the May-June, 1968, events.

Operating within the hot-house atmosphere of the Latin Quarter, it believed that it was actually leading a revolutionary movement. With these illusions of grandeur it presented its leader, Alain Krivine, as a presidential candidate. He has recently been confirmed as a TV personality in a popular programme.

The Lutte Ouvrière group, formerly Voie Ouvrière, has existed since 1939 as a separate group in France not affiliated to any international body. It claims to stand for 'the reconstruction of the Fourth International'. It has many affinities—especially in its position on the Soviet Union and the workers' states—with the state capitalist, International Socialists in this country.

Invited to attend the Conference of the International Committee of the Fourth In-



Alain Krivine of the revisionist group, Ligue Communiste which is standing candidates against the SP-CP in the forthcoming election. Above: A demonstration of workers in the Stalinist-led union, the CGT.

ternational in London in 1966, it refused to recognize the historical continuity of the Fourth International from its foundation in 1938 and was expelled.

Although always pretending bitter opposition to Pabloism, after the events of 1968 it moved closer to the JCR and then to the Ligue Communiste. It put forward a policy of the unity of all left groups.

In 1971, after two years' discussion, it reached an agreement with the Ligue which envisaged closer working and eventual fusion. In fact, the Ligue did not show much enthusiasm for such an arrangement, which appeared to have stalemated until the question of joint participation in the election was raised last September on the initiative of Lutte Ouvrière.

Then, while leaving in suspense all the principled questions upon which the two organizations have profound differences, an electoral pact was reached.

The latest issue of 'Class Struggle', the bi-lingual theoretical magazine of Lutte Ouvrière, shows how profound these differences are. It contains a vigorous attack on the Ligue Communiste for its position of terrorism which it claims is 'undoubtedly closer to those of Bakunin than to

Marx and Lenin'.

It gives as an example the support of the Ligue for the Argentine section of the Unified Secretariat, which carries out kidnapping and other terrorist acts, and to the Black September movement.

It accuses the Ligue of abandoning the terrain of the class struggle and refusing to stand on the programme of the international proletariat. It is no accident, 'Class Struggle' says, that the Ligue 'comes to grovel at the feet of characters like Charles Tillon, the Stalinist leader of the FTP [the organization of the Resistance], who personifies this policy of the Holy Alliance', ie the alliance of the Radical bourgeoisie and the Stalinist bureaucrats.

It says that the Ligue Communiste is not at all uneasy about supporting the ERP-ERT 'which proclaims its will "to win or die for Argentina".' Such examples, it goes on, 'all illustrate the abandonment of Marxism, ie the abandonment of the interests of the proletariat'.

And the Lutte Ouvrière theorists spell out in well-chosen words a class characterization of those 'comrades' whose electoral campaign they will soon be supporting!

'In spite of their ambiguous features [?], the actions of the leftists have a clear class meaning. They reflect the impatience of the radicalized petty-bourgeoisie, just as Pujadism and fascism [!] expressed this impatience in other periods or in other surroundings. They are but the left-wing variant of a phenomenon which assumes many forms. History provides us with numerous examples.'

Still more specific are the criticisms which the Lutte Ouvrière group makes of the trade union work of the Ligue. It claims that 'most of the union activities of the Ligue Communiste militants is de-

voted to the CFDT* and these comrades are championing a "class struggle CFDT" . . . which means that the CFDT is not yet quite a "class struggle" union but may become one'.

The CFDT union, led by Edmund Maire, is, in fact, dominated by Jesuits and other Catholics and may be seen as the arm of the Vatican in the working-class movement. But 'Rouge', organ of the Ligue, characterized it as 'a new centrism with a labour base and a revolutionary syndicalist ideology'. It sees the CFDT leadership as 'a good example of neo-centrism'.

Lutte Ouvrière is happy to point out these crass adaptations to which Krivine's organization resorts in an attempt to build up its mass influence. But this does not prevent it continuing its efforts to fuse with the Ligue as well as to co-operate in the course of the coming election.

While Lutte Ouvrière correctly portrays the Ligue as an expression of the petty bourgeoisie rather than of the working class, it is no less an emanation of the same social layer. It shows its contempt for the working class in not fighting through these issues and in helping to sustain the fiction that the Ligue is a Trotskyist organization.

This was clearly demonstrated when it first proposed an electoral coalition with the Ligue last September. At that time it wrote (referring to the Organization Communiste Internationaliste as well as the Ligue and itself):

'That revolutionaries should present candidates is certainly an excellent thing, but it would, on the other hand, be ridiculous to have three Trotskyist candidates in some constituencies carrying on a merciless struggle among themselves over differences which, while correctly consi-

dered to be extremely important by their militants, are usually incomprehensible in the eyes of workers.' (Emphasis added.)

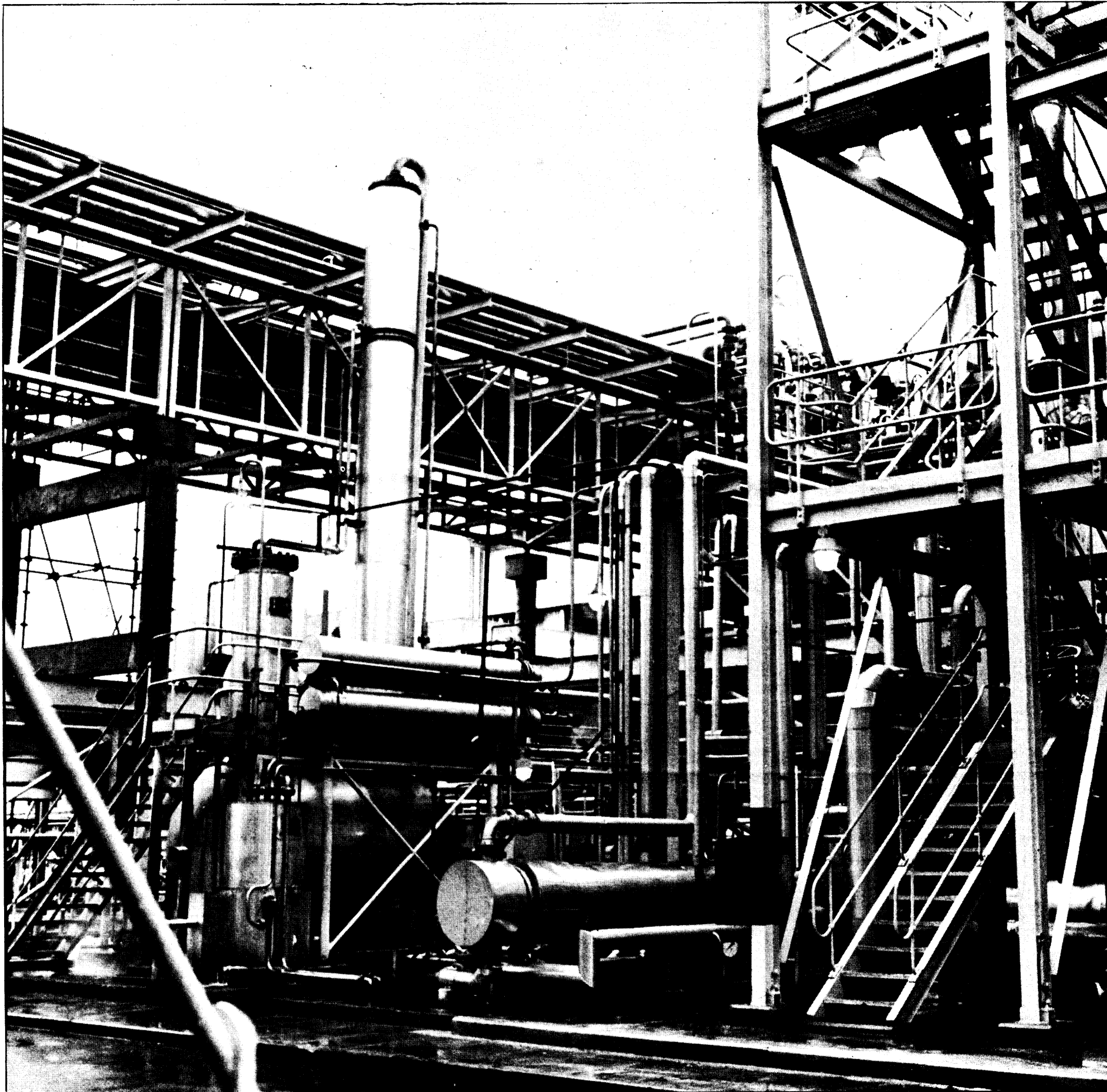
This is no more than a typically petty bourgeois contempt for workers, considered to be incapable of understanding important political questions reserved for the militants. The whole policy of Lutte Ouvrière is to avoid fighting through differences on principle; its own principles being extremely vague and flexible on important questions as its relationship with the Ligue Communiste alone shows.

The electoral agreement of the two organizations not only sows confusion, while pretending to avoid it, but acts as a diversion from the main issue: which is the return of a government based on the workers' parties and a campaign in the working class to force them to carry out socialist policies and to break unconditionally from its Radical bourgeois partners.

At the same time, these squabbling revisionist twins fraudulently present themselves as Trotskyists. This can only confuse workers and provide grist to the mill of the bourgeoisie and the Stalinists. The Press and TV will make the most of the intervention of Krivine in particular. Far from weakening Stalinism's hold on the working class, the antics of these groups only tend to strengthen it.

This manoeuvre must be exposed and condemned, but it cannot be done by the tactics currently pursued by the OCI, which split from the International Committee of the Fourth International in 1971. We shall examine the electoral position of this group in a future article.

* Democratic Federation of French Labour.



GASWORKERS REVIVE MILITANT TRADITIONS

BY DAVID MAUDE PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARTIN MAYER

Prime Minister Edward Heath's December 15 directive stopping talks on the gasworkers' pay claim has rightly been seen throughout the trade union movement as particularly vicious.

Britain's 48,000 gasworkers are among the most highly exploited in the nationalized industries.

Ruthless rationalization and speed-up has slashed their numbers by over 31 per cent in the last four years. Over an even longer period a combination of government duplicity and treacherous union leadership has held their wages consistently low.

But today is decision day for the gasworkers, and the decision most of them want

from their majority union's national delegate conference this afternoon is: action now against the arrogant Tories.

It is ironic that the Tory premier's message blocking negotiations on the 'substantial' gas pay claim should be addressed to Lord Cooper, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

The right-wing Cooper, who retires from office in just a few weeks' time, has arguably tried harder than anyone to obliterate the revolutionary traditions in which the union was founded.

It was Cooper who—before he was halted from doing so by the indignation of his rank-and-file members—proposed on the eve of the September 1971 TUC to register the union under the Tories' Industrial Relations Act.

And it was the same 64-

year-old baron who, in August last year, declared that he wanted to shoot Trotskyists*.

1889

This is a far cry from the language of 1889, when the union which forms the main stem of the modern G&MWU was set up by a Beckton gasworker, Will Thorne, with the assistance of Karl Marx's daughter Eleanor.

A preamble to the rules of Thorne's 'Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union sets the tone of 80 years ago.

'All members should understand', the preamble runs, 'that the interests of all workers are one, and that a wrong done to any kind of labour is a wrong done to the whole of the working class, and that a victory or defeat of any portion of the army of labour is a gain or loss to the whole of

that army, which by its organization and the union is marching . . . to its ultimate goal—the emancipation of the working class . . . Workers Unite!'

These words are, of course, reflected more in the actions of the Croydon and East Greenwich gasworkers, who have been banning overtime for over a week against Heath's directive, than in the contemporary attitudes of Cooper and his heir-apparent, David Bassnett.

But Heath made no concession to the union leaders' politics. There was not a word of conciliation in his directive.

'Until such time as the government is able to announce guidelines for phase two of the Tory pay-control law', he wrote, 'negotiations, whether in the public or private sectors, should not be carried to the point of offers of improved

remuneration.'

Behind this warlike tone lies the conviction that the days of polite class-collaboration are over; that nothing less than total capitulation will do.

DECIMATED

Heath's message—penned on the eve of ganging up with the European capitalists to prosecute the class struggle—was directed at the whole of the working class. And it is in this knowledge, and the spirit of the 1889 declaration, that it must be answered today.

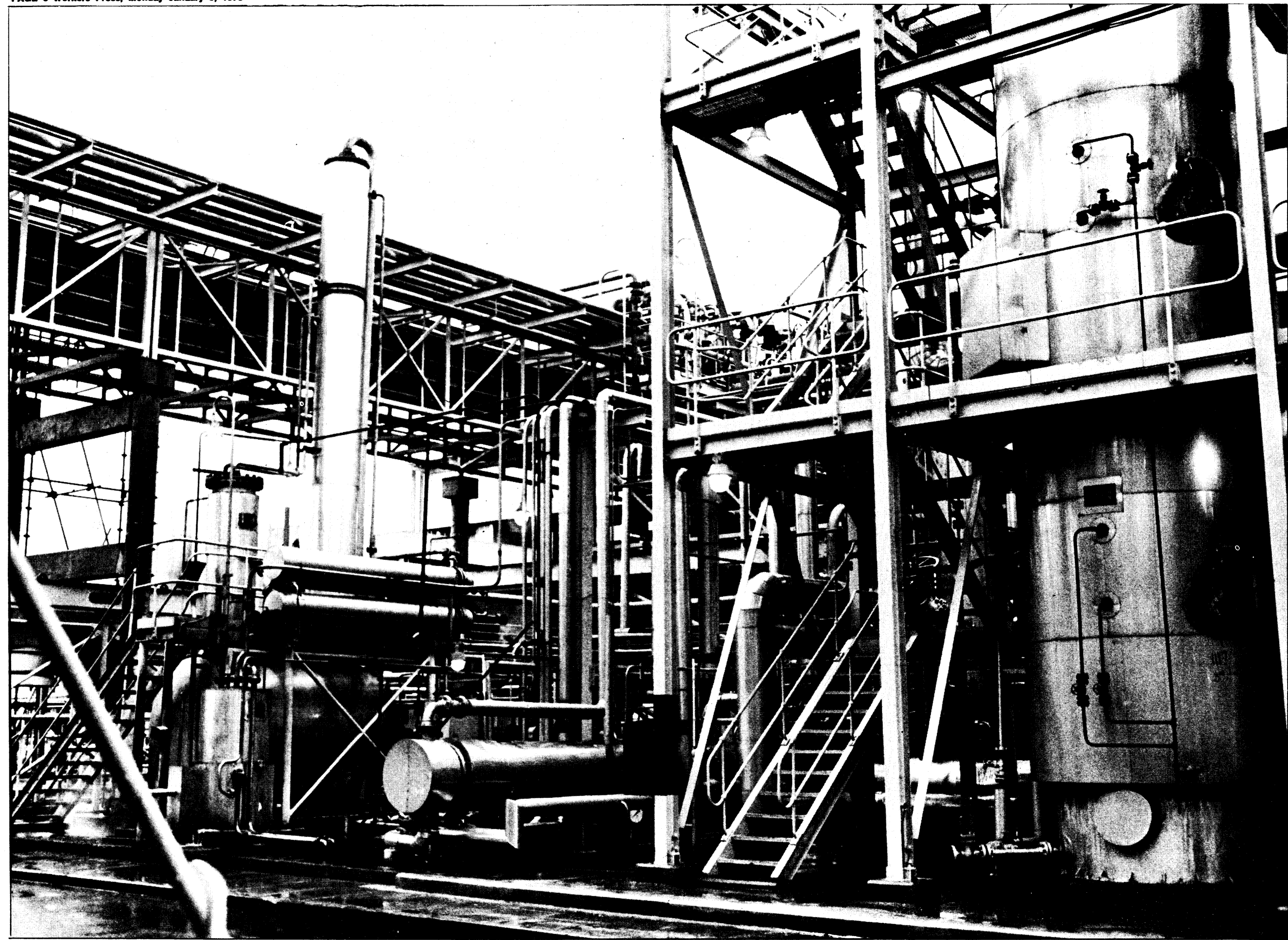
For too long the gasworkers have been victims of gross misleadership.

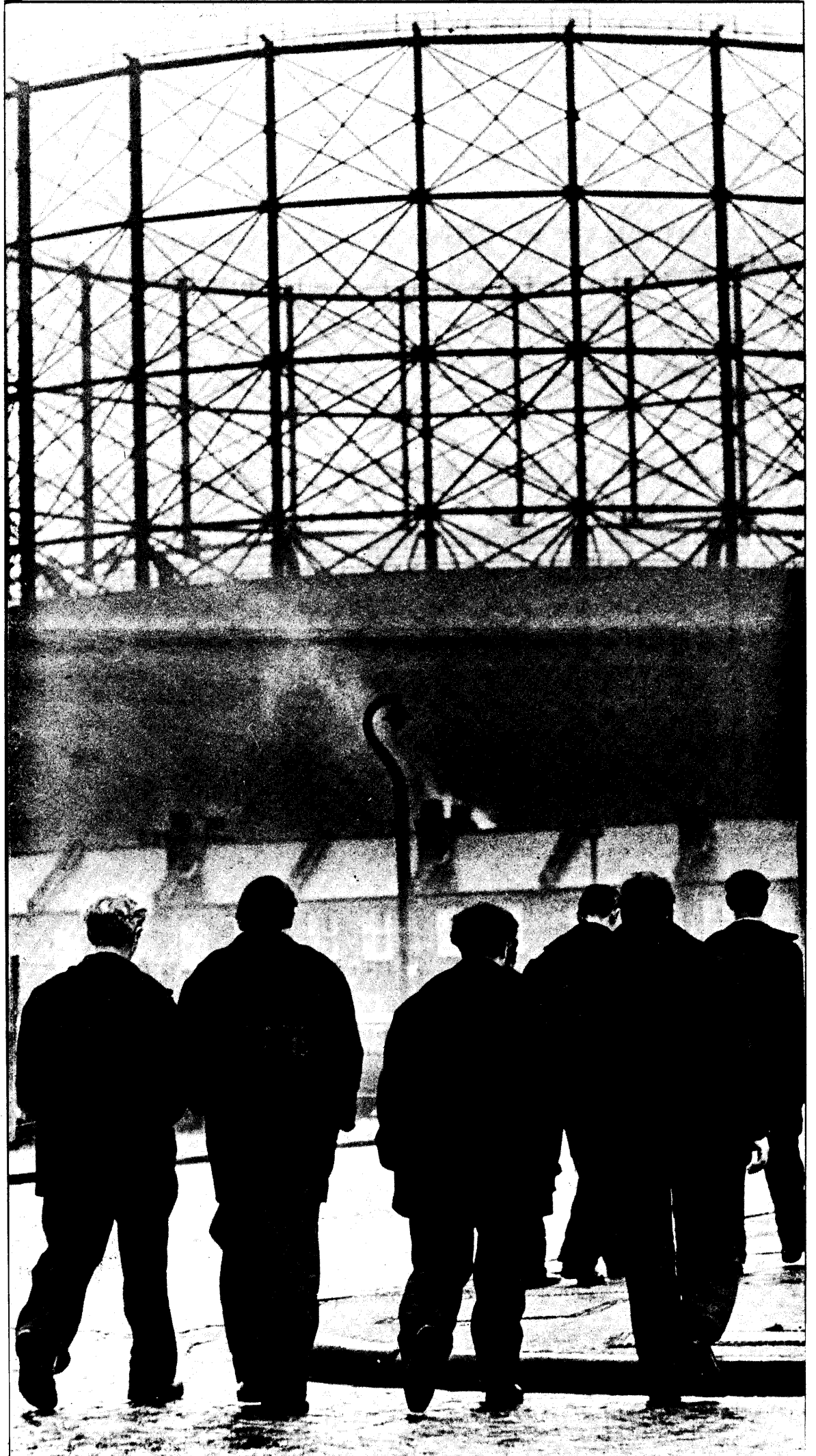
Over the past four years alone, the number of manual workers in the industry has been decimated three times.

Arthur Hetherington, now chairman of the British Gas Corporation, became deputy



Croydon national down Cr ometers





Croydon gasworkers—already working to rule against the Tory ban on pay negotiations—may soon be involved in national industrial action. The guerrilla strikes proposed by the Transport and General Workers' Union could shut down Croydon's new oil-conversion plant (above left). The unofficial work-to-rule has already half-emptied gasometers at East Greenwich (above right).

chairman of the then Gas Council in 1967. At that time there were over 70,000 gasworkers. 22,000 jobs have been lost since then.

CLOSED

Just over 12,000 jobs have gone in the industry since the Prices and Incomes Board report of 1970—ordered by Labour's Barbara Castle to investigate a 14-per-cent pay claim by the gasworkers.

This stepped up the productivity-dealing process on which the union leaders had already embarked with Hetherington and his colleagues.

The work-study man became the arbiter of how quickly every job should be done. And as the pace of conversion to North Sea gas has quickened, gasworks after gasworks has closed.

No less than 22 gasworks closed in the financial year 1971-1972 leaving just 96 in the whole of the country as compared with 1,050 at the time the industry was nationalized in 1949.

Figures for the last financial year, ending in just 12 weeks'

time, are expected to show a new record level of gas sales.

On the strength of last year's 8,000 million therm record, the industry showed the second highest profit in its entire history despite at crippling £124.8m interest burden.

The 1971-1972 profit—£15.1m—represented a 7.2 per cent return on the industry's assets.

But the gospel according to Edward Heath offers gasworkers no reward for their efforts.

** 'These people, Trots, are a complete menace,' he told 'Glasgow Herald' reporter Colm Brogan. 'We are being very naive about them here. They are totally against the system and only want its destruction . . .*

'There was one fellow there [in St Helens during the Pilkington strike of 1970], we were watching him all the time. One day he was stirring up trouble in St Helens. The next day he was up at York doing the same thing.

'I would shoot a fellow like that. It's no use trying to win them over.'

TROTSKY: FOR A SOCIALIST UNITED STATES OF EUROPE

Attempts by the capitalist class to 'unify' Europe are not new. The German ruling class tried twice, the first time under the Kaiser and the second time under fascism.

Between the wars a section of the French bourgeoisie also made a series of diplomatic manoeuvres in 1929 under the direction of Premier Briand.

This almost-forgotten episode was analysed by Trotsky in an important article of which we print extracts below (the original Russian text appeared in 'Bulletin of the Russian Opposition' No 6, October 1929; an English translation was published in 'The Militant', paper of the Socialist Workers' Party of America in the same year. Later it was published in 'The Fourth International', May 1945).

Trotsky brilliantly foresees the development of European 'unity' under the threat of US domination. At one stage he talks of a disruption of the world economic equilibrium in America's favour which will become the main source of crisis—there is no better description of Nixon's decision to take the gold backing from the dollar on August 15, 1971.

Trotsky, like Lenin, also makes it crystal clear that European unity as attempted by the capitalist class is completely reactionary. Socialists can have nothing whatsoever to do with such plans. On the contrary they must struggle for a Socialist United States of Europe as the only means of saving mankind from collapse, crisis and war.

Only the working class is capable of uniting Europe on this basis. Hence the slogan for a Socialist United States of Europe becomes central to the revolutionary task.

Briand senses the need of improving the historical lot of 350 million Europeans who are the bearers of highest civilization but who find it impossible to live through a single century without a dozen wars and revolutions.

For the sake of pacifying our planet, MacDonald has crossed the Atlantic. On the agenda are the United States of Europe, disarmament, freedom of trade, peace. Capitalist diplomacy everywhere is cooking up a pacifist stew. Peoples of Europe, peoples of the world get out big spoons to swallow it with.

Why all this bother? After all, aren't the socialists in power in the most important countries in Europe, or else preparing to assume power? Yes, that is just why!

It is already apparent that Briand's plan and MacDonald's plan pursue the 'pacification' of mankind from diametrically-opposite directions. Briand wants to unify Europe as a defensive measure against America, MacDonald wants to

earn the gratitude of America by helping her oppress Europe. Two trains are rushing to meet one another in order to save the passengers from—train-wreck.

How to arrange matters so that the unification of Europe is not directed against America, i.e. without changing the relationship of forces to America's disadvantage?

The 'Daily Herald', MacDonald's semi-official organ, September 10, 1929, characterized the idea of the United States of Europe as 'grotesque' and even as a provocation. Should, however, this fantasy be realized, then the United States of Europe would erect a monstrous tariff wall against the USA, so argued MacDonald's semi-official organ, and as a result Great Britain would be caught between two continents as in a vice.

Unification

And the 'Daily Herald' then went on to add: How could one expect aid from America by steering a course toward the unification of Europe? 'To act in this way would be insanity or worse.' One could not speak more plainly.

No one knows just what the United States of Europe is supposed to signify in practice. Stresemann reduced the whole question to a common monetary unit and—postage stamps. That's a bit thin. Briand proposes to 'study' the problem whose content nobody knows.

The basic task of unification must be economic in character, not only in the commercial but also productive sense. It is necessary to have a regime that would eliminate the artificial barriers between European coal and European iron. It is necessary to enable the system of electrification to expand in consonance with natural and economic conditions, and not in accordance with the frontiers of Versailles.

It is necessary to unite Europe's railways into a single system, and so on and so forth *ad infinitum*. All this, in its turn, is inconceivable without the destruction of the ancient Chinese system of custom borders within Europe. This would, in its turn, mean a single, All-European customs union—against America.

There can be no doubt whatever that if the internal tariff barriers were swept away, capitalist Europe, after a certain period of crises of regroupment and readjustment, would attain a high level on the basis of the new distribution of productive forces. This is just as incontestable as the fact that, given the necessary economic conditions, large-scale enterprises are decisively superior to small ones. But we have yet to hear of small entrepreneurs voluntarily re-



Coal briquettes on their way to France after occupation of the Ruhr in 1923. Trotsky writes: 'The occupation once again posed acutely the fundamental problems of European economy (primarily coal and iron ore)...'

nouncing their businesses for this reason.

To conquer the outlets the big capitalist must first ruin the small one. The situation with states is similar. Tariff barriers are erected precisely because they are profitable and indispensable to one national bourgeoisie to the detriment of another, regardless of the fact that they act to retard the development of economy as a whole.

Since 1923 we have had to conduct a struggle to have the leadership of the Communist International deign, finally, to take notice of the United States, and to understand that the Anglo-American antagonism constitutes the fundamental line along which world groupings and world conflicts occur. This was considered a heresy as far back as the era of the Fifth World Congress (middle of 1924).

US role

We were accused of 'over-estimating' the role of America. A special legend was invented to the effect that we had proclaimed an epoch of the disappearance of European capitalist contradictions in the face of the American peril. Ossinsky, Larin and others spoiled not a little paper in order to 'de-throne' the might of America. Radek, in the wake of bourgeois journalists, demonstrated that ahead lies an epoch of Anglo-American collaboration. Temporary, conjunctural, epi-

sodic forms assumed by the reciprocal relations have been confused with the essence of the world process.

Gradually, however, America came to be 'recognized' by the official leadership of the Comintern which began to repeat our formulas of yesterday, without forgetting, naturally, to add each time that the Left Opposition overestimates the role of America.

The present stage has once again assumed the form of military-naval 'collaboration' between America and England, and some French newspapers have even expressed fears of an Anglo-Saxon world dictatorship. The United States of course can and probably will utilize the 'collaboration' with England to tighten the reins on Japan and France. But all this will represent phases not toward Anglo-Saxon but American domination of the world, including Great Britain.

In connection with this perspective, the leaders of the Comintern may once again repeat that we are unable to see anything ahead except the triumph of American capitalism. In much the same way, the petty-bourgeois theoreticians of 'Narodnikism' (Russian Populism) used to accuse the pioneer Russian Marxists of failing to see anything ahead except the victory of capitalism. These two accusations are on a par.

When we say that America is moving toward world domination, it does not at all

mean that this domination will be completely realized, nor, all the less so, that after it is realized to one degree or another, it will endure for centuries or even decades.

We are discussing a historical tendency which, in actuality, will be criss-crossed and modified by other historical tendencies. If the capitalist world were able to endure several more decades without revolutionary paroxysms, then these decades would unquestionably witness the uninterrupted growth of American world dictatorship. But the whole point is that this process will inevitably develop its own contradictions which will become coupled with all the other contradictions of the capitalist system. America will force Europe to strive for an ever-increasing rationalization and at the same time will leave Europe an ever-decreasing share of the world market.

This will entail a steady aggravation of the difficulties in Europe. The competition among European states for a share of the world market will inevitably become aggravated. At the same time under the pressure of America, the European states will endeavour to co-ordinate their forces. This is the main source of Briand's programme of the United States of Europe.

But whatever the various stages of the development may be, one thing is clear: **The constant disruption of the world equilibrium in America's**



Trotsky in exile in Prinkipo with his wife Natalya and Sobolevicius-Senin in 1929 at the time when the 'Bulletin of the Russian Opposition' first published Trotsky's article on Europe.

favour will become the main source of crises and revolutionary convulsions in Europe throughout the entire coming period.

Those who hold that European stabilization is assured for decades understand nothing at all of the world situation and will inevitably sink head first in the swamp of reformism.

If this process is approached from across the Atlantic Ocean, i.e. from the standpoint of the fate of USA, then here too the perspectives opened up resemble least of all a blissful capitalist idyll.

The pre-war power of the United States grew on the basis of its internal market, i.e. the dynamic equilibrium between industry and agriculture. In this development the war has produced a sharp break. The United States exports capital and manufactured goods in ever great volume. The growth of America's world power means that the entire system of American industry and banking—that towering capitalist skyscraper—is resting to an ever-increasing measure on the foundations of world economy.

Incapable

But this foundation is mined, and the United States itself continues to add more mines to it day by day. By exporting commodities and capital, by building up its navy, by elbowing England aside, by buying up the key enterprises in Europe, by forcing its way into China, etc., American finance capital is digging with its own hands powder and dynamite cellars beneath its own foundation. Where will the fuse be lit? Whether it will be in Asia, Europe or Latin America—or what is most likely in various places at one and the same time—that is a second-rate question.

The whole misfortune is that the incumbent leadership of the Comintern is totally incapable of following all the stages of this gigantic process. It shies away from facts by means of platitudes. Even the pacifist agitation in favour of the United States of Europe has taken it by surprise.

The question of the United States of Europe regarded from the proletarian standpoint was raised by me in September 1914, i.e. at the very beginning of the (last) imperialist war.

In the pamphlet, 'The War and the International', the author of these lines sought to demonstrate that the unification of Europe was irrefutably advanced to the forefront by Europe's entire economic development, but that the United States of Europe was conceivable only as the political form of the dictatorship of the European proletariat.

In 1923 when the occupation of the Ruhr once again posed acutely the fundamental problems of European economy (primarily coal and iron ore) and coincident with them also the problems of the revolution, we succeeded in having the slogan of the United States of Europe officially adopted by the leadership of the Comintern.

But the attitude toward this slogan remained hostile. Not being in a position to reject it, the Comintern leaders regarded it as an abandoned child of 'Trotskyism'. After the collapse of the 1923 German revolution, Europe lived the life of stabilization. The basic revolutionary questions disappeared from the agenda. The slogan of the United States of Europe was forgotten.

It was not included in the programme of the Comintern. Stalin explained this new zig-zag with remarkable profundity: Since we cannot tell the order in which the various countries will accomplish their revolutions, it follows that it is impossible to predict whether the United States of Europe will be necessary.

In other words, this means that it is easier to make a prognosis after the event than before it. As a matter of fact, it is not at all a question of the order in which revolutions will be accomplished. On this score one can only speculate. But this does not relieve the European workers, nor the International as a whole from the necessity of giving a clear answer to the question: How can European economy be snatched from its present state of dispersion and how can the popular masses of Europe be saved from decay and enslavement?

World scale

The trouble, however, is that the economic ground for the slogan of the United States of Europe overthrows one of the basic ideas of the present

Comintern programme, namely: the idea of building socialism in one country.

The essence of our epoch lies in this, that the productive forces have definitely outgrown the framework of the national state and have assumed primarily in America and Europe partly continental, partly world proportions. The imperialist war grew out of the contradiction between the productive forces and national boundaries. And the Versailles peace which terminated the war has aggravated this contradiction still further. In other words: thanks to the development of the productive forces capitalism has long ago been unable to exist in a single country.

Meanwhile, socialism can and will base itself on far more developed productive forces, otherwise socialism would represent not progress but regression with respect to capitalism. In 1914 I wrote: 'If the problem of socialism were compatible with the framework of a national state, it would thereby become compatible with national defence.' The formula Soviet United States of Europe is precisely the political expression of the idea that socialism is impossible in one country. Socialism cannot of course attain its full development even in the limits of a single continent. The Socialist United States of Europe represents the historical slogan which is a stage on the road to the world socialist federation.

But the communist parties have their hands tied. The living slogan, with a profound historical content, has been expunged from the programme of the Comintern solely in the interests of the struggle against the Opposition. All the more decisively must the Opposition raise this slogan.

In the person of the Opposition the vanguard of the European proletariat tells its present rulers: In order to unify Europe it is first of all necessary to wrest power out of your hands. We will do it. We will unite Europe. We will unite it against the hostile capitalist world. We will turn it into a mighty drillground of militant socialism. We will make it the cornerstone of the World Socialist Federation.

October 4, 1929

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

PROFITS

Gough Cooper, the housing estate developers, who came to the market last April, exceeded their profits forecast by £700,000. Their pre-tax profits for the year to September were £1.85m and turnover was up to £9.9m as against £2.99m for the six months to September 1971.

The directors say they did better than the forecast because of 'significantly higher profits than anticipated on sales of undeveloped land' and also because of satisfactory trading in the summer months by their house-building and plant hire divisions.

Shareholders are expected to receive a final dividend of 14 per cent, making a total of 21 per cent for the year.

STAY HOME!

Laws dating from the time of the British occupation are being used in Israel to restrict the movements of opponents of Golda Meir's government.

Leading members of the Communist Party of Israel and other militants, both Jews and Arabs, are prevented by the military authorities from leaving the town or village in which they live. In some cases they are not permitted to leave their homes between sunset and sunrise.

Journalists, lawyers, teachers and trade union leaders are included in the ban. Some, such as Mun'em Jarjura of Nazareth, Ranzi Houry of Acre and Shafiq Khourya of Shafa A'mer, are members of the municipal councils of the towns in which they live.

Below: Golda Meir



DISASTERS

Loans to farmers hit by natural disasters are to be axed by the Nixon administration to cut spending.

The loans were available in disaster areas where crops or livestock had suffered severe damage as a result of abnormal weather conditions. They helped farmers to avoid bankruptcy.

Bitter protests have come from farmers' organizations. Ohio soy bean and other crops have been especially hard hit by wet weather and many farmers face ruin.

PHANTOMS



General Lon Nol

Corrupt generals in Cambodia placed about 100,000 phantom soldiers on the pay roll in order to collect their wages.

Virtually all the \$2m a month required to 'pay' these non-existent soldiers came from American aid. The extent of the racket, which has become a national scandal, has now been admitted by Minister of Information Kean Reth.

A check-up now being made shows only about 180,000 real soldiers against a paper army of 300,000. The government of Lon Nol, a US puppet, is now under pressure to stamp out this form of corruption.

US officials are helping in the pay check. Other forms of corruption, such as the passage of US military and other aid to the black market—or to the enemy—await investigation.

No steps appear to have been taken against those who have benefited from the phantom soldier and other rackets, since they include leading members of the armed forces and the government.

BOOKS



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TENANTS NOW FACE HUGE RATES SHOCK

BY OUR HOUSING CORRESPONDENT

Millions of tenants and owner-occupiers face enormous rates increases this spring—even if local councils do not increase expenditure by one penny.

For council tenants the increases will coincide with the second phase of the rent hikes under the Tories' Housing Finance Act.

The rates rises follow the revaluation of property carried out for the first time in ten years. Labour postponed the quinquennial review which should have taken place in 1967.

Using true capitalist valuation methods, the assessors have produced new rateable values which reflect directly the incredible inflation which has taken place in Britain since 1962.

Worst affected will be areas like the West Midlands, south-east Essex, (especially Harlow New Town, Thurrock and Newham), Manchester, Liverpool, South Shields and Sheffield.

In the West Midlands, for example, valuation officials have decided that the value of houses and flats have risen faster since the last valuation ten years ago than that of offices and factories.

So in Birmingham, rates are expected to go up by 25 per cent and more, with over half

the rise coming from the increased rates share borne by domestic premises.

In London and the south generally, it is reported that office values have risen faster than homes and the increases will not be so steep for the ordinary householder as a consequence.

For council housing—most Tories tend to 'forget' municipal tenants' pay rates as well as rents—the rise in valuation has been proportionately higher than for private property, with the biggest rise in the newest flats.

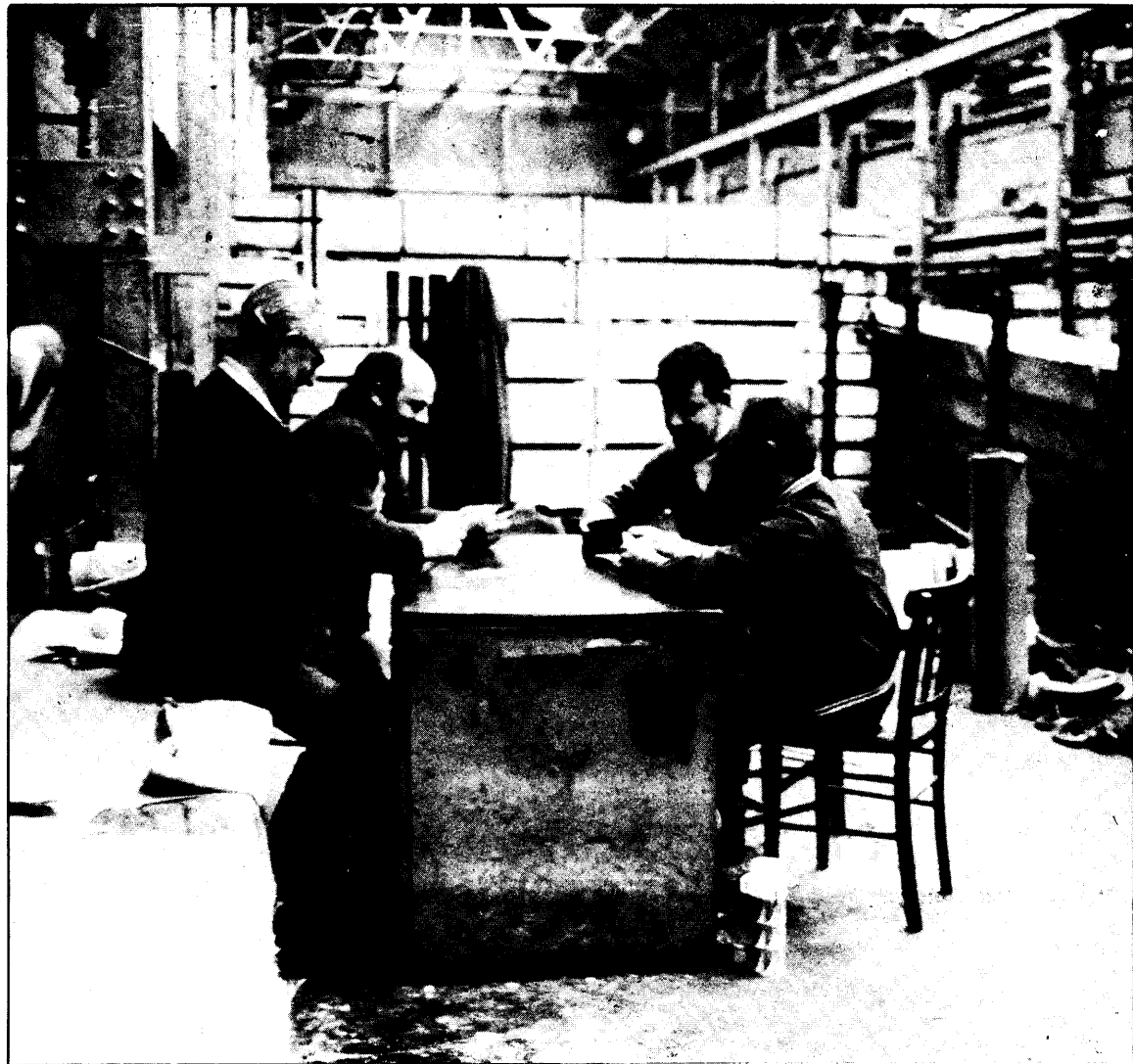
At the Churchill Gardens council estate in Westminster, for example, rateable values for medium-sized flats go up from £150 to £347.

Private houses face steeper increases than flats. Because few houses are let, and rateable value is based on letting price, valuers had no yardstick, but the law was changed two years ago.

The rise in rateable values in many towns will cut the councils off from government grants which are paid to ensure there is no unfair loss of revenue for local services because of unusually low values.

Now increased rates will mean a cut-back or the entire elimination of central government grants.

Many councils will be under great pressure to drastically cut expenditure on vital services in the coming financial year.



Workers at the GKN Bredbury factory sitting-in during the engineering workers pay claim last year. Now GKN chief, Sir Raymond Brookes, has declared the need for a new offensive on the unions.

HARD TIMES AHEAD SAYS GKN CHIEF

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

Profits may have to be sacrificed altogether by many British companies if they are to beat off Common Market competition, warns the Tory Party's biggest backer.

The warning—from Sir Raymond Brookes, head of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold—comes in a review of industry published by the 'Birmingham Post'.



Sir Raymond Brookes

Brookes says that GKN was one of the considerable number of companies that, during the past decade, came to see the opportunity and advantage of joining Europe. 'I firmly believe that, ultimately, the national decision to join the Community will be seen by all to have been the right one for Britain,' he adds.

But the company chairman goes on to point out that one of the immediate consequences of Market entry will be 'competition in our home markets of a strength few of us have ever experienced'.

This would come as a shock, he says. Some industrialists had become used to thinking of Europe only in terms of the advantages. But the price of entry also included opening up the British home market—and what had hap-

pened in the past was not a reliable guide to the course of events as defensive tariff barriers fell.

Brookes' article reveals the real, dog-eat-dog, anti-working class face of the market.

The GKN chief, whose £393m company made the largest known single donation to the Tories' 1970 election campaign, attacks the 'complacencies' which he says are still encountered all too frequently at all levels in industry.

Companies had forgotten their tariff walls existed, he claims.

'Behind these protective walls we have not only forgotten what it is like to compete against all-comers, even for our home markets; we have retained and reinforced so many historic inefficiencies—in our industrial structures, in our company organizations, in our product ranges, in our working methods and in our marketing approaches—that our ability to compete in free trade conditions is seriously impaired.'

Inefficiency is widespread, Brookes goes on, and 'the discrepancy between fact and complacent belief is so great that our awakening must be painful'.

All this, of course, is a far cry from the bland public-relations ballyhoo being churned out incessantly over the past week by every conceivable agency of the capitalist mass media.

To a relatively restricted audience, one of Britain's biggest monopolists (GKN ranks 16th in 'The Times' list of top companies) is prepared to admit that Market entry means war. And he is not shy, either, about the fact that it is a war in which many companies can go to the wall.

'What we have now done,' Brookes says, 'is to join a large, powerful industrial free-trade group, and entry to such a group is supposed to have both "impact" and "dynamic" effects.'

'Behind the jargon, and in plain terms, an "impact effect" means invasion of our home markets by aggressive, efficient and knowledgeable exporters, attracted by our high domestic prices, already able to price competitively and very well aware that the profitability of selling here can only be enhanced as our tariffs against them fall to zero.'

Many companies were directly or indirectly going to lose a big slice of the home-market share on which they had previously depended almost completely for turnover and profit. 'To repel the invasion successfully may mean sacrificing profit.'

Having thus disposed of the 'impact' effects, the GKN chairman goes on to talk about the so-called 'dynamics' of entry.

These are by no means automatic either, Brookes stresses. In plain terms they can only be achieved by taking a profitable slice out of a competitor's home market share. And this is no easy task.

Brookes' unspoken remedies appear to be twofold.

1 A further slashing attack on the nationalized industries. He complains that engineering suffers from 'inescapable structural inflation', reflecting its 'dependence upon, if indeed not captivity to, the public sector of the economy'.

2 A determined new offensive on union organization at factory level. He says that 'much inefficiency arises on the factory floor and bad industrial relations and the negative attitudes of some trade unions account for some part of it'.

This is Toryism red in tooth and claw.

Brookes and his board, who are believed to refer privately to militants in their factories as 'the Luddites', are warning British capitalism that unless it seizes the initiative it will go under.

The working class, too, has been warned.

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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
Marxism and the revolutionary party

YOUNG SOCIALIST PREMISES

Portobello, Sheffield 1
(near Jessop's hospital)
7.30 p.m.

HULL

Wednesday January 17
Stalinism and Trotskyism

Wednesday January 24
Marxist theory and the revolutionary party

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

DONCASTER

Sunday January 21
What future for the labour movement.

Sunday January 28
The crisis and the socialist answer.

Sunday February 4
The revolutionary party in Britain.

Lectures given by
Cliff Slaughter.

SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL
Westlathgate
7.30 p.m.

Mrs Drumm new Provos' chief

BELFAST Republican leader Mrs Maire Drumm has been elected acting president of the Provisional Sinn Fein. Mrs Drumm, formerly vice-president, takes over from Rory O'Brady who is at present detained in Dublin's Mountjoy jail awaiting trial on charges of being a member of the IRA under Eire's new Offences Against the State Act.

The meeting which elected Mrs Drumm to the Sinn Fein presidency last Saturday was a street meeting outside the group's former Kevin Street headquarters in Dublin.

These have been closed down by the Lynch government in its campaign against the IRA. The closure order on the headquarters was renewed by the Irish Special Branch last Friday.

A statement from the Provisional IRA on Saturday welcomed the condemnation by the loyalist Ulster Defence Association of sectarian killing in the province and repeated former offers to meet the UDA.

The statement read: 'Much can be accomplished by leaders of the two communities getting together and devising ways and means to stamp out sectarianism for all time.'

It added: 'Failure to do so can only benefit the British regime and prolong its rule to the detriment of all the people of Ireland.'

● Between 20 and 30 prisoners demanding better conditions staged a sit-down protest at

PLANS for the next Labour government to nationalize banks and insurance are going ahead, according to Party general secretary Ron Hayward. He told a weekend Fabian school that a study group was working 'on how these sectors should be nationalized, not whether they should be nationalized'. He said 49 study bodies and committees were working out every aspect of policy.

Mountjoy prison yesterday. Police were drafted in, but the protest passed off without incident. It is understood that no political prisoners were involved.

JANUARY FUND NOW £100.50

WE MUST not let our campaign for January's Fund slow down in any way. We are determined to raise a record amount. Our target is £1,750, but let's try and raise more.

As the movement grows among the working class, with gasmen, carworkers and steelworkers taking up the fight to defend their wages, the Tories are joining up with the most ruthless sections of employers in Europe in order to strengthen their fight against the working class.

Workers Press is needed more than ever to warn of the dangers of this fight ahead. Everywhere we must prepare for an all out struggle to make the Tory government resign.

We are confident that behind our paper is all your magnificent support. Let's not waste any time. Make a very special effort for our Fund this month. Collect extra amounts. If possible try and add something more yourself. Post every donation immediately to:

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

All Trades Unions Alliance

Fight Rising Prices
Force the Tories to Resign
Support the Engineers

meetings

COVENTRY: Monday January 8, 7.30 p.m. 'Elastic Inn', Cox Street (opposite Theatre One).

ACTON: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'The Rocket', Churchfield Rd, W3.

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

BRACKNELL: Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'The Red Lion', High Street. 'Build Councils of Action. Defend Democratic Rights.'

SOUTHALL: Tuesday January 9, 8.00 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. (Please note date change.)

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.

LIVERPOOL: Tuesday January 9, 7.30 p.m. YMCA, Mount Pleasant.

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

SHEFFIELD: Wednesday January 10, 7.30 p.m. 'The Grape Inn', Trippett Lane, Sheffield 1.

HACKNEY: Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. The Parlour, Hackney Central Hall (opp. Town Hall).

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. Community Centre, Class Room, Farnham Road.

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

EAST LONDON: Thursday January 11, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Chrisp Street Market, E14. 'The crisis of leadership in the working class'.

GLASGOW Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. Partick Burgh Hall. 'The Common Market and the wage freeze'.

GLASGOW: Saturday January 13, 10 a.m. Keir Hardie House, Brougham Street, Greenock. 'The Common Market and Tory Wage Control.'

WATFORD: Monday January 15, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall, Woodford Road, opposite Watford Junction station.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday January 18, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Rd (near Finsbury Park tube).

BRISTOL: Tuesday January 16, 7.30 p.m. Building Design Centre, Colston Avenue (opposite SWEB building).

MIDDLESBROUGH: Sunday January 28, 7.30 p.m. Settlement Community Centre, Newport Road.

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.

TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45 Animals at home. 2.05 Sky at night. 2.30 The hounds and the horn. 3.00 Cracking the Stone Age code. 3.50 Tom and Jerry. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Fish. 5.40 Magic roundabout. 5.45 News. Weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 YOUNG SCIENTISTS OF THE YEAR. 7.10 STAR TREK. Return to Tomorrow. 8.00 PANORAMA. 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS. Weather. 9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'SHAKESPEARE OR BUST'. By Peter Terson. With Brian Glover, Ray Mort, Douglas Livingstone. 10.45 COME DANCING. 11.20 THE SKY AT NIGHT. 11.40 NEWS. 11.45 CINEMA. Glenda Jackson and Oliver Reed discuss their latest film, 'The Triple Echo'. 12.10 Weather.

ITV

9.35 Lassie. 10.00 Wildlife theatre. 10.25 Cimarron strip. 11.35 Galloping gourmet. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Cliff's kids. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'A Very Missing Person'. Eve Arden, Julie Newmar, James Gregory. 4.25 The black arrow. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 And mother makes three. 5.50 News. 6.00 TODAY. 6.30 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 DOCUMENTARY: 'Seychelles—Isles of Love'. 9.00 CONJUGAL RIGHTS. Alan and Rosamund. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 LONGSTREET. 11.30 DRIVE-IN. 12.10 JUMBULANCE.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 7.05 PARENTS AND CHILDREN. What do you know about . . . education? 7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather. 7.35 LOOK, STRANGER. Percherons to the Plough. 8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. 8.55 CALL MY BLUFF. 9.25 SHOW OF THE WEEK: NANA MOUSKOURI. With The Athenians, Keith Michell, Donovan and the Trinidad Philharmonic Steel Orchestra. 10.10 AMERICA. Money on the Land. 11.00 OPINION. 11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.00 Short story. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 Film: 'Dead Man's Evidence'. 4.15 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Maverick. 6.30 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 News, weather. WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 Electricity and the environment. 9.55 Let them live. 10.20 Robin Hood. 11.15 Rainbow country. 11.40 Katie Stewart. 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 4.15 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Date with Danton. 10.30 News. 12.35 Faith for life. SOUTHERN: 10.00 Torchy. 10.15 Southern scene. 10.40 Opportunist. 11.00 Dick Van Dyke. 11.25 Gilbert and Sullivan. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Film: 'Turned Out Nice Again'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 London. 10.30 Man of the South. 11.00 News. 11.05 Theatre of stars. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Guideline. HARLECH: 12.05 London. 2.00 Farm-house kitchen. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Film: 'Great Guns'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Please Sir. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'Man of the West'. 12.15 Weather. HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 6.01-6.15 Y dydd. HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 This is the West this week. ANGLIA: 10.00 Cartoons. 10.15 Film: 'Treasure of Silver Lake'. 11.35 Joe 90. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Saint. 3.55 Romper room. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.30 London. 10.30 Journey to the unknown. 11.30 London. ATV MIDLANDS: 11.30 Cartoon. 11.35 Licensed to fly. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 2.00 Dr Simon Locke. 3.00 Film: 'The Glass Wall'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Stories worth telling. ULSTER: 12.05 London. 1.33 News. 1.35 Mind of Mr J. G. Reader. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Film: 'Valley of Song'. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.30 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Film: 'Children of the Damned'. YORKSHIRE: 9.30 Lidsville. 9.55 Great Lakes. 10.50 Dick Van Dyke. 11.15 John Constable. 11.55 Cartoon. 12.05 London. 3.00 Film: 'Youngblood Hawke'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 Yoga. 12.15 Jimmy Stewart show. 12.40 Weather. GRANADA: 11.00 Felix the cat. 11.15 Bush boy. 11.40 Galloping gourmet. 12.05 London. 2.30 Film: 'Made in Heaven'. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 This is your right. 6.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'Daughter of the Mind'. GRAMPAN 12.02 News. 12.05 London. 1.30 Randall and Hopkirk. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'At Sword's Point'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Royal clansmen. 6.30 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Meditation.

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A section of the 'Keep Left' AGM audience.

BASIC RIGHTS

FROM PAGE 1

cause they were unable to stop the Tories making judicial inroads into unions' rights.

Unions took the political road because they found that industrial militancy couldn't halt the legal attacks on the unions which culminated in the Taff Vale judgement.

'If pure militancy proved inadequate then and led to the formation of the Labour Party in 1906, a revolutionary party must now be formed to defend the unions from the Heath government.'

He said no trade unionist could place faith in today's Labour Party leaders. Reformism and class-collaboration paved the way for dictatorship.

The Labour leaders had betrayed the confidence of the working class; behind the scenes they had sold out on every struggle since the Tories came to power.

In the course of the fight to remove the Tories from office there would be a complete exposure of all those traitors in the labour movement.

The SLL would be in the forefront of the fight to defend basic democratic rights.

Workers Press had already reported 'sinister developments' in the use of the secret police against groups on the left.

'The Tories are preparing to create a series of anti-communist provocations on the left to stamper the middle class into voting Tory in a snap election,' he said.

Healy concluded by saying that the movement had entered 'the year of decision'.

'This is a year like no other year in our lifetime. This is the crunch. There must be no marking time, no evasion of responsibility. Join with us in the building of the revolutionary party.'

Split moves

ASIAN workers at the Mansfield Hosiery mill, Loughborough, are convinced a tiny organized group in the factory is consciously trying to prevent unity being established with white workers.

Last week, as the Asian workers returned after a ten-week strike, both the extreme right-wing National Front and the so-called Enoch Powell Support Group from Leicester were active both outside and inside the mill.

A small handful of white workers wearing pro-Powell badges, has refused to train Asians for knitting jobs. Management has had to call in a professional trainer.

By last Friday, management threatened to close the whole mill unless the situation settled down.

Over 120 Asians and nearly 40 white workers have applied for knitters' jobs, the selection for which takes place this week.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Langston gives AUEW a 30-day ultimatum

New court threat: Engineers keep up strikes over fines

NEW CLASHES between the engineers' union and the National Industrial Relations Court loomed at the weekend, while more than 50,000 workers prepared for strikes today against the £61,000 already imposed on the union in fines and costs.

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

In Coventry Joseph Langston, who is trying to break the closed shop at Chrysler UK's Ryton car factory, said he was giving the union a 30-day ultimatum.

He wants the union to declare in writing what its policy on membership at Ryton is. If it fails to respond, he told a carefully-staged Press conference in the back garden of his home, he will go to the court.

Langston said he wants to be allowed to return to his normal job at his normal place of employment, but added: 'I am not prepared under any circumstances to become a member of a trade union.'

He has written to the Ryton works committee asking to be allowed to return to work. The former car body welder, who has been suspended on £44.70 a week, has also asked the committee for a policy statement.

'It is now up to the officials of the union to make their position clear to me,' he said. 'If they do not I will proceed in the NIRC.'

He added: 'If they make their position definitely clear I will take action accordingly. What I am asking for is a statement from the union in writing.'

SHOP STEWARDS at Thorn Radio Valves and Tubes, Sunderland, have decided that an overtime ban against two non-unionists will continue.

The convenor, Barney McGorrigan, said: 'I'd like this to be the first firm to take on the NIRC.'

The 1,700-strong workforce at the factory are demanding the sacking of Terence Canavan and Joseph Young, who left the

Apprentices join north-east action

INDUSTRY throughout the north east will shut down today as an expected 47,000 workers strike in protest against the £61,000 in fines and costs taken from the engineering union in the Goad case.

All the major engineering plants seem certain to close and the Tyne and Wear shipyards will be badly hit as boilermakers and labourers join the engineers.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has taken a tough line over the dispute.

Engineering apprentices have been called out for the first time and stewards report a 100 per cent response from the youngsters.

One of the biggest engineering plants on the Tyne, Reyrolle's at Hebburn, will be badly hit.

Machinists have voted to strike along with the engineers and they will put up a strong picket in a bid to close the plant.

At the Bushing Co next door the strike will be total with all sections of workers backing the engineers.

At the Middle Dock ship-repair yard, South Shields, engineers have passed a resolution demanding a national strike to defeat the Industrial Relations Act. Boilermakers, too, have pledged their support.

Bill Donkin, engineers' steward, told Workers Press that protest was not enough.

'Now is the time to force a show down between us and the government. The executive should take the decision for all out action.'

'We want rid of the Industrial Relations Act—not one section, or

proposal, should be left intact.'

Mr Donkin said many workers backed the stand taken by the Sunderland engineers at Thorn Radio who are demanding sacking of two anti-trade unionists.

'Our Sunderland brothers are taking the right attitude. This action will bring things to a head. We should be ready to back them all the way.'

Tyneside's ultra-Tory newspapers will be closed for the day. They have been conducting a campaign against the strikers centered on the call to bring out the apprentices.

Bill Jobson, a General and Municipal Workers' Union member at Brigham and Cowan, has been featured widely in the Press complaining about the decision which affects his son—an apprentice engineer at Cowan's.

Jim Florence, engineers' shop steward at the plant, said he had been round and asked every apprentice if they would respond to the strike. Some were not union members, but all decided to join the union.

'I think this lad is under a lot of pressure. If he does not respond to the strike he will not be victimized. It is not his fault.'

Other workers involved in the protest are questioning its limitations. Bill Connolly, an engineer at the Bushing Co, said he was ready to stand by his union leadership.

'But we must go beyond this. The TUC should be recalled and stop talking with the Tory government. They should prepare a General Strike. The TUC will not stand up and fight this issue.'

General and Municipal Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers respectively.

After the stewards' meeting, the convenor insisted: 'We are asking that these two men be sacked. There is no alternative. It is quite impossible to have them back in the unions, let alone in the factory.'

'We consider that this factory is a 100 per cent closed shop so we cannot allow them to be employed here any more.'

The two men—like Langston they are both suspended on full

pay—have said they will take action in the NIRC if the firm sacks them or the union stops them from going back to work.

WITH 17,000 others on Wearside, the Thorn workers will be on strike today against the fines already imposed on the AUEW.

Also on strike will be 30,000 engineers on Tyneside, where shipyards, several big factories and the local Tory Press will be hit.

Union members in Glamorgan, South Wales, will be out. The big industrial estate at Bridgend is likely to be severely affected.

Next week engineers on Merseyside are expected to stop for their second 24-hour protest against the fines.

WRITING IN the AUEW journal, which is published today, union chief Jim Conway says last year was one of disasters and that 1973 promises nothing better.

The Industrial Relations Act, he claims, has been 'stopped in its tracks by the concerted effort of working people'. But he warns that it has not been completely destroyed.

The Act, Conway goes on to suggest, is being 'used' by 'small reactionary employers, disaffected

individuals and cranks'.

What the AUEW secretary would like, it appears, is for industrial relations to be dealt with 'away from the emotional atmosphere of legal coercion and politically motivated courts'.

But he comes close to admitting that this search for a bolt-hole is futile and dangerous.

He forecasts that during 1973 the government 'will continue its attack upon working class people and their unions'.

Says Conway: 'Members should be aware that measures are being planned to make strikes almost impossible by inflicting hardships on strikers' families.'

'In a similar fashion the law on picketing is likely to be changed in a way which will make picketing virtually useless.'

JAMES GOAD, of Sudbury, Suffolk, whose claim to be a member of the AUEW has been upheld by the industrial court, is keeping quiet about his next move.

He would not say if he would try to gain entry to the Sudbury branch meeting of the union on Friday.

If he goes and is excluded, he could take the AUEW to court again for further contempt.

Hull lorry strike called off

TODAY'S 24 hour-strike of Hull lorry drivers has been called off after the intervention of union officials.

About 350 drivers took the decision to postpone action yesterday when Transport and General Workers' Union and United Road Transport Union officials told them that talks with employers would begin today.

This is a puzzling decision since the strike—the second in a series of one-day protests—was against a government freezing of a £10 wage increase agreed by employers in the city. The haulage firms can do nothing about the government order.

The lorry drivers have received support from docks shop stewards. They have instructed dockers not to handle any lorries at the port—a measure which would block any attempts to break the strike with blackleg vehicles.

The dockers are also continuing their black on two Goole haulage firms, Williams and T. Meadows, who, they say, are using non-registered dock labour to break down loads.