

## AS THE TUC CHATS WITH HEATH

# PRICE CONTROL FRAUD EXPOSED

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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The beef investigation, led by Tory Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, accepts that prices will stay at record levels. Its advice to housewives is to lower their standards and buy cheaper foods like pork, lamb and chicken. Good meat, it seems, is now food only for the rich.

But yesterday's report was just one sign of the massive cut in living standards which is on the way.

Bread, cereals, jams, meat pies, sausages and all sugar products will go up in price soon. This was admitted yesterday by a spokesman of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, which represents the big monopolies that dominate the shops and supermarkets.

'I think price rises are inevitable. We can't control the prices of raw materials we use. Sugar has gone up enormously on the market and so has grain,' he said.

The spokesman was referring to perhaps the biggest ever monthly rise in the prices of raw materials to the food industry.

The index for December rose by 8.7 per cent—this would be a bad figure for a whole year, but for a month it is unknown.

The cost of living is about to go up even more. Over 800 food price rises are already under consideration by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Department of Trade and Industry is examining proposed price increases for 1,000 non-food goods.

An increase in the price of newsprint will be approved in the next few days and rises in timber, leather, light metal and paper and board are expected to be agreed.

These new increases will be on top of the vast rises that have already occurred since the so-called freeze on goods in the shops.

Between November and December, prices of fresh food rose by 7.5 per cent on average.

In other words wage-

earners have already been robbed of a substantial proportion of their income and they are about to be robbed of an even greater proportion.

Another basic right is in grave jeopardy—the right to fight, without fear of arrest or fines, for a decent standard of living.

The Tories are challenging this right with the power of the state.

This is the background to the talks with the TUC and the bosses of British industry.

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BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

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For half an hour, high Tory Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, supermarket chief James Gulliver and ex-union boss Sid Robinson stone-walled their way through a Press conference.



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No worker can tolerate any more of this treachery. It is his livelihood and his rights that are at stake.

Now is the time to strike hard at the government.

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big sections of the middle class.

This movement must be mobilized to expose the Tories and the TUC collaborators.

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The committee instead identified a curious phenomena called the 'psychological expectation of the market'.

The suppliers 'expect' prices to rise because of shortages.

The shortages do not occur, but the meat barons put prices up anyway. This, says the report, is 'the market feeding on itself'—but not profiteering.

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The other interesting argument was that the entry into the Common Market has had no effect on prices.

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In the first 11 months of last year continental buyers bought three times as many cattle as Britain in 1971.

Control of exports, however, would only have a short term impact.

The three (described aptly by the Tory Minister as his 'team') put forward

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Two police officers and a Chief Superintendent gave evidence in the trial.

It was the first of its kind under Eire's new Offences Against the State Act, steamrollered through the Irish parliament in December.

O'Brady was charged with being a member of the IRA, being a member

of an illegal organization and raising or maintaining or attempting to raise or maintain an armed force contrary to the constitution.

Prosecuting counsel, Mr N. K. McDonald, said two other charges alleging IRA membership on another date would not be pressed.

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Detective Sergeant John O'Maheny told the court he heard O'Brady say:

'When force was used against the people of the north they looked to the

people of the south for help, but no help was forthcoming.

'Their only shield was the Provisional IRA, and it was they who did most of the work in the north.'

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a member of an illegal organization!

O'Brady cross-examined the chief superintendent at length and challenged the accuracy of the officer's information.

He told the court: 'It is generally agreed that I am the elected head of the Sinn Fein organization.'

'I submit that it is not just Rory O'Brady who is on trial here, but it is in fact my organization.'

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The Board of Trade figures show that exports were up 4 per cent in 1972 compared with 1971.

But imports rose by 16 per cent, pushing the balance seriously into the red.



O'BRADEY... Attack on organization



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## WHAT WE THINK

## The road to dictatorship

TWO TORY Cabinet ministers, Robert Carr, the Home Secretary, and Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, are proposing to bring forward legislation to end the jury system for some types of offences. This legislation will abolish the traditional right of any defendant on an indictable charge to choose trial by jury.

The proposal, which is enjoying the undivided support of the capitalist Press (The 'Sun' centre pages on Monday, three huge columns in the editorial of 'The Times' yesterday), comes at a time when the Tory government is making an unprecedented attack upon basic democratic rights.

It is a further sign of the Heath government's rapid move towards establishing a corporatist legal framework in Britain.

'The Times' editorial clearly reveals the drift of thinking in ruling class circles. The paper states that 'over 90 per cent of those who have the right to elect trial by jury do not exercise it'. This is inserted to insinuate that if defendants don't take advantage of their rights, then they don't deserve them.

It also takes up the argument that there should be compulsory trial by magistrate only for 'trivial offences'. Who is to decide what is trivial and what is not? 'The Times' decides that motoring offences are 'trivial' and are clogging up the courts of justice.

'To withdraw the right to trial by jury in some of these cases [motoring offences] is not likely to lead to detrimental consequences to the individual defendant,' the paper says. This is an extremely dangerous argument. Penalties for motoring today include very stiff fines—up to £500—and jail sentences.

Lorry drivers and travellers whose livelihoods depend on their driver's licence and a clean record must continue to have the right to be judged by ordinary men and women selected by jury and not by some retired colonel or Tory women's association chairman who

believe, in many cases, that motorists should be flogged for the most minor infringements.

'The Times' also believes that juries should be abolished from 'complicated frauds and other cases turning on intricate financial transactions'. This is based on the spurious assumption that the man-in-the-street is unable to appreciate the ins and outs of company swindles.

On recent experience, however, it is clear that the state is hugely reluctant to press charges in fraud cases. But in the expectation of big financial crashes which would show the financial recklessness of many City institutions, 'The Times' wants a judge and 'expert assessors' to hear them.

But the more insidious comment concerns trials like the Stoke Newington Eight. When the trial ended, Workers Press was the only paper to stress that the verdict—four found guilty, four acquitted—would mean further attacks on the jury system.

'The Times' says: 'There have recently been disquieting examples of persons being excluded from serving on juries on questionable grounds.' It cites the exclusion of jurors in the Stoke Newington Eight case because they were members of the Tory Party.

This point needs some close study. The defence lawyers in the bombing case decided to vet each of the jurors very carefully. As the charges related to alleged bomb attacks on the homes of three Cabinet ministers—Carr, John Davies and Sir Peter Rawlinson—they felt that Tory Party members could be reasonably expected to be biased against

the Eight. All Tories were therefore excluded from the jury.

'The Times' raises shrill cries against this vetting of jurymen. It fails to mention, however, a far more important case on this subject. We refer to the Saor Eire case in which four Irishmen and a woman were charged with arms offences. This case collapsed at the Old Bailey on the fourth day and the accused were discharged after spending seven months in custody.

It then emerged that a Special Branch agent, John Parker, had been involved in 'planting' the Saor Eire group 'with the collusion of the Special Branch'.

Last week the Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Norman Skelhorn, announced that no charges would be laid against Special Branch officers involved in this case. This has been well-publicized in Workers Press and elsewhere.

But no mention has yet been made of another extraordinary aspect of this case. This occurred during the empanelling of the jury. The Crown objected to a number of jurors on account of their alleged political attitudes. No reason was given for challenging the potential jurymen until Detective Inspector James Pittendreigh was given his evidence.

Cross-examined by Mr Platts-Mills, QC, Pittendreigh said: 'I've only recently joined the Special Branch. I've been 22 years in the force. The Special Branch is a crime, leastways an intelligence gathering unit. Not necessarily criminal. We do a large amount of political work.'

'There was written information from records against a number of the names of the jurors. Information from Special

Branch and other police records. They did not include such things as belonging to the Labour Party.'

Counsel for the Crown interrupted: 'There is no question of any political party being listed against any name. Where is this leading?'

Platts-Mills pressed on: 'I intend to show that this whole case has been engineered by the Special Branch through a man, Parker, to plan these guns on my clients.'

Pittendreigh: 'The word "object" that I put against these jurors had no relation to political activities. Forgive me, sir, they had not relations to convictions.'

Platts-Mills: 'Only one. What were the others? Were they nothing to do with politics?'

Pittendreigh: 'I didn't say "nothing to do with politics". It signified doubt about their political activities and their criminal activities.'

Platts-Mills: 'It is the right of the defence to have a jury which is not picked by the Special Branch.'

Pittendreigh: 'I was asked to take these steps, sir.'

According to 'The Times' it is a terrible attack on 'freedom' for the defence to challenge Tories on the jury, but they raise not a murmur about the secret political vetting undertaken by the state. We don't support the jury system. We are opposed to it in principle. It is one of the institutions of capitalist democratic rule. The fact that the Tories are preparing to savage this system is an indication of their increasing move towards dictatorship and repression.

They are driven by the economic crisis to dispense with bourgeois democracy and move rapidly towards the corporatist state.

## French Stalinists double-talk through Pompidou's Moscow trip

RELATIONS between the Soviet Union and France provide a model of co-operation and peaceful co-existence between states with different social systems, says the Soviet Press and radio during President Pompidou's unofficial two-day visit.

General de Gaulle is highly praised as 'one of the first western statesmen to recognize realities' and to accept 'the helping hand of friendship and co-operation offered by the socialist countries', adds a Moscow radio commentator.

The official government daily, 'Izvestia' says that the past year will go down in the history of Soviet-French relations for the

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

successful implementation of decisions already taken and as a year of careful preparation of new long-term plans.

The Soviet bureaucracy appears highly satisfied with the Gaullist regime and happily gives Pompidou their full support in the difficult period leading to the General Election in March.

The Gaullists face a strong Communist-Socialist challenge, so the President's trip has caused the French Stalinists some embarrassment.

While the Soviet press is praising the French government for carrying out its undertakings, 'L'Humanité' is sounding a different note.

On the one hand it has to endorse Pompidou's visit and his foreign policy, while making out that he is being held back by supporters of an 'Atlantic policy'.

On the other hand, it has to claim, through its Moscow correspondent, Max Leon, that more could have been done to carry out the policy of co-operation decided upon at the time of Pompidou's last visit in October, 1971.

In the same way, 'L'Humanité' cut out flattering references to de Gaulle and the French government in Leonid Brezhnev's 50th anniversary speech.

Yet, as their declarations about the elections show, the French Stalinists would be quite ready to enter a government presided over by Pompidou if the left coalition wins a majority in March.

## Strong delegations muster for 'peace' talks in Paris

IN PARIS yesterday both sides in the Vietnam peace talks had strong delegations. Dr Henry Kissinger was accompanied by assistant Secretary of State William Sullivan. The North Vietnamese deputy Foreign Minister, Nguyen Co Thach joined Le Duc Tho's 15-man team. A central issue at the talks was the status of the demilitarized zone.

IN SAIGON President Thieu was visited by the American ambassador Ellsworth Bunker for the first time since the peace talks resumed.

A B52 pilot, Captain Michael Heck is facing a court martial for refusing to fly a raid over the heavily-defended Hanoi area on December 27. Strategic Air Command headquarters claimed that he was the only man to refuse to fly.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Another pilot has denounced the bombing strategy in a letter to US Senator Charles Mathias. The letter accused the SAC of 'lack of comprehension' and 'sheer stupidity'.

He complained that planes were sent in three nights running on identical flight paths against the same targets.

He also said that lack of fighter-escort accounted for the heavy bomber losses which forced Nixon to call off the raids. The US admitted 17 losses, the North Vietnamese claimed over 30.

Conditions in Thieu's jails are getting rapidly worse according to a report in Wednesday's 'Le Monde'. In the Poulo-Condore prison, 8,945 political prisoners receive only 450 grammes of rice a day and lack salt, meat and vegetables.

In the same jail between 300 and 400 prisoners are held in perfected 'tiger cages'—very low cells with no light and little air in which prisoners are crowded together without being able to stand up straight or lie down.

Thousands of women, children and old men are dying a slow death in other prisons and camps for lack of food and medical attention. Exercise and visits have been suppressed. Guards beat and kill prisoners with impunity.

The brother of Mme Binh, National Liberation Front negotiator in Paris, has disappeared after being sent to the Poulo-Codore prison.

On the island prison of Phu-Quoc, over 28,000 prisoners who refused to come over to the south are being subject to what 'Le Monde' calls 'abominable tortures'.

Its information comes from South Vietnam from people who are not supporters of the National Liberation Front, it says.

Socialist Labour League Yorkshire Rally

**FORCE THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!  
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LEEDS

**FILM: THREE YEARS OF WORKERS PRESS**

Speakers:

**G. HEALY** (SLL National Secretary)  
**PAUL WHETSTONE** (Young Socialists)  
In personal capacity:  
**GEORGE LUBY** (U.P.W.)  
**ROBBIE ROBERTS** (N.U.M.)

## 'Moscow and Peking bartered wheat for Vietnamese blood'-Ellsberg

DANIEL ELLSBERG, who published secret papers showing how the United States prepared the Vietnam war, blasted the role of China and the Soviet Union at a Press conference during the saturation bombing of North Vietnam.

FIRST, he thought 'that the Chinese and the Russians bought wheat at the price of blood of their Indo-Chinese allies'.

He was referring to the big purchases of US wheat by China and especially the Soviet Union made necessary at the end of last year owing to the agrarian crisis and harvest failures.

SECONDLY, he felt 'the American people were so relieved at the reception Nixon got in Russia after the mining of Haiphong that they came to believe his statements that he would find an end to the war.'

'That means,' he continued, 'that the Russians and the nature of their reception bear heavy responsibility for participating in a deception of the

American public which ultimately has led to the last 500,000 tons on Haiphong and which is leading today to the direct use of B52s against the people of Hanoi and Haiphong'.

Ellsberg secured secret documents known as the Pentagon Papers which caused a sensation when published in 1971. He and Anthony Russo are now awaiting trial in Los Angeles.

FBI agents are trying to intimidate defence witnesses and have visited people to whom they made phone calls. The government refuses to hand over material to the pre-trial hearing obtained by phone-tapping.

PHILIP WADE, our housing correspondent, was on the spot at London's last council stand against the Tory rent Act

WORKERS should get rid of the Labour Party leadership if they are not 'getting satisfaction' from it, says a Camden, London, tenants' leader. Shortly before Camden Labour council voted 39 to 22 to implement the 'fair rents' Act, breaking all previous pledges, Bill Budd from the Ainsworth Estate said:

'Those in the Labour Party must carry out the policy decided at conference. They should be replaced if they don't; what else can you do?' Mr Budd, chairman of his Post Office Engineering Union branch, added: 'All political parties must now unite to remove the Tories from office as soon as possible. We must get them out and all their legislation.'

No leadership in that fight will ever come from the majority of the Labour group on the Camden council.

Some 28 of them voted with the Tories on Wednesday to crush by 39 to 22 an attempt to maintain the policy of non-implementation of the Housing Finance Act.

It means that every one of the 21 Labour-controlled boroughs in London has decided to impose the savage rent increases under the Tory Act designed to put an end to council housing in Britain once and for all.

The excuse used by the majority that the government was going to cut subsidies if Camden did not implement was, in fact, no excuse whatsoever.

## Scornful

As Cllr Paddy O'Connor pointed out in moving the non-implementation amendment to the main motion:

'There is no new situation. Anyone who knows the Act, who knows this government, knew we were going to be attacked.'

He poured scorn on the capitulators who still maintained they were opposed to the Act. 'But some are more opposed than others,' said O'Connor.

The majority had, he added, forced 'the troops up the hill, camped them for ten weeks and then led a retreat before the enemy approaches'.

O'Connor said Camden would be known as the council which nearly fought. 'It's a shame and a disgrace.'

He appealed to the Labour members to think back on the 'high-hopes' of a year ago, 'the idealism, that we should fight this Tory government. Well let's fight,' O'Connor finished to stormy applause from the galleries.

Phil Turner ridiculed the argument about the loss of subsidies used by the majority. 'They are ours by right, paid for by the taxpayers,' he said.

For Dick Collins, veteran of the St Pancras rent battles more than a decade ago, to implement was 'an awful retreat'.

He added: 'Month after month we told tenants we would not put the rents up. Now when the crunch comes the men have been sorted out from the boys.'

Collins told the meeting it would be the third time he had voted against the majority in the Party on the question of rents.

'I will never, and I say never, vote for the Housing Finance Act,' he concluded to enormous cheers from the tenants.

## Barracked

The Act, said another non-implementer sprang from the 'mean-minded suburbanite, petty-bourgeois Tories who can't stand seeing the ordinary working man living in decent conditions'.

Despite some late defections to the side of the non-implementers, the council leadership was to win the day, however. Led by Mrs Miller they went down on their knees before the government.

'This is the moment we must submit to the government,' said

# The Camden crunch

## Three hours' bitter debate ends eight months lone opposition to rent increases



Top: Tenants demonstrate outside the council chamber before Wednesday night's debate. Below left: Tories create a noisy diversion as anti-implementer Paddy O'Connor moves his amendment to the pro-Act resolution. Below right: The vote for implementation. Bottom: Two Labourite pro-implementers—council leader Mrs Millie Miller and committee chairman Peter Best.



Miller, while tenants chorused 'No! No!'

New deputy leader Frank Dobson laid himself wide open by remarking: 'There may be people who despise me.' Tenants called on him variously to sit-down, shut up and/or resign.

Peter Best, chairman of the key policy and resources committee, the newly-converted implementer, was heavily barracked. 'We're admitting we've lost a battle,' he said, after declaring the council would now have 'a policy of rational opposition', whatever that might mean.

By that time—after almost three hours of debate—the fight was over. The majority of Camden Labour councillors had proved beyond all doubt their political bankruptcy in the face of attacks by the Tories on the basic rights of the working class.

Tenants had been led so far and then abandoned to the government. The reformists at Camden who wanted a compromise with the government had betrayed the working class.



## Shotton steelmen to defend jobs

'CIVILIZED and constitutional' action has failed to prevent the proposed shut-down of the steel-making department of the north Wales Shotton works, Secretary of the Deeside Steel Defence Committee, Mr John Griffiths, has said. Instead, militant action to prevent the closure must be prepared, he told a committee meeting at Connah's Quay on Wednesday night. It was now time to fight, he said.

The previous day workers at Shotton were told by British Steel Corporation chairman Lord Melchett that the iron and steelmaking department would be phased out by 1979 because it was outdated. At least 6,500 jobs will be lost.

Mr Griffiths said that the defence committee would pledge full support to the works' action committee which meets tonight.

He added that the workers had every right to fight for their jobs and for the jobs of future generations. 'The government does not realize the tragic results that 6,500 lost job opportunities would mean,' he said.

And it would be nonsense to suggest that enough alternative industry could be attracted to fill those lost jobs.

Measures to fight the closure plan have been agreed by the Community Campaign Committee—a sub-committee of the North Wales TUC. Its chairman, Cllr Tom Jones, said on Wednesday night they were going to mobilize the public in Flintshire, Denbigh-

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

shire and Liverpool to back up the resistance campaign.

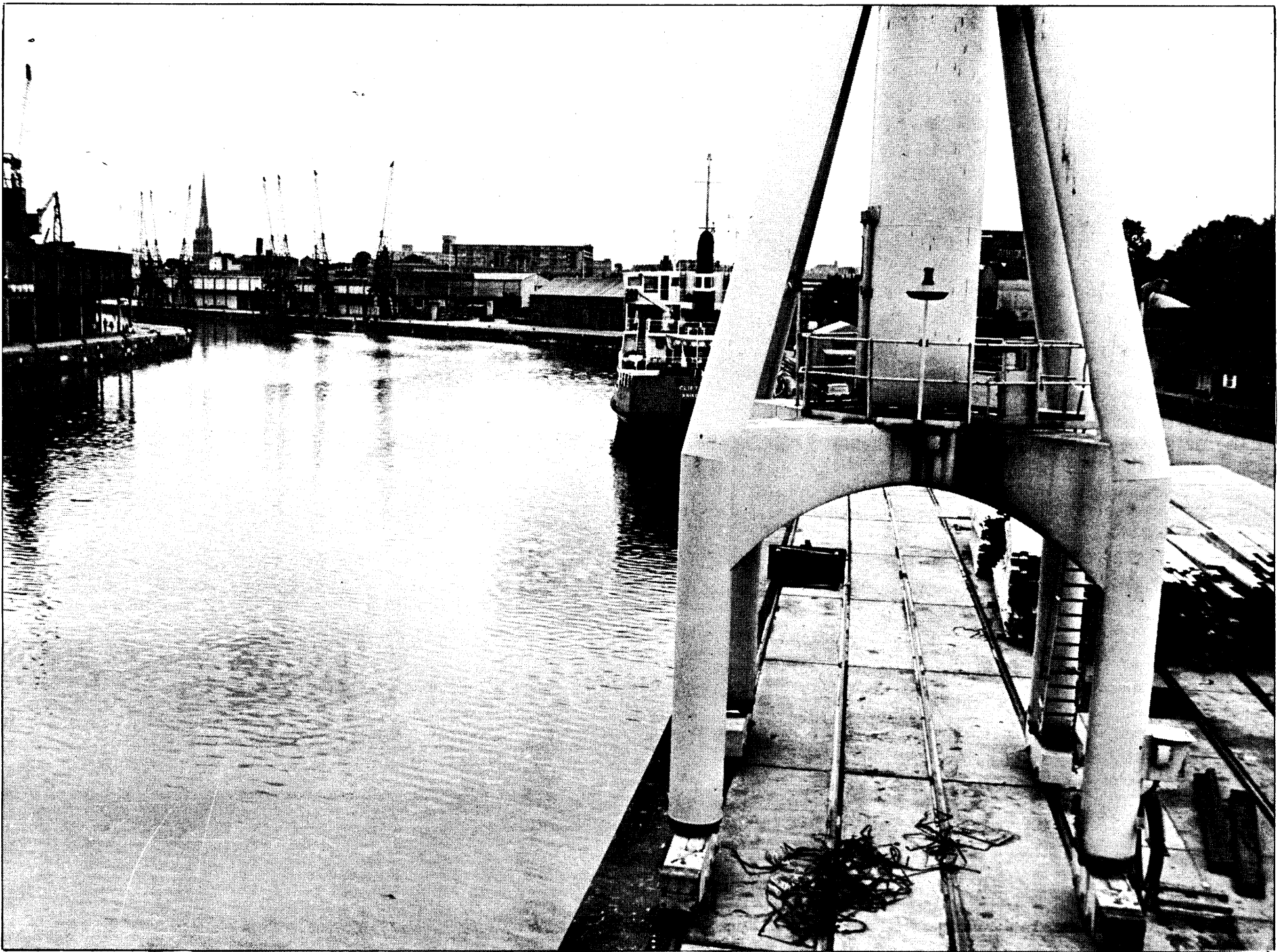
So far, however, the 'militant' action proposed is an invitation to Tory Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Walker to visit the works and demonstrations to be organized to Downing Street. Demonstrations will also be organized in Deeside.

Jones said that it is possible that between 7,000 and 8,000 will be thrown out of work. 'We want to inform the people of the area of the callousness and brutality behind the plan, but we shall fight all the way,' he added.

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000





# THE BIG PORTS ARE DYING

By our industrial correspondent

**The trend towards switching major cargo contracts away from Britain's biggest ports is continuing.**

Recent developments in this field have meant moves to transfer huge sections of the London meat trade to the small unregistered port of Sheerness and to Southampton. The same trend has been operating in the north-east coast with switches in major contracts to places like Preston.

Now the Port of Bristol has lost two important contracts to other smaller ports. A potentially large contract, involving a transatlantic container service has been switched to the unregistered East Anglian port of Felixstowe, after failure to reach a manning and wages agreement with the unions.

## OTHER LOST CONTRACTS

The other lost contract—a 30,000-tons-a-year deal for Italian container cargoes—has been transferred to Newport, Monmouthshire.

International Cargo Lines, London, wanted to operate a regular container service from Avonmouth, Bristol, to north American ports.

However, company directors stated recently that after six weeks negotiation with Bristol Port Authority, they have been unable to reach a manning and wages agreement with the unions.

Just what the details of the manning agreements the com-

pany wanted have not been revealed.

Said the director: 'We just could not afford to sit back and wait any longer, so we decided to transfer to Felixstowe.'

He added: 'No one at Bristol seems prepared to compromise. But at Felixstowe the reception we got was entirely different. Negotiations took less than a week.'

A spokesman for the Bristol Port Authority told Workers Press that they 'had no details' of just what International Cargo Lines wanted on the manning and wages scales, but said that they did not find the company's offer for the contract a viable one.

Did the move have anything to do with the fact that Felixstowe was outside the National Dock Labour Scheme?

'Well,' the spokesman said, 'that is at the back of everybody's mind. Obviously a port that does not have to adhere to commitments in terms of wages, etc, like we do, will be able to negotiate much more quickly.'

International Cargo Lines has now started operating the weekly service from Felixstowe and if all goes well it could lead to more regular services.

At Avonmouth, negotiations for a manning and wages agreement for work at Bristol Port Authority's container terminal are still continuing with unions and shop stewards.

The Geneva-based Tarros Line is now operating its container service from Newport. For the past year, however, it has been going through Avonmouth.

The Line's Bristol manager,

Mr Enzo Balestrazzi, said the transfer was an 'experiment'. Tarros, he said, expected exclusive rights to a berth and labour, but their tonnage did not qualify them for this in Avonmouth.

The urgent need to slash cargo costs today has rapidly escalated the drive towards unregistered ports like Felixstowe over the past year.

## ONE OF THE LARGEST

This drive can be seen clearly in its growth—it now claims to be one of the country's largest container ports. In 1955 it employed nine men; by 1970 the figure was 425 and in 1972 it had risen to 1,200.

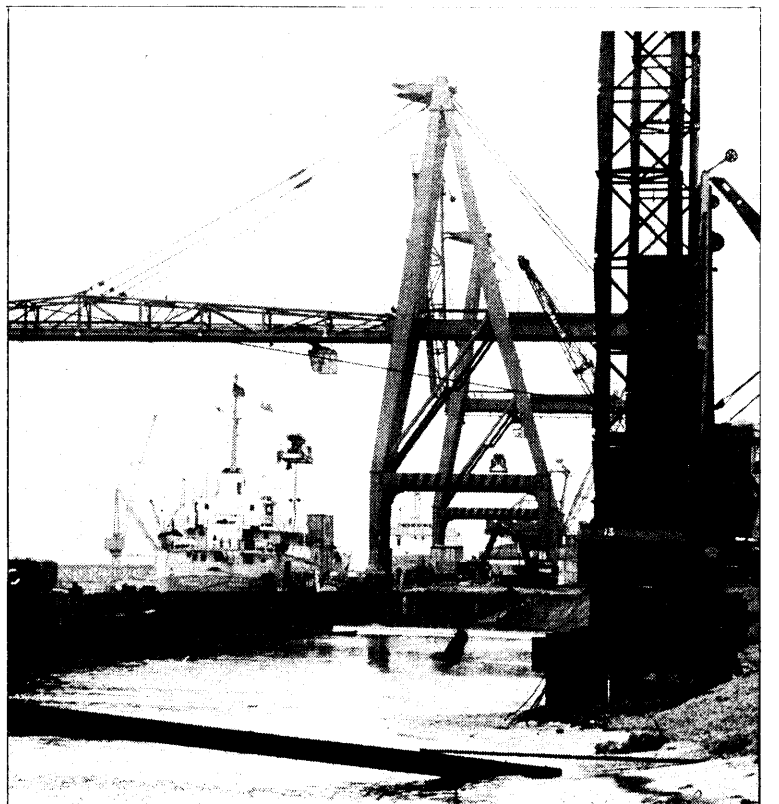
In the first six months of last year alone, a total 1,115,385 tons were handled and the year's figures are expected to top the 2.5 million ton mark. Last October all monthly records for cargo-handling were broken when 250,000 tons passed through the port, mostly in 10,259 containers. (This is almost an annual rate of 3 million tons.)

It compares with a total of 19 million tons of container traffic through all Britain's ports in 1971.

The dockers in Felixstowe, who are outside the Dock Labour Scheme, are paid £1 an hour with time-and-a-half for overtime. On average they work 60 hours a week, sometimes even more.

In the registered ports, on the other hand, the trend is towards massive cutbacks, particularly in the labour field.

Since the Jones-Aldington



Unregistered Felixstowe—recently gained contract for transatlantic container service. Above: Port of Bristol—the loser.

settlement of the 1972 dock strike, well over 6,000 men have accepted voluntary redundancy and left the industry. The employers' target is for a 10,000 cutback by the end of next month.

Within the next five to ten years the aim is to reduce the total docks labour force by 20,000. In this drive the need for speed-up and productivity is absolutely essential.

With entry into the Common Market, competition with huge, almost entirely mechan-

ized ports like Rotterdam is bound to increase with roll-on, roll-off traffic between Europe and Britain.

At present Felixstowe operates two of these terminals and a third is scheduled to open this year.

For all dockworkers today the employers' drive to maintain profits in the face of mounting competition can only mean the threat of massive redundancy and increasing attacks on living and working standards.





## SYRIAN CP SPLIT ON KREMLIN'S 'ISRAEL LINE'

Since July 1971, when the Sudanese Communist Party was decimated by General Jafaar Numeiry, the Communist Party of Syria has been the largest and most influential in the Arab world.

It is also one of the most sharply divided, with two main factions in fundamental disagreement over key issues facing the Arab movement.

The majority of the Party's politburo—and apparently the majority of the membership as well—is opposed to the general secretary, the veteran Stalinist Khaled Bekdash.

Repeated efforts to heal the breach have not succeeded, despite top-level consultation between the dissident factions and the Soviet leadership.

Though the Party is formally still a single organization, the Bekdash faction and its opponents are separately represented in the Syrian government, led by the Ba'ath Party.

Bekdash and his chief opponent within the Party, Daniel Ne'meh, are in the Cabinet of President Hassan Al-Assad. Similarly the two factions have separate representatives on the central committee of the National Front, which the Party entered in 1971.

### Withdrawal

Plainly neither faction has any principled opposition to Stalinism—both have entered the thoroughly anti-working-class military government of General Assad, indicating that neither faction aims to challenge the Syrian bourgeoisie.

Bekdash hews rigidly to the Moscow line. He has been described as 'more Soviet than the Soviets'. The majority faction leans towards Pan-Arabist positions and criticizes the USSR from this standpoint.

The key issue which divides the factions is resolution 242 passed by the United Nations Security Council with Soviet support in November 1967.

This reactionary resolution envisages a negotiated settlement with Israel based on Israeli withdrawal to its pre-1967 positions. It thus implies recognition of Israel and abandonment of the Palestinian people's national demands.

In the course of their dispute over these questions, a delegation of top Syrian Stalinists went to Moscow in May 1971 to discuss one of the key documents in dispute—a draft programme approved by the Central Committee the previous year.

The delegation saw Michael Suslov, a leading Soviet ideologist, and Boris Ponomarev,

better known for his witch-hunting attacks on Trotskyism. The record of their discussions, in the form of extensive notes, was published in the Arab Press last summer.

It reveals frankly that the Soviet leaders have subordinated the Arab revolution, and particularly the fate of the Palestinian people, to their own bureaucratic requirements. There is not an ounce of principle in their statements.

Ponomarev came down firmly against the idea that 'the problem of eliminating the consequences of [Zionist] aggression must be solved through war'. They say 'we are not in favour of this except in the case of extreme necessity'.

And perhaps more significantly they add: 'It could also lead to a confrontation between the Soviets and the Americans.' And nothing, not even revolution, must be allowed to upset that relationship!

They are also against the policy of 'no peace, no war' advocated by the ruling Syrian Ba'ath Party. This policy is objectionable in Soviet eyes because it involves continued refusal to recognize Israel.

The third course, favoured by the Soviet Stalinists, consists in what they call 'a political solution on a just basis'. In reality this 'just basis' is nothing more than the ratification of the original expropriation of the Palestinians by Zionism.

The USSR claims, with some justification, that this policy will strengthen what it terms the progressive regimes—that is the rule of the Arab bourgeoisie over the masses. War, on the other hand, would be disastrous for these regimes.

The Soviet chieftains are hostile to the destruction of the state of Israel on the grounds that 'Israel is a fact . . . an Israeli nation is arising'. In any case, they say, the slogan of eliminating Israel cannot be realized in practice.

And they give this explicit warning to the Syrian Stalinists: 'As regards the logic of struggle: if the Arabs employ the slogan of the elimination of Israel and the liberation of their usurped homeland they can never gain the support of world public opinion or the support of the USSR or the support of the world communist movement.'

This is a clear declaration that the USSR leaders do not support the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain the lands that were stolen by the Israelis with the backing of world imperialism.

Even Suslov and Ponomarev are forced to admit the colonialist character of the Israeli state. But they claim: 'The aim of the struggle must be to change the colonialist

Syrian ruler Assad (centre) heads a thoroughly anti-working class military government.

character of the state of Israel, not the elimination of Israel as a state.'

The Soviet plan is presumably to convert the Zionist state into a means for the liberation of the Palestinian people, since Ponomarev and Suslov talk in terms of the Israelis at some future date allowing the Palestinians to return to their homeland.

The most revealing part of the document, however, deals with Stalin's support for the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. According to the Soviet leaders, the draft Syrian CP programme 'stated that the UN recognized Israel by virtue of the 1947 partition resolution and reaction and the agents of colonialism participated in the conspiracy.

### Conspiracy

'This brings the USSR into the conspiracy. Nothing is said about the USSR's attitude in 1947, only its attitude in the 1956 and 1967 aggressions is mentioned. Frankly, this implies that the USSR took part in the conspiracy.' (Emphasis added.)

The two Soviet experts somewhat lamely claim that when Stalin cast the Soviet vote in favour of Israel he 'voted on the basis of the right to self-determination, not to implement a colonialist scheme.'

This formula, to say the least, is disingenuous. The USSR, like the imperialist powers, was well aware that the basis of Zionist Israel was the expropriation of Arab Palestine.

As a kind of consolation prize for the abandonment of their hostility to peace with Israel, the Syrian Stalinists are offered the prospect of 'the formation, strengthening and expansion of Arab progressive democratic movements in all the Arab countries and the victory of socialism in these countries'.

This of course, is a mutually-contradictory perspective. On the one hand, the construction of 'democratic' (i.e. bourgeois) movements and on the other the victory of socialism. In reality, however, the question is easily resolved: the job of the Arab communist parties is to further the diplomatic interests of the Soviet bureaucracy in the Middle East.

The Palestinian struggle and the revolutionary overthrow of Arab capitalist rule must be subordinated to the caste requirements of the Moscow rulers—that is the message the Syrian CP leaders were given in Moscow.

## FATE OF THE IRAQI COMMUNISTS

Iraq has two communist ministers, but the Communist Party is still illegal and is not permitted to have offices or a daily paper. Many of its members have been in jail for years.

This odd state of affairs is noted without comment by Reuben Falber, assistant secretary of the Communist Party in a 'Morning Star' article (January 2) following his visit to Iraq on the invitation of the ruling coalition.

He gives no account of the present Ba'athist regime which came to power as the result of a military take-over in 1968. It embarked upon a campaign of repression against communists which resulted in thousands being tortured and thrown into prison.

This did not prevent the Soviet Union maintaining the friendliest relations with the Ba'ath Party, whose representatives attended the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1971. They were also welcomed to Prague for an 'International Theoretical Conference' in 1972 on national liberation movements.

In Prague the Ba'ath Party delegate Z. Bayrahdar said that it and the Communist Party 'have a similar, if not identical class basis'. Reuben Falber is more categorical: 'The Ba'ath Party is a petty-bourgeois nationalist party.'

Bayrahdar admitted that there were complications between his party and the Iraq Communist Party, 'but their co-operation—even though not very smooth—has shown the two parties that their contradictions are much less than could be expected, and this allows them to find more common ground'.

The common ground is mainly found within the confines of Iraq's prisons with the communists being tortured by their Ba'athist jailers.

Soviet pressure forced the Iraqi government to take two communist leaders into the cabinet after the 15-year friendship and co-operation treaty signed between Alexei Kosygin and the Ba'athists last April. These men, Makran Talabani, Minister of Irrigation, and Amer Abdullah, Minister with-

out Portfolio, are hostages for the good behaviour of President al-Bakr's government.

The Ba'athist Party includes extreme right wingers and anti-communists as well as so-called 'Arab socialists'. It tolerates CP cabinet members at the behest of the Kremlin, but it would have no compunction about meting out to them the same treatment as the dictator Numeiry of the Sudan did when he had thousands of communists and trade unionists massacred in 1971.

Reuben Falber has nothing to say about this. But he does reveal another Iraqi contradiction—the position of the Kurdish minority. For ten years, until 1970, the Kurds fought for their national self-determination against the Ba'athist - Arab chauvinists. Then the war was ended by an agreement under which members of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan entered the government.

Even Falber does not claim that the national question in Kurdistan has been solved. Indeed he reports Kurdish complaints that discrimination and persecution continue. The Communist Party maintains guerrilla forces in Kurdistan who, according to him, 'guard part of the frontier of the liberated area'.

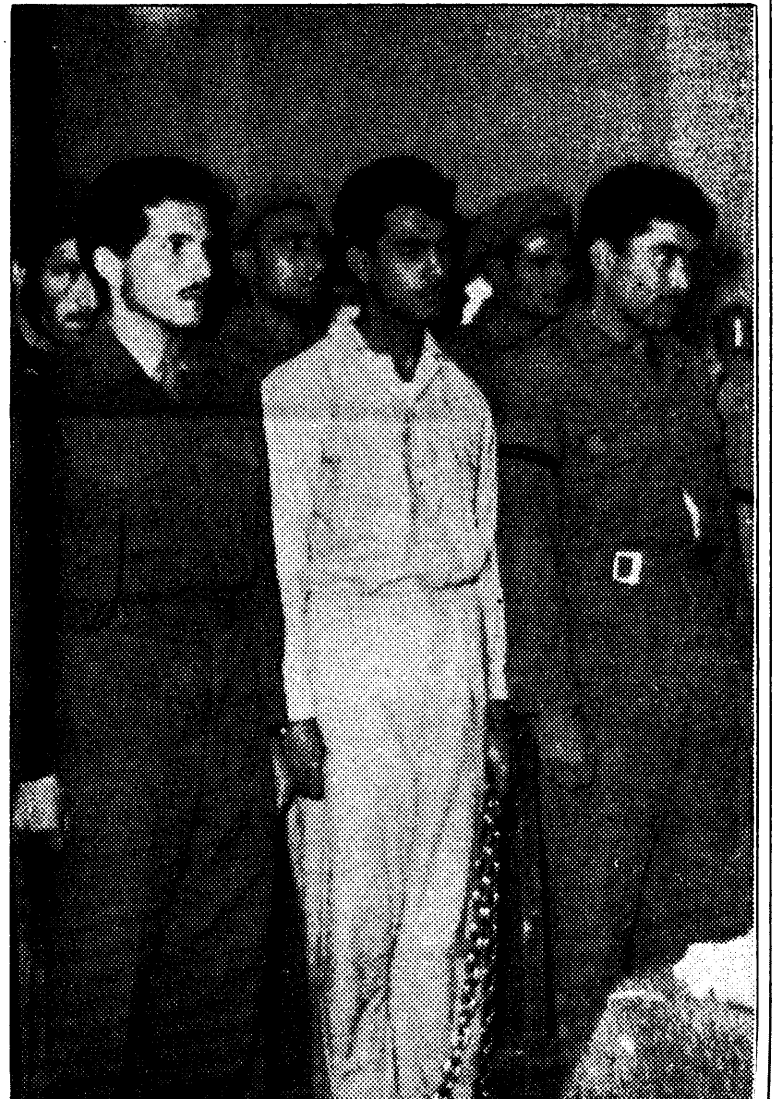
Falber's visit was not without importance in backing up the class-collaboration policy of the Iraqi Communist Party. The delegation which he led assured representatives of the three coalition parties of CP backing.

Yet the persecution of communists is still going on. Hundreds are in jail, especially members of the Revolutionary Group which emerged after a split in 1967.

Clearly Falber did not call on dominant Ba'athists to release these opponents and other critics of the regime.

His article is a discreditable cover-up job which tries to present a contemptible gang of petty-bourgeois nationalist politicians as revolutionary anti-imperialists.

Below: Iraqi Communists before a tribunal which passed the death sentence on them.





# NATIONAL HEALTH AND THE PRIVATE PROFITEERS

BY ALEX MITCHELL

*'Such an elaborate and daring attack in July 1948 upon an urgent national problem aroused the interest of the world, and numerous laymen and medical experts descended on England for a quick look at this remarkable experiment. Dire predictions were voiced about the future of British medicine and the health of the people. From the outset the climate of the United States was unfriendly towards this British venture.' Dr Almont Lindsey, US doctor.*

**The Harley Street Clinic, an American-financed private hospital group, is preparing to establish its own network of hospitals independent of the National Health Service.**

The US corporation financing the expansion is American Medical International Incorporated which already has considerable overseas investments in private medicine in Paris, Lausanne, Zurich and Brussels.

In the chairman's report for 1971 it is stated: 'We are becoming increasingly interested in the expansion of our activities in countries other than the USA. Operating results of Harley Street Clinic have exceeded projections . . .'

The clinic's private merchant bankers are S.G. Warburg, which is interesting only because the same bank advised Bovis Limited in the recent abortive takeover battle with P&O. Bovis is the family construction firm of Sir Keith Joseph, the Tory Secretary for Health and Social Services.

The clinic, the most expensive and privileged in the country, has already announced plans to build a £1.3m private hospital in Manchester catering for private patients.

An estate agent in the area has been commissioned to find a site for the new 150-bed hospital. Dr Stanley Balfour-Lynn, the chairman and managing director of the group, said he hoped to find a site close to the Manchester Royal Infirmary teaching hospital.

**'There is no shortage of money, Balfour-Lynn said, 'and I will build anywhere in this country where we are needed and wanted.'**

The clinic has been in negotiations with the Labour-controlled Manchester Corporation for a suitable site.

The city's planning department had originally agreed to a site on corporation-owned land in Chorlton-on-Medlock, but this was subsequently turned down.

The new site, near the infirmary, will be distinctly advantageous for the private medical practitioners. It will mean they can use facilities from the NHS in terms of medical staff and equipment. Because of its newness it will also possibly attract regular NHS patients.

Balfour-Lynn seems pleased with the site which had been suggested by the corporation. It comes as no surprise that local consultants in Manchester are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the private group. One told the 'Manchester Evening News'

last week'. It would be a roaring success, both from the point of view of the patients and the consultants.'

It is cruelly ironic that on the day the private scalpels were rejoicing about the Harley Clinic's plans, a small mid-wifery unit at the Fairfield General Hospital at Bury, on the outskirts of Manchester, was forced to close down.

It was stated that the unit could not remain open because there was not enough staff to run it. The Bury and Rossendale Hospital Group announced that because of the stringent budgeting being imposed by the Ministry there would be no further hiring of staff and no extension of service for staff 'unless absolutely necessary'.



**Bevan: Allowed private practices to flourish under the NHS, and made not a mention of nationalization of the drugs industry.**

What's happening at Bury is only a microcosm of the serious disrepair which the National Health Service is falling into. This, of course, is no accident. It is deliberate Tory policy.

They have made no secret of their preference for a health service dominated by the private sector.

They want their influential and well-heeled backers in the British Medical Association to make vast profits from sickness and injury.

**The legal loophole for the re-emergence of the private medical service was placed in the National Health Service Act of 1946 by none other than Labour 'left' Aneurin Bevan.**



any provision of this Act expressly provides for the making and recovery of charges.' In a recently published pamphlet the Socialist Medical Association comments: **Thus the seed was set for the existence of a private paying sector.'**

The SMA says that Bevan, 'in order to gain agreement of the medical profession, felt compelled to sacrifice certain of the basic principles which were originally built into the socialist conception of the health service'. This is a distortion of the events.

It is true that the BMA leadership was hostile to the formation of the NHS. But a BMA referendum showed that 60 per cent of those voting were in favour of a general practitioner service for all, 69 per cent were in favour of a completely free hospital and consultant service, 83 per cent of doctors in the armed services wanted to work in a health centre after the war and 89 per cent of medical students were in favour of health centres.

In other words, the Labour government under Attlee had a mandate not only from the voting population, but also from the medical profession to

go ahead with all the necessary changes.

In his book on the NHS, Dr D. Stark Murray, SMA president from 1951 until 1970, says ' . . . in the atmosphere of 1964 when people were ready for great new moves it was strange that Bevan did not see and did not grasp the opportunity to make a complete break with the past.'

## RHETORIC

It was not strange at all, of course. For all his left rhetoric, Bevan remained tied to reformism and finished his career shocking his erstwhile supporters by openly opposing unilateral disarmament.

Thus Bevan allowed private practices to continue to flourish under the NHS while £66m was offered to the profession as compensation for the abolition of the buying and selling of practices. Private pay-beds continue to exist in NHS hospitals. Throughout this period there was not a mention of nationalization of the drugs industry.

**The medical provident societies were quick to see the**

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Surgeries 1-6 →

Treatment room →

Minor surgery →

DOCTOR

Dr. W. R. John

2

Dr. J. D. Montgomery

9

Dr. A. Doss

10

Dr. J. D. Montgomery

9

Dr. A. Doss

10





benefits of Bevan's 'slip of the pen'.

In 1947 they amalgamated to form BUPA, the largest single private medical scheme in the country. In 1964 BUPA had approximately 510,000 subscribers with an annual income of £6m. By the end of the decade this had risen to 650,000 members with an income of £11.2m.

In 1971 alone, 72,000 new subscribers joined the scheme which now runs a string of 19 private hospitals. Part of this big rise in membership can be attributed to the tax relief for group insurance which the government has granted to BUPA.

The total income of BUPA and the other private schemes was £14m.

Richard Crossman, Labour's Health Minister, wrote in a Fabian pamphlet: 'The blunt truth is that anyone who pays for private insurance expects to buy an advantage for himself; if he doesn't he won't pay.'

'These schemes are growing because they enable their members to choose a time for an operation and to choose a consultant by name and guarantee that he will himself look after the patient. BUPA buys a name and buys

time, to put it plainly, facilitates queue-jumping.'

It is sobering to acknowledge that despite Crossman's incisive comments on BUPA's role, he did nothing to expropriate them and bring them under control. On the contrary, the Labourites launched some of the most offensive attacks on the NHS principle: prescription charges were introduced and charges for dental services were increased.

If the Labour Party paved the way for the erosion of the NHS, then the Tories have not been slow to get things moving. As early as December 6, 1969, Angus Maud, the influential Tory backbench MP, wrote:

'Private medicine is important, something to be fought for and defended, for much the same reason as pension schemes and independent schools are important. . . . They enable you to tell just how good—or how bad—the publicly-provided services are in terms of efficiency and progress. The lack of this yardstick would be very dangerous indeed. . . .

'If we were to abolish private practice we should be condemning ourselves permanently

to a second-class service for all. Standards would deteriorate everywhere.'

Enoch Powell has also been in the forefront of attacking the NHS. Speaking at a conference on Anglo-American medical care in April 1971 Powell said the NHS has been Britain's 'big mistake' in health care.

'In my view a better distribution and a better supply of medical care would have existed today but for the introduction of the idea of nil price in 1964.' The British nation was 'stuck' with the NHS and with 'its consequences'.

## DETERIORATE

During the two and a half years of Tory rule the pincer has been applied to the NHS. Charges have gone up and various budgets have been pruned. This has led to a deterioration in facilities and morale. On the other hand, the government has done everything possible to let the private sector flourish.

It is known, for example, that private clinics are at

present hoping to stage a takeover of the National Blood Transfusion Service, the nationalized body which takes, distributes and tests blood.

This service is already open to the widest abuse by the private practitioners: although the blood is given freely and supposed to be supplied freely, private consultants are charging enormous fees to their patients.

As the SMA pamphlet says: 'The growth of the private practice within the NHS is a process of part-time consultants giving part-time loyalty to the NHS with no incentive to reduce their waiting lists; in fact, the incentive is to maintain them and drive more patients into the private channels.'

'It means that the consultants are actually subsidized by the state in the form both of use of expensive equipment bought with public means, and of the service of fully salaried staff. Without these they could not treat their private patients and so augment their income.'

'It means a mushrooming of insurance schemes which adds more to the pockets of the consultants and places more and more people who can pay

Waiting-room in one of the more modern hospitals. Now private clinics are moving in beside the NHS, using public facilities, and threatening the very existence of the NHS.

at an advantage to those who cannot. It means the impossibility of comprehensive planning and the inefficient use of manpower and equipment, always in short supply.'

But the Tories aren't concerned about curing people or providing a universal free health system.

The driving force of the capitalist system is the quest for profits. German capitalists made profits and submitted fiercely competitive tenders for gas chambers during the years of Nazism.

The capitalist class has to make money from workers from their birth to their death. If this means destroying the right to a free health service, they will fleece away that right.

The fight to preserve basic democratic rights now involves a fight to get the Tories out of office. In its place must be elected a Labour government pledged to socialist policies including the institution of a completely free NHS.



# LETTER: 'STOP SUPPORTING TERRORISTS'

Dear Editor,

I have been an ardent reader of your paper for some time now and congratulate you on its contents—well, 99 per cent of its contents.

Just how long are you going to keep up this idiotic, suicidal campaign to free MacStiofain, O'Brady, McGuinness and the like?

Do you really think that the British working man agrees with you? If so, perhaps you would care to join me on a typical building site and listen to the comments. How many supporters are you prepared to lose? Do you have such a large following that you can make yourself such a laughing stock?

I am in full support of a campaign to free political prisoners, but the three mentioned above hardly come into that category, they are 'not too bright' out and out terrorists who have launched campaigns of violence against the British troops (who are mostly young men forced to join the services as an alternative to being unemployed).

Could it be that the really hurtful part of all this is the fact that Lynch is only doing what the working class should have done some time ago, put the MacStiofains of the world out of circulation?

Does O'Brady really consider that he should be allowed to call himself a 'free citizen'? MacStiofain hardly warrants mention, he has even been shunned by his own beloved IRA. Such loyalty.

As for your pathetic statement that the British imperialists were responsible for the bomb outrages at the Dail, well, I don't think you are quite so gullible.

Do you think the opposition were influenced by such a simple trick?

In my opinion that outrage was perpetrated by terrorists, who assumed in their usual not too intelligent manner that the opposition would think as you pretend to, that the British were responsible and oppose the Bill. Fortunately, the opposition Ministers saw through this and the terrorists' plan backfired.

I shall, of course, continue to read your newspaper and give as much support to the SLL as possible. In the meantime I trust we will see less support for murdering terrorists and more for the working-class peaceable citizen.

Yours faithfully,  
T. Ewing,  
Southall, Middlesex

# REPLY: 'IMPERIALIST RULE IS INDEFENSIBLE'

BY MICHAEL BANDA

Our campaign for the release of Sean MacStiofain, Rory O'Brady and Martin McGuinness is neither idiotic nor suicidal, but is based on a principled opposition to the arbitrary actions of the Lynch government.

The Irish premier had these men imprisoned in order to curry favour with his political masters, the Westminster Tories, who are now his 'partners' in the Common Market.

He jailed the IRA leaders under the Offences against the State (Amendment) Act, rushed through the Dail to abolish the right to jury trial and give the state extraordinary powers.

Lynch is completely subservient to British capitalism which has been the fountain-head of violence and bloodshed in Ireland for over 300 years.

Consciously or unconsciously T. Ewing ends up defending imperialism and denigrating and deriding those who fight against it.

The Socialist Labour League has always condemned as reactionary the terror tactics of the IRA in Northern Ireland.

These tactics alienate the support of the working class, which is the only force capable of settling accounts with British imperialism and its Irish lackeys.

But we in no way equate the misguided terror of the Irish Republicans with the

officially sanctioned state terror waged by the British army.

The British army is the main arm of state power wielded by the employing class. Its savagery in Ireland is a training ground for class war at home.

It is thus quite unprincipled of T. Ewing to boast that the 'British working man', that traditional creature of Tory mythology, is for jailing the IRA leaders.

The Socialist Labour League bases itself on the principles of scientific socialism and not on the reported opinions of our critic's workmates.

The task of leadership in the working class is to fight for those principles in order to warn the class of the dangers in front and combat the illusions spread by imperialism.

There can be no concessions to the position adopted in this letter, which comes within a hairsbreadth of endorsing the aims and objects of British intervention in Ireland.

It is significant that in the same breath as he attacks the provisional IRA leaders, he apologizes for the British troops who are 'forced' to join the army.

To say that young men are forced into the army as an alternative to being unemployed is an insult to those thousands of class-conscious youth who would rather rot than act as gunmen for the Tories.

And the allegation that the IRA men are 'not too bright' reeks of British middle-class snobbery and superiority. It is worth noting that our critic



British troops in Ulster: A military training to be used against workers in England. Inset: Sean MacStiofain.

has nothing to say about the IQ of British soldiers or their officers, who are not selected for their intelligence.

Ewing treats the bomb outrage at the Dail as a matter simply of the opposition's gullibility. But it is clear that the opposition (Fine Gael) only required the bombings as an excuse for voting with Lynch.

Like the Reichstag fire, on which it was undoubtedly modelled, the Dublin bombing could benefit only one section—and that is why it was carried out.

Who benefited from the Dublin bombings? Quite obviously not the IRA. But the timely explosions served Lynch's purpose—and the purposes of the Tory government—admirably.

T. Ewing apparently considers it 'fortunate' that the Dublin government secured passage of the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act which has robbed not only

MacStiofain and his comrades but every other Irish worker of his rights.

This welcome for the reactionary Lynch laws is a clear demonstration of the reactionary nature of Ewing's support for the jailing of IRA leaders.

Over a century ago, Marx, in a Confidential Communication to a section of the First International, anticipated some of Ewing's arguments and made this prophetic reply:

'Ireland is the only pretext the English government has for retaining a big standing army, which, if need be, as has happened before, can be used against the English workers after having done its military training in Ireland.'

'Lastly, England today is seeing a repetition of what happened on a monstrous scale in ancient Rome. Any nation that oppresses another forges its own chains.'

'Thus, the attitude of the International Association to

the Irish question is very clear. Its first need is to encourage the social revolution in England. To this end a great blow must be struck in Ireland.' (Taken from the Minutes of the General Council of the First International, March 1870.)

Marx was right! Only the combined struggle of the Irish and British working class can end imperialism and establish socialism.

In conclusion, we appreciate Mr Ewing's decision to support the paper despite his differences with us on the IRA. However we would like to warn him that it would be an untenable relationship as long as he refuses to recognize—despite the IRA's methods—the legitimacy of the centuries old Republican demand for independence and the counter-revolutionary and utterly indefensible conquest and occupation of Ireland by British imperialism.



# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## FUNERAL

'Rattle her bones all over the stones, she's just a dead pauper who nobody owns.' This old doggerel became a night-marish reality recently for Mr and Mrs Anthony Davies of Aston, Birmingham.

Mr Davies, an unemployed lorry-driver and father of ten, had just lost his son Anthony. He had died in hospital after suffering for two years of leukaemia.

Mr Davies and his wife were living on Social Security and because of this they found their son had to be buried in a common grave along with several other adults. The parents also say that they were denied permission to attend the burial.

Mrs Davies asked the hospital if the child could be buried in her family grave in Witton cemetery. The hospital said this was not possible and referred her to the Birmingham Social Security office. They said that £22.50 could be offered to open the Witton grave. But last Wednesday, when Mr Davies went to collect the money, he was told that he could not have it.

The hospital then said that only one funeral car could be provided—obviously, with the size of the family, two were needed.

The family was subjected to further distress when government officials asked for the child's birth certificate so that his name could be added to rather than deleted from the family allowance book.

A Birmingham regional hospital spokesman said: 'It must be remembered we are dealing with public funds.'

## THE GURU

Mancunians who fancy a grand, amazing, superb—and, above all, divine—time handing over hard-earned cash for second-hand knick-knacks should proceed immediately to 298 Oxford Road.

Today is the last day for them to help fill the coffers of a great little religious operation whose admitted assets already include a £25,000 house in fashionable Highgate, London, and a Rolls-Royce.

The operation is centred on the person of Guru Maharaj Ji (15), claimed by his devotees to be 'the Lord incarnate again'.

He gives his followers the Perfect Knowledge, they give

him virtually everything. They are expected to renounce all luxuries, hand over everything but what they need to live on from their salaries and help in the organization of Divine Jumble Sales and the sale of Divine Literature.

As the Guru is supposed to have acquired 6,000 followers since hitting Britain last June, this must add up to a tidy sum.

An example of what the faithful get for their money is printed on the publicity hand outs for this week's Grand Charity Shop—described as 'this incredible landmark in the history of Manchester'—in the heart of the city's club-land.

'If I told you an elephant was two inches high would you believe me? Of course not,' says a quote from the Guru himself. 'If I told you an ant was seven inches tall would you believe me? Of course not. But if I showed you, you would have to believe.'

'Believe in the practical, not in the theory. If you say God exists then I will ask you to show me. You must see God face to face—and I can show you that God exists.'

According to a recent letter to the 'Sunday Times' from Glen Whittaker, general secretary of the Divine Light Mission which handles the Guru's affairs, the 15-year-old IS God. But Whittaker's letter combined this spiritual-sounding declaration with a strangely materialistic assessment of the Guru's worth.

The Mission secretary denied the paper's suggestion that a suitcase the Guru took to a rally in New Delhi last November was stuffed with money and jewels to the value of £45,000. The contents of the object in question were formerly valued at only \$27,000, he claimed.

Whittaker also insisted that the Highgate house cost only £25,000, not £50,000 as the 'Sunday Times' had estimated.

But perhaps the most fascinating paragraph of the letter related to the Rolls-Royce. 'If Jesus were to reappear and asked the Primate to arrange a tour of British churches, no doubt a similar vehicle would be put at his disposal,' Whittaker argued.

But where would the faithful find the palm leaves to throw down in his path?



# SYMPATHY FOR FRELIMO

FILM REVIEW BY JOE HARPER

'Behind the Lines' is a colour documentary about life in the liberated areas of Mozambique where Frelimo trains and educates its guerrilla army and helps organize the revival of agricultural production and trading as well as political reorganization and the starting of social services.

As anti-Portuguese propaganda, the film is successful enough, contrasting the racialism, the slave labour, and the military repression of the colonialist regime with the heroic struggles of the liberation movement.

Director Margaret Dickenson also exposes the role other imperialist powers play in propping up the extreme right-wing regime by their military aid to Portugal through NATO and by commercial ties, such as the multi-national Cabora Bassa dam project. But this

aspect is less fully treated.

If it had been possible, it would have brought a violent jolt to British audiences to see in detail how their taxes are being used to help the bloody suppression of the liberation struggle through NATO-supplied helicopters and other military expertise.

The film is less satisfactory, however, on the question of exactly what the Mozambique revolution consists of. The portrayal of life behind the lines, while sympathetic, leaves many questions unasked, let alone answered.

In view of the complex development of many of the revolutionary struggles in the 'third world', including not a few disastrous or dangerous wrong turnings, this is a pity.

The argument about which is the correct way forward is crucial and obviously takes place within Frelimo as within any other liberation struggle. But the film makers seem either to be not aware of this or else chose to ignore it.

Above: Medical team in a liberated area of Mozambique.

Consequently, the film is slightly marred by having a J. Arthur Rank 'Look at Life' feel about it.

We hear tantalizing references to the co-operative structure of the revived farming and trade and the democratic councils which run village life, but the specific political and class content of these new forms of organization is not gone into.

Similarly, the political education of the army is frequently referred to, but never fully described or ever discussed.

On the question of Moscow's and Peking's influence on Frelimo and any reaction against it, there is complete silence; much as Moscow and Peking would wish it, no doubt.

The film-makers clearly want to win sympathy for Frelimo from every shade of opinion without going too deeply into politics. This they have done well.

## STALINIST CRISIS

# CZECH MEASURES AGAINST DRINK

After nearly 25 years in a 'Peoples' Democracy', Slovaks are hitting the bottle with all the traditional enthusiasm.

They are running near the top of the European league for the consumption of alcohol. Consumption per head in 1972, including infants and old folk, amounted to ten litres of spirits, almost as much wine made from grapes plus 1.5 litres of other wines and a hefty 115 litres of beer.

Lamenting these figures, a writer in the Bratislava 'Pravda' pointed out that alcohol was responsible for over a third of all crime and much economic and moral damage as well as health problems.

He called for tighter laws against drinking abuses and a campaign against the menace of alcoholism. He did not explain why, in a country supposed to be 'socialist' and 'building a happy life', to use a consecrated Stalinist expression, Slovaks were taking to drink with such abandon.

It is obvious that there is enough to drive them to drink



Husak: driving them to drink

in the strains of daily life, not to speak of the effects of the invasion by the Warsaw Pact countries in August 1968 and the oppression by the Husak regime.

The link between drunkenness and crime is also being stressed constantly in the Soviet Union where it is said that every second criminal who breaks the law was or is under the influence of alcohol.

A report from Orenburg attributes 90 per cent of absenteeism in Orenburg's nine largest industrial plants to drunkenness. Severe measures against alcoholism are being taken in the Soviet Union.

# AFTERMATH OF THE BALTIC RIOTS

The organ of the 'Polish Communist Party', a Maoist group which operates from Albania, has called on Polish workers to prepare for an armed uprising to overturn to Gierk regime in a second anniversary article on the riots in the Baltic ports.

It says: 'Gierk did not keep his promise to take severe action against those responsible for the hideous murder inflicted on the working class and civilian population of the coastal area. The Central Committee Commission which he set up published not a single communiqué in two years. Not one criminal was punished. Neither the main culprits, led by Gomulka, nor the rank-and-file murderers in police uniform have faced a court.'

The article adds that the victims of the repression—shot down by police and troops—were wrapped in plastic bags and buried in communal graves.

The place of burial of many of them remains unknown.

'Many of those arrested are still in prison; others have disappeared. The families of those who were murdered are being pestered and terrorized by secret police agents who say they must stay silent or face imprisonment and reprisals.'

# BOOKS



Moscow Trials Anthology  
Paperback, 62½p  
**MAX SHACHTMAN:**  
Behind The Moscow Trial  
Paperback 75p  
**ROBERT BLACK:**  
Stalinism In Britain  
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2  
**LEON TROTSKY:**  
Death Agony of Capitalism  
(The Transitional Programme)  
Pamphlet 5p  
Class Nature of the Soviet State  
Pamphlet 20p  
In Defence of the October  
Revolution Pamphlet 15p  
The Theory and Practice of  
Revisionism Pamphlet 15p  
Postage 10p per book, 3p per  
pamphlet. Order from:  
**NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS**  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG.







## 60,000 teachers short by 1981

THERE WILL be a shortage of well over 60,000 school-teachers by 1981 as a result of the government's plan to cut back teacher output, according to a statement issued by the National Union of Teachers.

The NUT executive, commenting on the government's White Paper, 'Education: A Framework for Expansion', says it is deceptive to argue teacher supply on the basis of overall pupil-teacher ratio.

Overall ratios can conceal grossly over-sized classes, especially when the number of pupils staying at school beyond 16 is not known.

The NUT condemns Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher for refusing to accept what it calls 'the entirely reasonable and far from generous' staffing objectives of classes of a maximum of 30 in primary schools as well as secondary schools.

Mrs Thatcher, the union says, has 'underestimated' by at least 60,000 the number of teachers needed simply to achieve a satisfactory basic staffing standard.

**JUNIOR Education Minister Norman St John Stevas yesterday refused to comment on Labour demands that he should be sacked for giving a Tory political speech to sixth formers.**

At a sixth-form conference on the 'Third World' held at a Stevenage girls' school on November 15, St John Stevas is alleged to have spoken on Tory education policy.

Two Labour Shadow ministers—Roy Hattersley and Shirley Williams—have complained to Education Secretary Margaret Thatcher and Tory Party chairman Lord Carrington. Hattersley said that 'gross deception was used to enable Conservative speakers to address school audiences and to obtain information about young voters'.

One complaint is that a questionnaire at the conference had little or nothing to do with the 'Third World' but was 'composed of the sort of question used to determine social and political attitudes'.

He says that the minister's conduct involved a degree of impropriety which made it 'a sacking matter'.

The National Union of Teachers is to carry out its own inquiry into whether the schoolchildren were faced with 'political indoctrination'.

And she has allowed nothing for any expansion or new developments in the schools, nothing for the demand for qualified teachers for nursery schools, and nothing for the 'neglected areas' of the 16-19 age group and adult education.

The NUT is also critical of the inadequate expenditure targets contained in the White Paper. Recently a prominent Conservative educational economist, Dr Kathleen Ollerenshaw, estimated that by 1980 expenditure would need to be in the region of £4,000m. a year to finance existing educational policies.

The White Paper's more up-to-date calculations are based on higher prices yet propose only an expenditure of £3,120m by 1980. Its talk of 'expansion' is therefore a total fraud.

In addition, the Tory Minister's Paper is silent on the reform of secondary education and the completion of its reorganization on comprehensive lines.

And the NUT 'deplores' the government's intention to reduce the rate of growth in higher education and actually cut the anticipated increase in the number of university places. This, says the union, coupled with the failure to begin the planning of a comprehensive system of higher education, is another 'serious flaw' in the White Paper.

## NUBE not safeguarded by registration

# City police clamp down on

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

UNIONS in the City of London say they may lose their right to organize because of a police threat to arrest three members of the National Union of Bank Employees for distributing leaflets in the street.

These fears arise out of an incident last Tuesday when NUBE members were prevented from campaigning at Bank and London Bridge underground stations.

The City of London police threatened to arrest the three under an 1839 law for giving out leaflets to office workers advertising a NUBE recruiting meeting in the City.

Terry Molloy, national organizer of NUBE, which is registered under the Industrial Relations Act, said that the decision was a serious blow to the union.

Unions like NUBE and the de-registered Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs have fought a bitter battle against City employers who are hostile to any trade union organization.

'We, of course, are not allowed to come onto City premises to carry out our work,' Mr Molloy said.

'If we distribute literature on the steps of a bank we are threatened with trespass so the normal method of spreading the word about the union has been in the street.

'If this avenue is now cut off—and it seems it has—we will have great difficulty in expanding the influence of the union.

### Others affected

'This does not just affect us, but other unions in the City like ASTMS,' he said.

Mr Molloy said that the men had originally been threatened with arrest under the 1839 Police Act, section 35. Later in the afternoon the union was told that an arrest could have been made under the 1867 Metropolitan Street Act, section 9. Later the police said an arrest could have been made under section 28 of this Act.

It has been the practice of the union to carry on this kind of recruiting activity for 50 years.



THE BANK OF ENGLAND

## bank union's recruiting campaign

Mr Molloy said that this was the first time the police had taken such action.

'We have been distributing leaflets outside the Bank of England for the past six or seven weeks without harassment. The police claim not to have seen us doing this,' he said.

The City Commissioner of Police can give permission for the distribution of literature or placards in the City, but apparently such permission has not been granted for the last 18 months to two years.

The move against the NUBE is ironic. It is a union which has gone out of its way to comply with the government's anti-trade union legislation. That does not appear to have protected it from the general anti-union attitudes that pervade the City—which is the home of capitalism, but also the area from which NUBE draws a substantial proportion of its membership.

Comments Mr Molloy: 'We are registered under the Industrial Relations Act and the government says this legislation assures people of the right to belong to a trade union. But this latest police move jeopardizes this right.

'We see it as an act of intimidation. Many people who work in the City would like to join a union, but are afraid of sticking their necks out. This threat may frighten them off.'

The tough police line is also a threat to other unions. ASTMS also uses this method of propaganda, though it relies more on adverts in the tube itself. One City organizer, Russell Miller, said that strictly speaking it was illegal to distribute literature in the City.

'It only needs an employer to pick up the phone and tell the police that a by-law is being broken for this to happen,' he said.

### Problems

'The fact that a union like NUBE that has registered under the Industrial Relations Act has been done this way shows the enormous problems that unions still de-registered and full members of the TUC face.'

NUBE has written to the City Police Commissioner asking for a clarification of the position. If this is unsatisfactory, the matter will probably be raised in parliament.

## Local council corruption increases

MORE local council work should be conducted 'in the public limelight' in order to combat increasing corruption, according to the 'New Law Journal'.

Corruption in local government is not new, says the journal, but there appears to have been a significant increase in the last two years.

'Not unnaturally' the journal continues, 'the areas most involved are the placing of contracts—local government capital expenditure in recent years has exceeded £2,000m a year—and in town and country planning.

'It is here most of all that the temptation for the backhand, for excessive hospitality or for bribery are most evident.'

Bribes, the journal points out, can range from the odd bottle of whisky at Christmas to

the bogus employment of council members or their wives as 'consultants' or 'advisers'.

The more invidious form of corrupting influence was where planning or redevelopment committees were composed largely of local builders, estate agents, valuers and others with vested interests in the passing of planning applications.

## Teesside teachers meet over sackings deadlock

A MASS meeting of Teesside teachers will be held tonight following the breakdown of talks aimed at settling their dispute with the local education authority.

Wednesday's five-hour talks between the National Association of Schoolmasters, the main union involved in the dispute, the Union of Women Teachers, the Teesside Education Authority and Department of Education officials failed to reach any agreement over guarantees of job security the teachers have been seeking.

Since last October NAS and UWT members have been working to contract in support of their demand for assurances of

job security following the education committee's move towards comprehensive secondary schools.

Altogether 158 teachers have now been sacked or suspended by the authority.

The talks broke down because the NAS insisted that all the dismissed as well as suspended teachers be reinstated. The authority, however, would not agree.

Tonight's meeting will be addressed by Terry Casey, NAS general secretary. He has said he thinks a government inquiry will now have to be held, but this was not necessarily dependent on

a return to work.

Casey also warned after the breakdown of Wednesday's talks that the education authority would not get the goodwill of his members, because of the 'capricious and invidious way' some of the teachers were being treated.

Teesside education committee chairman, Cllr Peter Fulton said the authority had been prepared to make 'massive concessions' in an attempt to 'get things back to normal', but the NAS had not been prepared to accept the terms.

## ...and City wants a tougher state pay plan

THE STOCK Exchange is cautiously awaiting the publication of Phase Two of Heath's state pay plan, which is expected next Wednesday or Thursday.

The market has been steady since the New Year as the government has manoeuvred towards publication of its White Paper.

Over the next few days share values are expected 'to move sideways' in anticipation of the new laws.

The 'City Press', the weekly newspaper of the City of London, reported yesterday: 'If Phase Two is weaker than expected, both gilts and equities would plunge down on revived galloping inflation fears.'

The editor, Richard Lamb, says that the lesson for Heath 'is that he must be absolutely tough not only in Phase Two, but in Phase Three and in any other phases which we may have'.

Lamb adds: 'So when the White Paper comes out next week, the Stock Exchange should remember the tougher it is on both prices and wages, the better it is for our economy and shares.'

'A rigid prices and wages freeze is the only possible economic policy for the government at this exciting moment.'

But when the City of London calls for state control over prices and wages, it means control over wages only.

There is not the slightest intention to hold down prices—even if it were possible in a capitalist economy. The meaning of the 'City Press' report is that the bankers and brokers are calling on Heath for the strongest possible legal controls on wages.

They want wages fixed by the state and enforced by the state. Indeed, what they want is the corporatist state in which the economic crisis of the capitalist class is resolved at the expense of the wages—and the standard of living—of ordinary wage-earners.

### SLL LECTURES

#### TODMORDEN

Monday January 22

'Stalinism'

Monday February 5

'Trotskyism'

THE WEAVERS' INSTITUTE, Burnley Road, 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 Westlithgate 7.30 p.m.



# Combine support grows for CAV sit-in

**SIT-IN STRIKERS** at CAV Fazakerley, Liverpool, heard yesterday that group factories in the south-east are resisting management pressure to produce blacked components.

Reporting back from a trip south, shop stewards said they had received pledges not to undermine the fight against closure on Merseyside.

This is now in its 14th week, and there are now definite signs that it is beginning to bite.

At the CAV complex in Acton, west London, the sit-in strikers were told, stewards say they will refuse to allow production

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

of diesel-pump components desperately needed by the Lucas combine, which owns CAV.

This could put the combine in severe trouble, since a new pump range intended to replace the Fazakerley product has been delayed. Lucas stands to lose both money and markets if it cannot finish its existing stocks.

In what appears to be a desperate bid to weaken the sit-in, management has now issued a new threat to the future of Lucas Industrial Equipment—a smaller factory on the same site as CAV.

LIE workers have been laid off for nine weeks by the stoppage of all supplies to the site.

If they are not back at work within the next two weeks, management now say, there is a possibility of permanent closure.

This was seen by many LIE workers yesterday as a crude splitting tactic.

Meanwhile at Simms Motor Units in Finchley, north London, 20 machine operators are on strike over pay.

The rest of the labour force is banning overtime in the

strikers' support.

It is estimated that the resulting shortage of components could close the factory—also part of the Lucas combine—by today or early next week.

The operators, who have been performing setting and maintenance operations for some years, now want to be paid setter-operators' rates.

Management agree that the men should have more money, but will not concede the principle that it should be paid as a skilled rate. It is also withholding payment because of the Tory pay-control law.

## Gasmen get staff backing

BY WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

WHITE-COLLAR workers in the gas industry yesterday pledged to back manual workers in their fight against the Tory ban on pay negotiations.

Union instructions were issued to staff grades in the North Thames and Eastern Gas Boards not to undertake work normally done by the manual workers, due to ban overtime and withdraw co-operation from next Wednesday.

Staff in other areas are expected to receive similar instructions shortly.

Yesterday's instructions went out from the south-east region of the Managerial, Administrative, Technical and Supervisory Association, the staff section of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

MATSA's regional officer, David Warburton, said he was confident his members would not prejudice their fellow-unionists' action by co-operating with management in either area.

'We are preparing a claim for staff grades and it is common sense for us to give support to the manual workers because the basic issue is the same', he said.

MATSA has 80 per cent of gas staffs employed in the central London area, which is likely to be one of the first areas to feel the effect of the manual workers' action.

Said Warburton: 'We will not tolerate any form of blacklegging either from contractors or anyone else'.

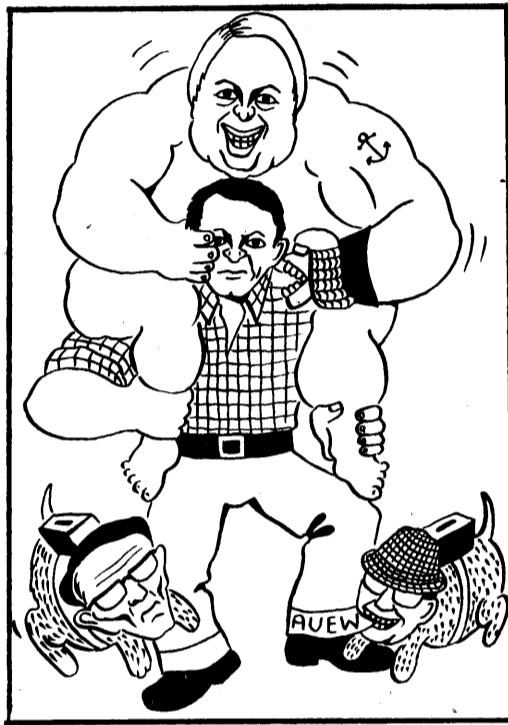
Members of the National Association of Local Government Officers in the North Thames area have indicated that they will pursue the same policy.

● Leaders of the G&MWU will be meeting in London today to discuss final plans for the overtime ban.

A spokesman said: 'They will talk about putting the overtime ban into effect and the possibility of further action if this ban is unsuccessful.'

'The safety of the consumers during the dispute will also be on the agenda.'

## 'With a little help from my friends'



Mr JAMES GOAD, whose attempts to gain admittance to the Sudbury branch of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW) led to the union being fined £55,000 by the National Industrial Relations Court, says he will not attend the branch meeting today because his wife is ill.

THREE HUNDRED workers at Chrysler Rootes Technical Centre, Whitley, Coventry, have won the reinstatement of a shop steward after a three-day strike.

They return to work today with their senior shop steward Alan Brown, who had been suspended 'indefinitely' on Tuesday.

The factory walked out on strike at 3 p.m. on Tuesday in support of the sheet metal workers who had already struck

work from 11 a.m.—the time Brown was suspended over a wages demand.

Brown, a member of the National Sheet Metal Workers' Union, told Workers Press that the management had now agreed to lift the suspension completely and to pay the sheet metal workers and himself wages for the period when they were on strike alone, before the rest of the factory came out.

## 'Mini-TUC' moves

MOVES are being made to form a new organization of over 200 unions registered under the Industrial Relations Act which would claim a seat at the government's prices and wages talks.

Behind the idea is the Coventry-based Union of Sales, Technical Representatives and Agents, who are inviting all registered unions to a conference, probably in the Midlands.

Jack Ogden, union general secretary, suggested that the new organization should be known as the Federation of Registered Trade Unions (Fortune), and declared: 'We are claiming a seat at Downing Street.'

He said he had unsuccessfully asked to be heard at yesterday's Downing Street talks.

## Slater makes a plea for capitalism

JIM SLATER'S plea for a more 'socially responsible' capitalism must go down as an attempt at a public-relations job for the government.

The chairman of Slater Walker securities—the other, half, Peter Walker, is now head of the Department of Trade and Industry and cannot be part of the firm—has called on employers to investigate the 'monotony of work' and 'excessive heat and noise levels'.

Capitalism's image is getting worse, writes Slater in today's issue of 'Investors' Journal', which has named him 'Man of the Year'.

If 'critical industries' were

allowed to die, he added, thousands of people would be unemployed.

This fact and many other things were bringing the system into disrepute. And unless something was done about it, 'capitalism as it is now won't survive,' says the head of one of Britain's most powerful investment and industrial conglomerates.

How to make capitalism your friendly, happiness system? It had to be made 'socially responsible'. Legislation had to 'control carefully what is acceptable in the making of money,' says Slater.

His massive Slater Walker Securities empire is worth £150m.

## Jones' rush

JACK JONES had a busy day yesterday. Before rushing to see Edward Heath at Downing Street he had to speak to businessmen at an American Chamber of Commerce lunch at the Savoy Hotel.

The transport union chief told the cigar-smoking, wine-drinking audience that 'it is in the interests of the working people of Britain to encourage US investment'. It could fill the 'vacuum' created by Common Market entry and the loss of 'job opportunities'.

He told the businessmen to press the Tories to get the anti-union laws 'out of our hair', and to 'drop the legislation, to bury it'.

One of those on the guest list was Tom Barclay, managing director of Fine Tubes, the US-owned company which in June 1970 sacked all its workers who went on strike. Over 35 of Jones' members are still fighting for reinstatement.

Walter H. Smith, introducing Jones, said the T&GWU leader and Lord Aldington had 'unquestionably averted chaos in the docks and rendered a great service to British exports'. What better tribute can you get?

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Socialist Labour League North West Rally

**FORCE THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!**

**BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY!**

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

'RIGHT TO WORK' FILM

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)

## Big 'buy-off' in dockland

THE Jones - Aldington report has already come close to achieving a 16-per cent cut in the docks labour force inside six months.

Latest figures for the special severance scheme offered by the report show that 5,000 men have left the industry since the scheme began last September.

And 1,700 applications to leave are still being processed.

The scheme still has three weeks to run—and officials of the National Dock Labour Board expect a final rush of further applications just before the

February 4 deadline.

The board has until the end of next month to pay men off. Many men are expected, therefore, to wait until the last minute before finally making up their minds to go.

As a spokesman for the National Ports Council commented only half-jokingly yesterday: 'At this rate, we won't have an industry left at all soon.'

It is now estimated that the cost of the government's contribution to the severance scheme has already reached £25m.

The original cost estimate, given at the time of publication of the Jones-

Aldington report last July, was £8m.

Only about 250 new jobs have been found for dockers at container depots, while the rate of closures and reallocations on the quayside has accelerated.

LIVERPOOL dockers must be made to work 24 hours a day, seven days a week if the port is to survive in the Common Market, warns Dr Tony Brautenaar, a director of Rotterdam container terminal.

BERMONDSEY Cold Store, south London, faces a strike by its six registered dockers from January 21.

## White-washing price rises

FROM PAGE 1

an elaborate explanation for this conclusion.

The fact is that under the Common Agricultural Policy of the EEC, Britain would find it at first very difficult and after 1978 impossible to get permission

to control exports.

The report—described by Europe's biggest meat trader as a 'political gimmick'—is a monumental white-wash.

Its only real conclusion is that prices will stay high and housewives must suffer (they can 'choose' chicken

—this is called 'housewife power').

As the Press left, the BBC man shook his head sadly:

'I still don't know who benefits from rising meat prices—an attitude shared by all.