

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1973 ● No 997 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

'THE TIMES' SPELLS IT OUT

SUBMIT

BY THE EDITOR

AS WORLD bankers wrestled yesterday with the crisis caused by the catastrophic devaluation of the dollar, the Tory government made new preparations for a decisive showdown with the working class. 'The Times' made the issues quite clear.

'The British trade union movement is in the most dangerous situation it has occupied since the General Strike 47 years ago,' it warned in a leading article.

When 'The Times' speaks the Tory government speaks.

Heath and his Ministers are treating the battle with the unions over the state pay laws as crucial to their survival. They will either beat the working class or be beaten. The question of power is posed.

But to imitate 'The Times' and compare today's situation with 1926 in a mechanical way would be dangerous and wrong. The world situation is entirely different.

The international capitalist system is gripped by the emergence of the worst economic crisis of its history. Monetary relations have broken down. Monday's devaluation of the dollar, forced on the rest of the world by Washington will mean trade war as the Americans exploit their competitive advantage.

The capitalist anarchy unleashed across the world can only have one possible end—international recession and the destruction of capital in the form of closures and mass unemployment.

The days of bolstering up the economy with inflation and fictitious value are over. The capitalist rulers of the world are called upon to wipe out the advances made by the working class in all the major industrial nations.

Workers in Britain have already tasted the new medicine. The rise in the cost of living is endless. During the first three months of the so-called 'freeze' living standards plunged as prices rose a record 6 to 7 per cent and worse is to come.

The Tories are the architects of this enforced poverty. They floated the pound last June and, as 'The Times' said yesterday, 'a floating pound which floats consistently downwards is itself a great accelerator of an inflationary process'.

This government-inspired inflation will continue. Yesterday sterling took a battering on the exchanges and lost more value against its main European rivals.

These are the crisis conditions that lie behind the battle spreading in British industry today.

There can be no illusions. The Tories cannot change their course. Heath and the cabinet know they must destroy every democratic right the working class has won or suffer a historic political defeat at the hands of the masses.

The task facing the working class is therefore a revolutionary one—something even 'The Times' is aware of.

It warns: '... though there may be a few revolutionaries in the trade union movement, there is no organization in the country less capable of revolution than the trade union movement.'

Unwittingly the paper of the British ruling class has exposed the key to the situation—leadership.

The men who head the unions today are totally incapable of defending even the most modest demands of their members—let alone defeating

the government in class battle. Equally the Labour Party leaders shrink from conflict and leave the political arena wide open for the Tories.

But this cowardice and servility serves only to re-emphasize the task of the hour—the construction of a revolutionary party to lead the workers in battle. For let there be no mistake, the working class has the power to deal the Tory braggarts a fatal political blow.

'The Times' identified the main issue as one of power when its leader warned the unions that a General Strike situation 'could well create a situation which required a General Election to resolve it.'

This is direct confirmation of Workers Press warnings that a snap election, in the midst of an industrial confrontation fired by a false red scare campaign inspired by the secret police, is a serious possibility.

'The Times' is telling the unions 'submit or prepare for a political battle for power'.

The enemies of the masses include the Stalinists of the Communist Party. Their main aim, like the reformists, is to hide political reality and disarm the working class at a time when it must fight for its life.

But despite confusion and treachery the conditions are emerging for the development of a massive revolutionary movement within the working class.

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Meanwhile, ordinary workers have been transformed into criminals and lawbreakers for demanding wages beyond the pittance decreed by Tory millionaires.

But the working class will not lie down. It can and will meet the political challenge of the hour and make the smart leader writers of 'The Times' eat their words.

Already the Socialist Labour League is preparing for the largest mobilization against the Tory government since it was elected.

The manifesto drawn up by the SLL Central Committee, published in the Workers Press on February 3, is now being circulated throughout the labour movement for discussion.

This contains the programme for political action for the entire working class.

● The repeal of the anti-union laws to restore to trade unionists their hard-won rights.

● Full employment for all and an end to all closures by the nationalization of industry, commerce and the banks without compensation under workers' control.

● An end to the battery of legal repression being prepared by Tory changes in the laws and the disbandment of the secret police who work against trade unionists.

● A completely free health service and a massive increase in NHS expenditure.

● The repeal of the Housing Finance Act and a crash programme of house building.

● Withdrawing all troops from abroad, including Northern Ireland, and the disbandment of the standing army, navy and air force.

This is the programme the SLL puts forward to unite all workers in action to bring the government down.

This would allow the election of a Labour government. The demand would then go out to the Labour leaders to legislate the programme or clear the way from those who would.

It is not enough simply to talk of programmes. The preparations for the launching of the revolutionary party to carry forward the initiative are already afoot.

The decisive campaign is for the mass Pageant of workers' rights at Empire Pool Wembley on March 11.

This will be the opportunity for all workers to demonstrate their revolutionary determination to beat the Tories for good.



As the High Court order against the Briant Colour occupation ran out yesterday, 2,000 workers from different parts of Britain rallied to their support. ● See p.12.

Unite in action to defend basic rights

SLL
PUBLIC
MEETINGS

CLAPHAM

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14
8 p.m.

Library, South Island Place
Stockwell, SW9

Speaker: M. BANDA
(SLL Central Committee)

MIDDLETON

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 14
8 p.m.

Middleton Baths, Middleton
Manchester

Speaker: G. HEALY
(SLL national secretary)

JARROW

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 18
7 p.m.

Civic Centre, Jarrow

Speaker: G. HEALY
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GASMEN face 'explosion' propaganda

Behind the Tory

BY ROY BULL OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE PROPAGANDA onslaught against the gasmen, whose official industrial action started at midnight, continued in the capitalist Press and elsewhere yesterday.

The 'Sun' newspaper switched to a 'Gas wild men' theme following its 'Gasmen's roulette' of the previous day. And another do-gooding middle-class group, the National Consumer Protection Council, joined the attack.

'We are extremely concerned,' said the NCPC, 'that the gasmen seem to be knowingly putting consumers' lives at risk and we ask them to consider whether any situation justifies a risk to life.' The campaign of intimidation against the gasworkers, who are launching a campaign of selective strikes, works-to-rule, and overtime bans, is in the tradition of propaganda stunts against men on strike. The purpose is to stampede the middle class into all-out support of the government and the authorities.

'The Times' editorial yesterday revealed exactly why this is now more than ever necessary. The capitalist class and the working class are heading for a revolutionary confrontation. It is essential for the government to have professional people and the middle class behind them if they are to deal a decisive defeat to the working class in this challenge to the rule of capitalism.

The Tories' need is to drive those sections of workers which go on strike against their pay laws back to work without any concessions. The government must break the growing strike movement at all costs.

Minister for Industry Mr Tom Boardman made clear the government's determination not to have the drive to reduce Britain's labour costs held up as it was by last year's miners' strike. There will be no repetition of the Wilberforce court of inquiry which got the government off the hook after its wage restraint policy had been defeated by the miners.

The government must defeat this wages movement or it will not survive the sharpening competition in the capitalist world markets.

The government is now fully geared up to use every tactic against the strike movement—emergency powers, court fines, imprisonment, police intimidation and a massive propaganda offensive.

Boardman's touching concern for the suffering of old people during the gas dispute was part of this campaign, as was his statement that despite all the gas union's efforts, the danger of explosions was bound to increase. With some satisfaction, Boardman commended the Press and the media for getting across the message of danger.

This campaign recalls the sickening efforts of the Press two

witch-hunt



The chairman of the Gas Corporation, Arthur Hetherington (left) with the deputy chairman, Dennis Rookes at yesterday's Press conference.

years ago to incite their readers against the electricity power station workers with horror stories of hospital patients in peril because of power cuts which stopped heart machines and the like.

The same attempts at intimidation were made during last year's pit strike. But the authorities got a big surprise on this occasion. Popular sentiment was

with the miners all the way.

One of the reasons for this was the decisiveness of the miners' actions, swarming round the country in specially hired transport and marching 500 strong into completely new territory to stop power stations from working.

The middle class, which suffers just as much from the disintegration of the capitalist system as does the working class, will

take a lead from the trade unions, provided their actions are determined and comprehensive enough.

This is where David Basnett and John Edmonds, the G&MWU leaders, are showing alarming weakness. With their members now out in front and in an exposed position, these leaders are spending 100 per cent of their time making nice with Boardman and the liberal do-

Definitely
no more money
—gas chiefs

GAS CORPORATION chiefs yesterday tried to shrug off all responsibility for the pay dispute in the industry. Under Phase Two, of the Tories' state pay control, the Corporation could only redivide its existing £2.24 offer, claimed chairman Arthur Hetherington.

Some adjustment of the differentials between grades might be possible when the government guidelines were published shortly. But there could be no increase in the overall money offer, he said.

Hetherington disclaimed responsibility for the safety situation in the industry after midnight last night.

There could be a serious situation as far as the risk of explosions was concerned, he claimed.

But the corporation chairman disappointed the witch-hunters by stating he believed the unions were trying to maintain as safe conditions as were possible.

Neither Hetherington nor his industrial relations director, Brian Worsfold, would comment on the yawning gap between workers' wages in the gas industry and in electricity supply. 'We have our own separate negotiations', Worsfold explained.

gooders instead of making sure the strike is effective.

While 'The Times' and the Minister are making it crystal clear that a total defeat of the gasmen is all they are interested in, Basnett is expressing his 'disappointment' that the government is not offering to discuss the gasmen's case on its merits at a court of inquiry or similar hearing!

Left victory would mean
a clash with Pompidou

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

ELECTION of a left majority in the French National Assembly is now almost certain to precipitate a major constitutional and political crisis.

Regardless of the result, President Pompidou has made it clear he will not call on a premier from the Union of the Left, even if this coalition of Communist, Socialist and Radical Parties wins a majority in the March election.

Under the 1958 constitution which established the Fifth Republic, he is well within his rights. This constitution is thoroughly Bonapartist and allows the President to act as supreme arbiter of the national interest.

The Union of the Left is committed to a very moderate programme of reforms (the Common Programme) including the nationalization of 1 per cent of French industry, retirement at

60 and a (modest) minimum wage.

Both the Socialist and the Stalinist leaders are laying heavy stress on their adherence to the constitution and the peaceful, parliamentary character of their ambitions.

Faced with a ruling class blatantly preparing for civil war in the event of a left victory the Popular Front chiefs are appealing to Pompidou's sense of fair

play and to his respect for the people's sovereignty.

CP leader Georges Marchais has said: 'We are opposed to a President of the Republic who decides everything, on his own and for everybody.'

'But that does not mean that we will reduce the President's role to the opening of flower shows.'

In Marchais' TV debate with the Gaullist leader Michel Debré on Monday, he said: 'The people have the right to decide in March for a new policy. They were tricked in 1969. Promises were made which were not kept.'

'The French people who were betrayed in 1969, who have watched prices rise and unemployment spread have the right to say: this must change.'

But it was the Stalinists above all who played the crucial part in bringing this about. They diverted the working class behind the 1969 presidential election and ensured the continuation of the Bonapartist regime.

The CP—Socialist alliance does not intend fighting French capitalism or defeating Gaullism.

The leaders of this new-style Popular Front have made clear repeatedly they will try to restrain the working class and prevent them going beyond the bounds of the Common Programme.

However, it is precisely the fear of the independent strength of the working class that lies behind Pompidou's declaration.

He said in his recent TV broadcast:

'May 1968s [General Strike] are never averted for ever, no matter what people think.'

Pompidou is deliberately raising the red bogey to frighten the middle class. But behind the stock anti-communist rhetoric is the preparation for war with the working class.

The situation will be greatly intensified by the dollar devaluation and the resulting setback to the French capitalist economy.

Soviet Minister off to Spain

BY JUAN GARCIA

THE FRANCO government has revealed that for the first time in history a Soviet Minister will visit Spain.

This weekend, Alexander Ishkove, Soviet Minister for Fishing will inspect the Soviet fishing fleet base in Puerto de la Luz, Canary Islands.

The Soviet delegation will then fly to Madrid where Ishkove will have talks with the under-secretary of the Merchant Navy, Admiral Boado, and the head of the Spanish fishing industry, Fernando Marsilach.

This new measure of Moscow support for the Franco regime is consistent with the establishment of political relations between Madrid and the East German government.

It is a conscious blow against the Spanish workers' and students' opposition to the fascist police state.

While the Soviet Minister gets a Canary Islands sun tan, first-year philosophy student, Maria Luisa Trenas Fargas will stay in a Barcelona hospital with a fractured pelvis and serious brain damage.

She was run down by a police jeep during clashes on Monday between riot police and 1,000 students on an illegal demonstration against the closure of the university faculties.

The Moscow-Madrid collaboration is deepening the crisis within the Spanish Communist Party whose members suffer the full impact of fascist repression.

The leadership under secretary Santiago Carrillo had already accepted the

Soviet trade pact with Spain as a question of political 'realism'.

But the latest issue of 'Mundo Obrero', the Party's fortnightly paper, carries a page-long Executive Committee statement condemning East Germany's diplomatic moves.

The EC recalls:

- Thousands of German communists died fighting the fascists as part of the Thaelmann battalion in the International Brigades.

- Franco received full support from Hitler. 'After the defeat, Franco sent the Blue Division in the belligerent Nazi-fascist aggression against the Soviet Union.'

- 'We Spanish revolutionaries have had to rebuild our forces in conditions of unrivalled terror. This Hitlerite basis of the power of

Franco is not just a question of past history.'

The statement points out how the East Germans did not even inform or consult Carrillo about their decision.

Also, the success of fascist Foreign Minister Lopez Bravo's policy of opening up to the east strengthens the Franco regime 'while Carrero Blanco and his clique intensify repression, using methods from the blackest period of fascism'.

This unprecedented attack from the Carrillo leadership reflects increased rank-and-file anger.

At the same time, it strives to cover up the real reasons for the betrayal by claiming that it is the 'wrong application of the policy of peaceful co-existence'.

Proper peaceful co-existence should be orientated

to the 'democratic' states in the Common Market.

The Carrillo leadership refuses to speak about its civil war role. It linked with the international Stalinist attack on the Trotskyist movement as 'agents of fascism'.

The murder of Andres Nin and other POUMists who had had relations with Trotsky were the fruit of Stalin's desire for an alliance with 'democratic' imperialism.

It is the privileged bureaucratic caste in the Soviet Union which now, together with, its eastern European satellites, seeks to join with Franco and capital throughout Europe against the working class.

The British 'Morning Star' continues to maintain its silence on the plot against Spanish workers and the destruction of the Spanish CP as part of peaceful co-existence today.

Pay queue restive

BY DAVID MAUDE
LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE GASWORKERS' fight against state pay control became official from midnight last night.

A special sub-committee of the General and Municipal Workers' Union executive yesterday endorsed proposals for strikes, working-to-rule and withdrawal of co-operation to press the 47,000 gasworkers' claim for a £5.50 pay increase.

Two hundred and fifty thousand CIVIL SERVANTS yesterday continued their overtime ban against Phase Two of the pay-control laws, now being discussed by a Commons standing committee.

And yesterday afternoon, the National Union of TEACHERS announced the names of 120 London schools where teachers will begin a three-day strike against the laws next Tuesday.

The leaders of the six POST OFFICE unions will go to the Department of Employment today to offer the Tories a deal over their £5 across-the-board pay claim.

The deal involves acceptance of Phase Two, in return for a 'fairer' Phase Three.

Tom Jackson, Union of Post Office Workers' general secretary, hopes his members will be satisfied with a £2 Phase Two deal.

Talks are to be held on Friday in a bid to settle British Road Services' dispute with its 1,000 MIDLANDS DRIVERS over heavy goods vehicle licences. (See page 11.)

DOCKS union leaders in London have promised to reply today to a £2.60 pay offer, which the employers say is the maximum allowed under Phase Two.

A meeting of dockers' delegates last night was expected to reject the offer out of hand. The men's original claim was £5—£2.60 is an increase of only 4p on the employers' previous offer.

This claim affects 7,700 men in London's enclosed docks, but altogether there are more than 20,000 dockers caught in the freeze nationally.

In Liverpool there has still been no move to reopen talks on a big pay-and-hours claim blocked last November.

A PRINT pay settlement agreed last week is to be investigated by the Department of Employment.

Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan has told the Commons standing committee on the Counter-Inflation Bill that if a 20p to £1 increase to clerical workers infringed the government's standstill he would act on it.

The clerical workers involved are members of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel.

● Gas witch-hunt, p. 12.

PAGEANT DIARY

The Road to Workers Power



Worker-actors add

own touches to plays

MERTHYR
and JARROW

IN MERTHYR TYDFIL we have embarked on the second week of rehearsals of the Taff Vale episode in the history of the working class—and it's three weeks to go to the Empire Pool Pageant.

We are already able to work on 'crowd scenes' and to try out movements of pickets and their families as they repulse the blacklegs brought from London to end the strike by the Taff Vale railmen.

We are also experimenting with more detailed improvisa-

tions, such as making up scenes. We have found much material we can add to the script—such as the possibility of the strikers working 'patches' on the hills. These were pits dug into seams of coal near the surface. The husband would work at these in the night after being covered over by his wife.

We're also working local colour and jokes into the script.

For instance, we have one picket saying to another while

awaiting the blackleg train from London that perhaps he should first put on an English accent and cadge a couple of Woodies... before booting them back to London.

Our local Pageant committee has become an essential weapon for the development of the work. The fight that they are putting up has given us enormous confidence for the outcome of the Pageant.

Among older trade unionists

there is a great response to the questions of history that are raised. Many have dropped into rehearsals, but so far the acting is mainly left up to the younger workers.

However, we need their experience for such parts as James Holmes, South Wales organizer of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, who, a year before the Taff Vale strike, proposed the building of the Labour Party at the TUC.

During this week we'll have them taking the floor.

Rockware pickets stop staff scabbing



THE ROCKWARE glass workers at Greenford in Middlesex yesterday held a 24-hour strike in protest against the threatened closure of their works.

Pickets were on the gate (above) to persuade the white-collar staff not to work.

Meanwhile a strong delegation of Rockware men went to the Old Kent Road in South London to join

the Briant Colour Printing rally and march on parliament (see p. 12).

The family-owned Rockware group has announced its intention to close the factory in January 1973 and dismiss the 900-strong work force.

The Rockware co-ordinating committee have been considering an occupation along the lines of Briant Colour.

Six charges dropped in Dublin spy case

ENGLISHMAN John Wyman and Irish police officer Patrick Crinnion were acquitted of six charges under the Official Secrets Act yesterday by a Dublin court.

But both men were remanded in custody until February 26 when

they will face a further four summary counts under the Secrets Act.

Wyman (36), an MI5 agent of Swan Walk, Chelsea, and Crinnion (38), of Rathmore Avenue, Dublin, were acquitted because the state would not produce official documents in court.

Second rates delegation beats path to No 10

TWELVE delegates from the Association of Municipal Corporations yesterday pleaded with Edward Heath not to impose the new rates revaluation.

The delegates were representing the London boroughs, county councils, rural and urban district councils.

Last Friday the Labour leaders of six main cities—Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Bristol and Sheffield—also beat a path to No. 10 Downing Street on a similar mission.

They were told by Heath and Environment Secretary Mr Geoffrey Rippon that no firm commitment could be

made. But both promised to look into the matter.

This was enough for William Sefton, leader of Liverpool's Labour group, to declare that the talks had been 'successful' and Heath had been 'sympathetic'.

In the Commons on Monday, Mr Phillip Whitehead, the Labour

MP for Derby, asked the government to intervene to stop the massive increases in rates.

'If the government wishes to make any kind of gesture, it must surely intervene on the rates front at once and either postpone the revaluation, or at least mitigate its consequences for the cities.'

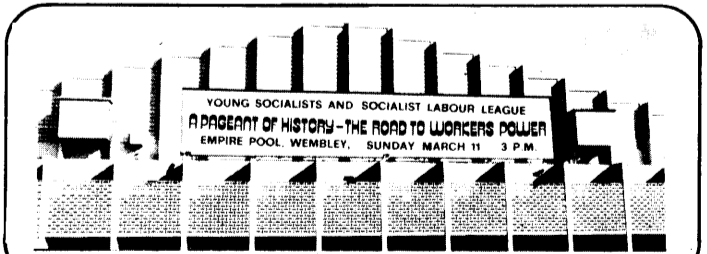
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NEW REGULATIONS—A 'SLAVE'S CHARTER'

The Greater London Council's sludgeboatmen call the new Tory Merchant Shipping Disciplinary Regulations a 'slave's charter'.

Until January 1 the crews had been working under barge articles signed with ships' masters and including a code of discipline which applied to officers and men.

But since the sludgeboats sail outside Britain's sea limits, they are legally ocean-going and therefore within the compass of the new regulations.

On January 1 the Tory-controlled GLC decided to apply the regulations to the sludgemen for the first time, thus exposing them to the chill blast of its savage penal clauses—which they reject.

Crews of Post Office cable ships and fishermen are exempt and the sludgemen want to be similarly excluded. Whatever the views of the GLC, the new regulations are law and they are bound to apply them.

But the government will not want to give way unless they can avoid it. The National Union of Seamen want the regulations withdrawn entirely and substantial sections of the Merchant Shipping Act 1970 repealed.

As an interim measure, they have been pressing for the ex-

emption of Britain's small home ships and the NUS would seize on a concession to the sludgemen as a useful precedent.

Meanwhile the dispute between the GLC and the sludgemen is deadlocked. They are willing to work without articles, but the GLC is adamant they can only work under the new regulations.

For five weeks the sludgemen have been locked out without pay and without official union backing. The men belong to the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Public Employees.

Last week after the T&GWU refused to make the dispute official the sludgemen said they would not allow the union's officials to represent them again.

In a bitter statement they said: 'The GLC has locked us out. The T&GWU won't pay us any lock-out pay. The bloody Social Security are trying hard to give us no benefit. They are all trying to starve us into submission. They will not succeed. We will not sign those articles.'

The Merchant Shipping Act of 1970 emerged from the report of Lord Pearson after the seamen's 1966 strike.

In framing their disciplinary regulations the Tories stuck closely to Pearson's recommendations which hinged,

broadly speaking, on the view that more discipline meant more safety.

The NUS disputes this. And it wants all matters of discipline dealt with by industrial committees ashore.

It wants the regulations which give judge and jury powers to ships' masters withdrawn and the repeal of sections 28, 29, 30 and 31 of the Merchant Shipping Act.

These lay down £50 fines for seamen drunk on duty or wilfully disobeying a command. For persistent disobedience the fine is £100 and the fine is the same for absence without leave.

The regulations are complementary to the statutory offences embodied in the Merchant Shipping Act.

According to NUS sponsored Kingston upon Hull Labour MP Mr John Prescott:

'This means that a seaman can face a criminal trial and a fine of £100 for a range of offences embodied in the regulations.'

Mr Prescott objects most strongly to the fact that a ship's captain assesses an offence, decides the penalties and in certain cases has the power to deduct up to £50 from wages he controls.

Said Mr Prescott: 'The regulations give powers to a captain, who is the offended party, to be judge, jury and assessor.'

And he added that a captain does not have to prove what he says about a seaman's conduct, but merely has to allege it. A seaman can appeal to a marine superintendent, but he is invariably an ex-master.

Mr Prescott quarrels with the regulation's categorization of offences, particularly what is and what is not a lawful command. He told the House of Commons on January 30:

'There was a steward who ordered a steak for an officer who had asked that it be cooked rare. It was well done. The man was fined and logged for disobeying an order. That punishment could not be overruled. The trade union could do nothing about it.'

'Another seaman was given a mattress which was four inches wider than the bunk. The captain ordered that the bunk board must be used. That meant that the mattress had to be bent and the man could not sleep at night. The master came down and found the bunk board out and fined that seaman for every time he discovered this.'

Other sections of the regulations call for fines of up to £5 for men who fall asleep on duty.

But, says Mr Prescott, should a steward who falls asleep waiting for his bell for coffee to ring be fined the

Above: the Greater London Council's sludgeboatmen demonstrate against new regulations and pay. The dispute is deadlocked.

same as the man who dozes at the wheel?

Mr Prescott went on: 'Should a union convenor and members of the crew get together, they are liable to a conspiracy charge. Under these regulations they will be conspiring to commit a criminal act—disobedience of a legal command.'

The effect of the regulations has already been felt and seen most graphically in the flying home of 200 members of the crew of 'Ocean Monarch' from Australia after they had demanded better conditions.

Mr Prescott argued that it is nonsense to suggest more discipline equals greater safety.

And he stresses that while the Tories are making so much fuss over the safety benefits of discipline, they refuse to legislate for the safety of access of seamen aboard ship and to prevent undermanning which, on occasions, has turned out to be lethal.

There is considerable suspicion among seamen that the regulations recommended substantially by the Pearson inquiry have much more to do with destroying shipboard militancy than with safety.

KGB TRIES WIPING OUT THE OPPOSITION IN LITHUANIA

The recent issue of the underground journal 'Chronicle of Current Events', published by the opposition in the Soviet Union, contains a report on the demonstrations which took place in Kaunas, Lithuania, last spring.

On May 14, 1972 a Lithuanian student, Roman Kalanta, went into one of the main squares of Kaunas, poured petrol over himself and then set fire to his clothes. He died in hospital a few hours later with KGB at his bedside.

Battle

The report in the 'Chronicle' says that Kalanta distributed some notes explaining his gesture. On May 18, the date of his funeral, a large number of people joined the cortège, but the hearse swept off to the cemetery and he was buried before it arrived.

The crowd then went to the local park shouting 'Freedom for Lithuania'. A number of demonstrators were arrested and the crowd then went to the local Party offices and demanded their release. When it tried to reach the KGB headquarters its way was barred by a strong force of militia and police and a pitched battle broke out.

Photographed

Kaunas was in ferment for several days before the militia was able to clear the streets and re-establish order. On May 19 troops went into action with rubber truncheons against a big crowd of demonstrators and made about 400 arrests. Many were taken to a museum in a fortress which had been used by the Gestapo during the Nazi Occupation.

Most of those arrested were released after questioning, but some were beaten up before being released. A certain number were condemned to 15 days in jail. KGB men had taken photographs of the events and some participants found themselves called in for questioning weeks or even months after the events.

A local paper, 'Sovietskaya Litva' on October 5 published a report of a trial in which eight people arrested during the riots, young workers and students, were sentenced to various periods in labour camps and jails, the longest being for three years.

Nationalist

The movement in Lithuania is mainly nationalist in character and is a response to the policy of Russification pursued for many years by the bureaucracy. It is also connected with religious persecution: the Catholic Church has a considerable hold on certain sections of the population.

The KGB has been making a concerted drive to wipe out the opposition and particularly to prevent the appearance of the 'Chronicle of Current Events'. The issue from which this report comes was dated October 15, 1972.



COLLABORATION ALL DOWN THE LINE

BY JOHN SPENCER

The Soviet Stalinists have launched a campaign to draw members of parliament from all over Europe into a dialogue supposedly aimed at strengthening peace in the continent.

They are supporting the 'useful initiative' of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in holding a conference at Helsinki, Finland, to coincide with the preparatory European Security talks there.

(The Inter-Parliamentary Union, founded in 1889, devotes itself to 'work on all questions connected with peace and reconstruction'. The president of its British group, according to 'Whittaker's Almanac' is The Rt Hon

E. R. G. Heath and its vice-presidents are The Rt Hon Sir Alec Douglas-Home, KT, MP; The Rt Hon J. H. Wilson, OBE, MP; The Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, KG, PC, CH and the Rt Hon R. M. M. Stewart, CH, MP.)

This body, according to Alexei Shitikov, chairman of the USSR parliamentary group, 'provides a meeting place for parliamentarians of the socialist and capitalist countries of Europe'.

He adds that 'in the opinion of Soviet MPs—who, as is well known, have no opinions of their own—the differences in social systems between European countries cannot and must not interfere with a dialogue between MPs, especially when, as in this case, it is a question of strengthening peace in Europe'.

According to this Stalinist 'parliamentarian,' the parlia-

ments of Europe have 'a great responsibility for ensuring that full use is made of the favourable opportunities which are opening up for the establishment of firm and lasting peace in Europe'.

Lenin, a lifelong opponent of what he scathingly termed 'parliamentary cretinism' would have poured particular scorn on this extension of reformism to the international plane.

He wrote in 'State and Revolution': 'To decide once every few years which member of the ruling class is to repress and crush the people through parliament—this is the real essence of bourgeois parliamentarism, not only in parliamentary - constitutional monarchies, but also in the most democratic republics'.

The essence, then, of Shitikov's proposal is the collaboration of Soviet parliamen-

Above: President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Heath, and vice-presidents, Wilson and Alec Douglas-Home.

tarians—who falsely claim to represent the interests of the working class—with members of the capitalist class elected to repress and crush the people through parliament!

All this masquerades as part of an effort to 'strengthen peace'. As if there can be any 'firm and lasting peace' in Europe or anywhere else so long as imperialism in mortal crisis continues to dominate the majority of the world's population.

Shitikov's article is nothing more than a cynical apology for international class-collaboration between the Stalinist bureaucracy, the monopoly capitalists of the Common Market and the fascist and semi-fascist dictators of Spain, Portugal and Greece.

Not only the parliamentarians can play their part in this Stalinist scheme. Shitikov continues:

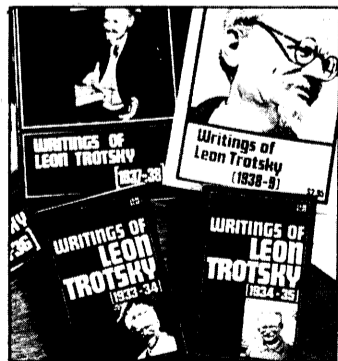
'When it comes to strengthening security and peace, the governments, the diplomats, public figures and the mass organizations can act, each in their own sphere of competence and responsibility, supplementing one another's efforts, to create a new kind of situation, a new climate in Europe.'

This is a campaign which in Britain involves the Tory government, its Foreign Office functionaries, nameless public figures (readers can name their own candidates) and the mass organizations (the trade unions, the Tory Party?) each in their own sphere.

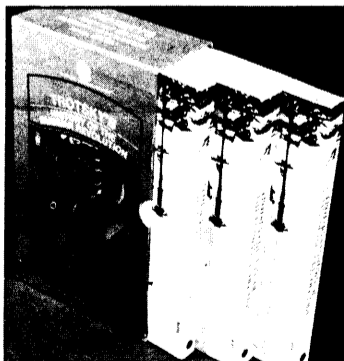
And Shitikov adds for good measure that: 'In this case there can be no question of opposing the efforts of one side to those of another.' In other words, it is collaboration all down the line . . . The only thing missing from the whole of Shitikov's exposition is any mention of the working class.

Plainly the Stalinist bureaucracy considers that the working class has no independent role in Europe. It is quite adequately represented, after all, by its 'own' parliamentarians. That is, if there is any parliament at all.

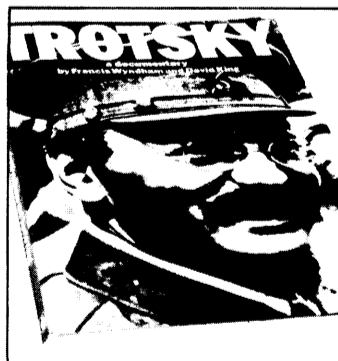
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THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT JAILS SOCIALISTS

This is the first of a regular series of special reports Workers Press will publish from Italy—a country torn by major class upheavals. They are supplied by journalists of the Italian socialist daily 'Lotta Continua' (Continuous Struggle), the newspaper of the group of the same name. This first despatch describes the new wave of repression sweeping Italy and gives more evidence of the collusion of the police, the judiciary and the employers in pro-fascist violence. The criminal class-collaboration of the Italian Communist Party is also exposed.

Guido Viale (30), national leader of the Italian revolutionary communist organization Lotta Con-

tinua, and one of the most intelligent and authoritative leaders and theoreticians of the 1968

student movement, was arrested on January 27 in Turin, after a demonstration during which the police fired at demonstrators, wounding five of them.

Viale, along with the other nine arrested, has been accused of 'attempted murder'.

In the week after his arrest many other revolutionary militants were held by the police throughout Italy. Summonses have been taken out against them and their organizations for the most trivial of reasons.

In this same period, characterized by the most brutal police repression witnessed in Italy since the revolt of workers against the extreme right-wing government of Tambroni in July 1960, the police of Andreotti's centre-right government, who gave protection in their thousands to the

congress of the fascist MSI in Rome in January, have fired repeatedly on workers and students.

One student, Roberto Franceschi (21), was killed by an agent of the bourgeoisie on January 24 during an attack by the police on a group of demonstrators outside the Bocconi university in Milan. A worker was also shot through the lung.

Most of the murdered people were shot in the back and the bulk of the injuries were sustained when protesters fled from the savage police attack.

CRITICAL

The forces of repression are acting under direct instruction of the Minister of Interior, Mariano Rumor—the premier during the 1969 state of emergency when Italy was faced with a wave of labour unrest.

These murderous attacks come at an extremely critical

time for the Italian employers. Not a day goes by without strikes, demonstrations and picketing by workers against the employers' bid to gain ground in the current battle over the renewal of wage contracts.

As ever this movement is led by the Fiat employees, the spearhead of the Italian labour movement. But unrest is widespread in many factories and among workers in the south.

In this struggle organizations like Lotta Continua, who opposed the Stalinist line of peaceful co-existence with Italian capitalism, have played an important role in rallying the most militant sections of the working class. Consequently the employers have launched a determined campaign to smash such groups by victimizing its members and supporters and using direct methods of repression, including riot gas, against workers in factories.

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armoury is a new law which allows police to arrest suspects and convict them in court on mere opinion and hearsay evidence; a regulation very similar to the law introduced by the Lynch government to smash the Republican movement in Eire.

The Communist Party leaders have rushed to the support of the government, which they hope eventually to join, and attacked revolutionary students and workers. This has led to the treachery of asking Rumor, to 'intervene against subversive groups' (Cossuta, Central Committee member of the Communist Party made this request in a speech in parliament).

Stalinism has reached a high point of complicity with the employers and the advance of fascism in Italy!

But the working class in the factories and districts are seeing more clearly who are their real friends and who are the traitors. The employers and

CP-controlled unions are continuously trying to control the desire of workers to struggle and to help Andreotti, to make 'disorder in Italy' appear the work of 'extremism'.

After the murder of Franceschi, there were demonstrations of tens of thousands of students and workers throughout Italy against Andreotti and the CP leadership.

LIES

The incredible police lies about the murder have been completely destroyed by revolutionary counter-information.

The head of the Milan police, Bonanno, has said that only one policeman fired three shots, because he was terrified when Molotov cocktails were thrown at him. But eye-witnesses, including lawyers and journalists, have confirmed that no bombs were thrown and that it was the police who opened fire.

In fact, it would be very

strange if a 'terrified' policeman was able, at a distance of 100 metres, to murder one comrade and wound another as they ran away with two out of three shots.

The Turin shootings came after a 15,000-strong protest by students and workers over Franceschi's murder. At the end of this peaceful demonstration MSI fascists attacked the march. They were chased into their headquarters which was surrounded by police who fired over 100 rounds at the demonstrators. Five people were shot in the back, and, despite the police talk of petrol bombs, not one officer received a scratch.

On the strength of this provocation the police issued 30 warrants for arrest. Guido Viale was among those militants picked up a day later. This was despite a cast iron alibi—he and other comrades were holding a Press conference in the headquarters of Lotta Continua while the police

were firing on the demonstrators.

Despite this evidence Viale and the rest have been charged with 'attempted murder'. Others have gone into hiding.

Since then, a wave of repression has spread to Milan and throughout Italy.

The leaders of the student movement in Milan, including Capanna, have had warrants taken out against them and the university has been closed down. A student hostel occupied by militants has been attacked by the police.

The investigating magistrate in Milan, Alitto Bonanno, has published a 'report on the violence of extremists', in which he talks about 12,000 guerrillas of the left who are ready to put the city under the rule of the sword. A small section of the report absolves completely 'extremists of the right' who for years have made Milan the centre of their battles, under the benevolent eye of the police.

Left: Italian police. Right: The January 27 demonstration. Inset: Guido Viale.

The arrests have caused a public outcry in Italy and internationally. Thousands of intellectuals, students, workers and professional workers have called for the freeing of Viale who is the victim of a most vicious frame-up. Signatures have been collected from leading trade unionists and writers. The fight continues.

The greatest mass answer to the fascist turn of the Andreotti government came from the demonstration in Rome of over 300,000 engineering workers from all over Italy.

It was the biggest political demonstration in Italy since the war—and the most militant. The slogans of the revolutionary vanguard prevailed; revolutionaries who are uniting the struggle in the factories with the general struggle against the government, fascism and capitalism.

PART THREE

Torture is practised in prisons throughout Brazil, but there are also certain organizations and prisons where 'specialist' teams work.

There is, for instance, the Bandeirantes Operation headed by the notorious Sergio Paranhos Fleury, one of the best known leaders of the 'Death Squad'.

There is CENIMAR (a naval 'information' centre) which operates on the 5th floor of the Ministry of the Navy in Rio de Janeiro—next door to the United States' naval mission.

Other 'special' torture centres include:

The OB, headquarters of the Second Army in Sao Paulo, rua Tutoia 921; Ilha das Flores (Flower Island) Ilha Grande in Guanabara; the Vila Militar, headquarters of the 10th company of military police and the First Army Company; the prison of the 12th infantry regiment in Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais); the Tiradentes prison in Sao Paulo; the Linhares prison in Juiz de Fora; the prison at Porto Alegre.

There are the prisons at Recife, Fortaleza and Salvador; the CODI (Operations Centre for Internal Defence) with its branches in each state, especially its headquarters in Guanabara; the OI (Integration Operation) a fusion of elements from the OBAN (Operacao Bandeirantes) and the military police in Sao Paulo; there is also the prison of the motorized regiment of Sao Paulo (REC-MEC).

Operacao Bandeirantes (OBAN or OB) is a specialized school for torture formed in September 1969 by a group of 80 extreme right-wingers from the army, navy, air force and police. OBAN works in collaboration with other extreme rightist organizations such as CRUNA (Nationalist Crusade) and CCC (Commandos to Hunt Communists).

The 'Death Squads', mentioned on Monday, were formed in October 1964 and named after Milton Le Cocq, a policeman who had been murdered in Rio de Janeiro. Originally known as the 'Le Cocq Society' this organization has acquired a huge property (La Fazenda Piripora) in the state of Minas Gerais.

It also publishes its own newspaper 'O Gringo', whose honorary president is David Nasser, director and editor-in-chief of the weekly 'O Cruzeiro' and member of the International Press Association.

Such 'Death Squads' exist in every Brazilian state and are under the protection of the authorities. They habitually telephone the newspapers in advance telling them where a victim's body will be found.

Nevertheless, out of 123 murders attributed to the 'Death Squad' of Sao Paulo between November 1968 and June 1970, only five have been investigated by magistrates.

Of the other murder squads the activities of the Commandos to Hunt Communists were so horrible—even for Brazil—that public outcry forced an official inquiry.

The judge in charge of this inquiry—Agamemnon Duarte—declared in June last year that the American CIA was behind the Commandos to Hunt Communists. He said, among other things, 'the constant involvement of the CIA in terrorist acts throughout Latin America, in Mexico and in southern Patagonia is well known.'

In July, 1970, the International Commission of Jurists estimated that there were 12,000 political prisoners in Brazilian jails.

That year—in June—40 Brazilian prisoners were released in exchange for the kidnapped West German ambassador Ehrenfried Von Holleben.

BRAZIL: SOME OF THE VICTIMS

BY JACK GALE



Top: the work of the 'Death Squads'. Above: Vera Magalhaes in wheelchair, who was subjected to terrible torture.

One of these was 24-year-old economics student Vera Silva Araujo Magalhaes who had been arrested on March 6, 1970, in Rio de Janeiro by CODI (Operations Centre for Internal Defence — military police).

She was tortured initially two weeks after her arrest. She had been wounded by a bullet in the head and was given a minimum of medical attention before she was able to under-

go interrogation.

Tortures began on March 20, 1970, at the army police headquarters, at the CODI headquarters, rua Barao de Mesquita in the Tijuca area of Rio de Janeiro, by Major Gomez Carneiro Zieminski, by soldiers Felipe, José Alfredo Poe, Sergeant Volio and Major Fontenelle.

She was subjected to all sorts of physical ill-treatment as well as psychological torture.

She remained for more than seven hours on the 'pau de arara' and was given different voltages of electric shocks during this period; water was put in her mouth and nose; she was beaten with a truncheon and whipped all over the body, including the genital areas.

She was then taken to the infirmary and later to the military hospital.

At the military hospital, she was once again examined. She was only registered as a patient on her first visit for attention to her head wound. Her stay after torture was not put in the hospital records.

The most serious consequence of the torture was paralysis of her legs.

Miss Magalhaes witnessed the torturing of other people in the same barracks and during the same period. They were Daniel Aarao Reis, Pedro Alves, Regina Farah, Efigenia, Eustáquio.

They were tortured by Major Gomez Carneiro Zieminski and by soldiers Ailton Joachim, Marco Antonio Povoreli and by Sergeant Andrade Oliveira and Captain Guimaraes.

The torture consisted of electric shocks, 'pau de arara', beatings, sexual ill-treatment, near-drowning and sleep deprivation. The torturers forced the detainees to stay naked in a given position in a freezing cold place and doused them with water. After ten hours of this one position, without food, the 'dragon chair' (electric chair) means of torture was employed.

Another method of torture consisted in keeping the person hanging head downwards while being beaten and subjected to electric shocks.

Another consisted in applying hot metal plates to the legs and arms—this caused wounds which still have not healed.

In the military hospital doctors gave Miss Magalhaes no medical care, contenting themselves with giving sed-

atives which weakened her psychologically. At the army police barracks no attention was paid to hygiene; there were rats and mice in the cells and in the infirmaries.

Food in the military police prison of Tijuca was impossible to swallow and hygiene was non-existent. Medical attention was lacking and the doctors are in attendance only to control the amount of torture to which a patient may be submitted or to prescribe sedatives to aid in interrogation. Medical attention is only given in cases of serious or contagious illnesses.

Miss Magalhaes' lawyer, Dr Evaristo, had great difficulty in getting permission to see her and was not allowed to go into the interrogation room. He could not contact his client until the torture stage was completed. Only then, with the court's permission, can a lawyer visit his client in prison, but this is always difficult to arrange. The time limits set by the law were never respected.

She received very brief visits from her family while in hospital, but these were always in the presence of CODI officers. Neither relatives nor lawyers are allowed into interrogation rooms. In prison, visits are controlled; as she was held in the military police barracks and in the hospital, visits were very irregular. In view of her physical condition, the authorities wanted to prevent her family from seeing her and she saw them only three times in three months.

Miss Magalhaes was brought for the first time before a judge in the military tribunal after a month and a half of detention—her trial was already underway when she was arrested. But her case is an exception: generally the detained person is not brought before a judge until he has served approximately one year's detention.

She was tried and then released on June 15, 1970. **CONTINUED TOMORROW**

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

OVER-LOOKED

The state pay laws are not, it seems, being obeyed by Tory MPs at the House of Commons. The secretary to one group of Tory hardliners has just received an increase of £8 a week. Under the new legislation they could be taken to court and fined. And even jailed.

We think, however, that this infringement will be over-looked. Meanwhile, those of us who are being asked to accept £1 plus 4 per cent . . .

NEITHER

Until recently Fred Peart was in charge of two Shadow Cabinet portfolios—Defence and Agriculture. He used to be called Shadow Minister of Defence (Agriculture).

One Labour MP described this curious combination of appointments as a classic piece of Wilsonism. 'Harold has managed to resolve the historic political dilemma of guns and butter,' he said. Then he added: 'With Fred Peart we'll get neither.'

POETRY

The editors of a new magazine, to be called 'Poetry Nation', have said that they plan the first issue to consist largely of a 'symposium', to which various people will contribute their views on poetry and its place in life and culture.

When someone suggested to 'Poetry Nation's' editor, Michael Schmidt, that he might approach Dr David Craig of Lancaster University to contribute something to the discussion, they found that Mr Schmidt was not to keen on this suggestion.

Mr Schmidt explained that he thought it important to 'establish the tenor' of the new magazine in its first issue.

David Craig is quite a respected authority in the field of poetry. He is also a Communist Party member and was at the centre of a row over political victimization at Lancaster last year.

The university authorities complained of a 'bias' towards a 'social interpretation' of literature in his teaching.

Some time last year, a three-year fellowship for a poet, worth a fair sum, became available at Manchester University. The usual practice is for

such appointments to be advertised. But in this case, this was not done.

The fellowship was awarded to Mr Michael Schmidt.

In charge of the selection was Professor Cox of Manchester University. Professor Cox is now to be co-editor with Michael Schmidt of 'Poetry Nation'.

Previously, Professor Cox has been editor of 'Poetry Quarterly'.

However, he is far better known for his part in another literary effort. He was one of the co-editors of the notorious right-wing Tory publication, the 'Black Paper' on Education, in which various academics and right-wing intellectuals such as Kingsley Amis poured out their denunciation of comprehensive education, modern teaching methods and other 'socialist evils' said to be undermining the nation's moral fibre.

'FOR ME'



Miss Germaine Greer

Mrs Margaret Whitlam, wife of the new Australian Prime Minister, is publishing her diary in a magazine called 'Woman's Day'.

The fact that she is cleaning up in the capitalist Press with her snippets of gossip is startling enough. But, wait for it—'Woman's Day' belongs to the Fairfax group of newspapers which campaigned for the Liberal (Tory) Party in November's General Election.

She includes a touching account of a visit by Miss Germaine Greer, author of 'The Female Eunuch'.

'She entered quietly and softly bearing gifts. Gifts? Yes. A glloxinia in a pot—for me.'

Anthony B. Herbert was the most highly-decorated soldier in the Korean War. He was awarded over 25 medals, including three Silver Stars, one Bronze Star and four Purple Hearts.

At one of many ceremonies in his honour, a bayonet said to have been run through his side was polished up and presented to him by actress Jennifer Jones.

Herbert then went off to Pittsburgh University after which he re-enlisted in the US army.

Twelve years of training camps, survival courses, Cold-War duty and spy work followed.

Then, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, he went to Vietnam and was given command of a battalion.

Herbert was not a communist, nor was he anti-war. But he regarded himself as a professional soldier who should fight soldiers and not civilians. Accordingly, he told the men under his command that he 'wanted results with enemy soldiers, not women, or old men or kids'.

One practice he objected to was that of regularly including the numbers of civilian dead in the figures of 'enemy troops killed in action'. That not only covered up atrocities but made the American and South Vietnamese army performances look a lot better than they actually were.

In the first month Herbert's battalion killed more North Vietnamese than the other four battalions combined. In 58 days he won another Silver and three more Bronze Stars.

He was up for consideration for a Distinguished Service Cross.

Then, suddenly, everything changed. Herbert was stripped of his field command, relegated to a desk job back in the United States and hounded until he prematurely retired from the army.

This was because, although he was a professional military killer, Herbert repeatedly reported to his superiors

He had a naive belief in the Geneva Convention and, to the amazement of the other military commanders, he tried to apply it in Vietnam.

At first he was denounced as 'soft on the Commies', then he was pushed out altogether.

In particular, Herbert had denounced his two immediate superiors of responsibility for atrocities of the My Lai type.

Now in a book—'Soldier', published by Holt, Reinhart and Winston—Herbert reveals in detail how US officers and 'interrogation experts' presided over whippings, water torture, and electric-shock 'therapy' of Viet Cong suspects (including women).

He describes military bases being overrun by the North Vietnamese because the American defenders were demoralized and stuffed with drugs.

He reports the profiteering that went on in Saigon and elsewhere, and the soft jobs that many top officers secured for themselves well away from the firing line, while the 'grunts' (private soldiers) faced the dangers.

And he claimed on a recent television broadcast that he had in his possession memos from General Westmoreland, General Siddle and US Army Secretary Froehle in which they state their intention to discredit him.

The army top brass, of course, now accuses Herbert of 'fiction, insubordination and poor leadership'.

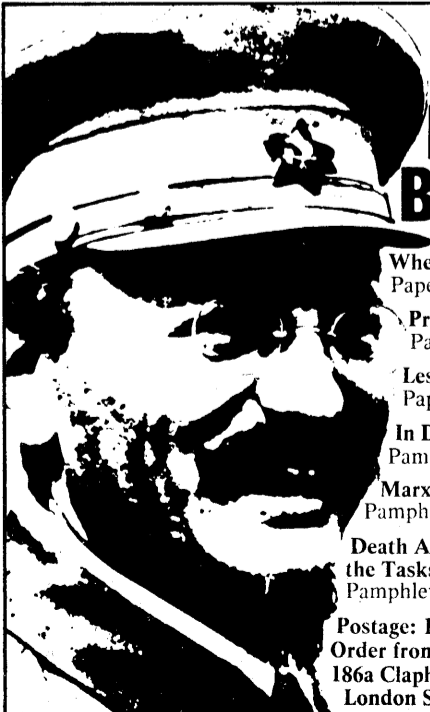
But after the accumulation of evidence from Vietnam—including the My Lai massacre and the now-notorious 'tiger cages' at Con Son island prison—it will take more than that to undermine the story of Lt-Col Anthony B. Herbert.

A MAN TO BE SILENCED

US ROUND-UP BY JACK GALE



Top: Lt-Col Herbert. Above: Female Viet Cong suspect.



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 11.20 **JOYCE GRENFELL.** 11.50 **NEWS.** 11.55 **Weather.**

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.35 Yoga (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.05 Mr. Trimble. 12.25 Rupert Bear. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Sing out with The Settlers. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Whose baby? 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Get this. 4.50 Arthur of the Britons. 5.20 Survival. 5.50 News.

6.00 **TODAY.** 6.35 **CROSSROADS.**
 7.00 **THIS IS YOUR LIFE.** 7.30 **CORONATION STREET.**
 8.00 **THE FIRST OF LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR.**
 8.30 **ALL OUR SATURDAYS.** Charity Meets its Match.
 9.00 **PUBLIC EYE.** The Trouble with Jenny.
 10.00 **PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST.** Labour Party.
 10.10 **NEWS AT TEN.**
 10.45 **INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL.** Scotland v England.
 11.45 **FILM: 'HOUSE OF MYSTERY.'** Jane Hylton, Peter Dyneley, Nanette Newman. Thriller.
 12.45 **THE PIONEERS.** A. S. Neill and Summerhill.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.
 7.05 **MAN AT WORK.** When you're 65 . . .
 7.30 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.
 7.35 **JOHNNY MORRIS IN MEXICO.** Puebla, Fortin de las Flores, Veracruz.
 8.00 **MAN ALIVE.** Alive and Well and Living in Malta.
 8.30 **FILM: 'AL CAPONE.'** Rod Steiger, Fay Spain, Murvyn Vye, Nehemia Persoff, Martin Balsam. Rise and fall of Chicago's most feared gangster in the twenties.
 10.00 **PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST.** Labour Party.
 10.10 **FILM continued.** 10.40 **EDITION.** 11.10 **NEWS.** Weather.

Rod Steiger looks more like old 'Scarface' than any other actor who has taken on the role. He's on BBC 2 at 8.30 in 'Al Capone'.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.55 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Societe Jersiaise centenary. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.00 This is your life. 8.30 London. 10.00 Life in France. 10.10 London. 11.45 Epilogue. News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 10.00 London. 11.42 News. 11.45 Generation three. 12.15 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 3.30 Dangerman. 4.25 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Whicker's South Seas. 7.00 London. 8.00 Persuaders. 9.00 London. 11.45 Shirley's world. 12.10 News. 12.20 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 4.50 Rainbow country. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Arthur of the Britons. 7.00 London. 11.45 Cinema. 12.15 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.20 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.15-6.30 Report West.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Afloat. 3.30 Odd couple. 3.55 Romper room. 4.19 News. 4.20 London. 5.20 Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 8.00 Survival. 8.30 London. 11.40 Spyforce. 12.35 Reflection.



ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Please sir. 8.30 London. 11.55 O'Hara. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 London. 2.45 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.55 Harriet's back in town. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 London. 8.00 Protectors. 8.30 London. 11.45 World War I.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.30 Jason King. 4.25 London. 5.20 Bewitched. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 8.00 Anna and the king. 8.30 London. 11.40 Spyforce. 12.35 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 3.25 Yoga. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. What's on. 6.30

Lucy. 7.00 London. 8.00 Lovers. 8.30 London. 11.45 Kreskin.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Song from the heart. 9.30 London. 3.30 Champions. 4.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.00 Anna and the king. 8.30 London. 11.40 News. 11.55 Edgar Wallace. 12.40 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 London. 11.40 Late call. 11.45 Blue light.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.45 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women. 3.55 Harriet. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson at teatime. 6.35 London. 8.00 Stuart Gillies. 8.30 London. 11.40 Protectors. 12.10 Meditation.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight rising rents and prices
 Defend basic democratic rights
 Force the Tories to resign

OLDBURY: Wednesday February 14, 7.30 p.m. 'The Bulls Head'.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Wednesday February 14, 7.30 p.m. 'Little Swan,' Horseley Fields.

RUGBY: Wednesday February 14, 7.30 p.m. 'The Engine,' Bridgit Street.

HULL: Wednesday February 14, 7.30 p.m. Wawne Road Church Hall, Bransholme.

CROYDON: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Defend democratic rights'.

KINGSTON: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. 'Liverpool Arms', corner of Cambridge Road/London Road. 'Build Councils of Action'.

SLOUGH: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'How to defeat Phase Two'.

HOLLOWAY: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'Build Councils of Action'.

WINSFORD: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. 'Red Lion Hotel', Winsford, Cheshire.

LEEDS: Thursday February 15, 7.30 p.m. (please note date change). Peel Hotel, Boar Lane.

SWANSEA: Thursday February 15, 7.30 p.m. Council of Social Services, Mount Pleasant Hill, (near fire station). 'Defend democratic rights'.

GOOLE: Sunday February 18, 7.30 p.m. 'The Buchanan', Weatherill Street.

BRIXTON: Tuesday February 20, 8 p.m. Brixton Training Centre, Control Room. 'No state control of wages'.

LIVERPOOL: Tuesday February 20, 7.30 p.m. AEU House, Mount Pleasant.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday February 20, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Defend basic rights'.

SKELMERSDALE: Tuesday February 20, 7.30 p.m. Quarry Bank. 'Forward to the Pageant'.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday February 20, 'Festival Inn', Chrisp Street, E.14. 'Common Market Conspiracy'.

LANGLEY: Wednesday February 21, 8 p.m. 'Cardinal's Hat', Wood Street. 'Defend Democratic Rights. Forward to the Pageant'.

PRESTON: Wednesday February 21, 7.30 p.m. 'Waterloo Hotel', Friargate. 'The Road to Workers' Power'.

WOOLWICH: Wednesday February 21, 8 p.m. 'The Castle', Powis Street, S.E.18. 'The Crisis of leadership'.

TOTTENHAM: Wednesday February 21, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', High Road, near White Hart Lane. 'The case for a Labour government pledged to socialist policies'.

LEWISHAM: Thursday February 22, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club. (opposite New Cross station).

HACKNEY: Thursday February 22, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, opposite Town Hall, Mare Street.

WILLESDEN: Thursday February 22, 8 p.m. Labour and Trades Hall, High Road, N.W.10. 'Road to Workers' Power'.

SCUNTHORPE: Sunday February 25, 7.30 p.m. The Kingsley Hall, Cole Street.

BASILDON: Sunday February 25, 5.20 p.m. Barnstable Community Centre. 'Road to Workers' Power'.

WANDSWORTH: Monday February 26, 8 p.m. 'King's Arms', High Street, S.W.18. 'Defend the right to work'.

WATFORD: Monday February 26, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall, Woodford Road, near Watford Junction Station. 'Rise of fascism in Italy'.

ACTON: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3. 'Forward to the Pageant —The Road to Workers' Power'.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, S.W.4. 'Defend Democratic Rights'.

PADDINGTON: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. 'Artesian', corner Chepstow / Westbourne Park Road.

CAMDEN: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Lessons of fighting the Housing Finance Act'.

HARROW: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Wealdstone. 'All out for Wembley Pageant'.

TOOTING: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m. 'Selkirk Hotel', Selkirk Road, Tooting Broadway. 'The rise of Italian Fascism'.

Socialist Labour League Lectures

Lecture 2
 1924-1933—The Left Opposition's struggle against Stalin

Lecture 3
 1933-1938—From the German defeat to the founding of Fourth International

ACTON: Wednesday February 14, 8 p.m. WOODLANDS HALL, Crown Street, W3. Lecture 3.

EAST LONDON: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m. OLD TOWN OFFICES, Poplar High Street,

E14. Lecture 3.
NEWCASTLE: Monday February 19, 8 p.m. FORD ARMS, Shields Road. Lecture 3.

SHEFFIELD: Monday February 19, 8 p.m. YS PREMISES, Portobello (near Jessops hospital) 'The economic crisis and the socialist answer'.

SHEFFIELD: Monday March 5, 8 p.m. YS PREMISES, Portobello (near Jessops hospital). 'The Revolutionary Party in Britain'.

Fresh talks on bonus dispute on Friday

Productivity threat to

BRS drivers

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

FRESH TALKS will open on Friday in the two-and-a-half week dispute by British Road Services lorry drivers which has paralysed the Midlands motor industry.

BRS management will meet Mr Alan Law, the Transport and General Workers' Union official, at Stratford-upon-Avon to discuss a settlement based on productivity.

The company has prepared a report on bonus earnings at one of its 18 depots. BRS hopes that by giving productivity bonus increases it can overcome the claim for a £2.50 bonus that the men are seeking.

The drivers' co-ordinating committee will be in readiness to hear any agreements which the talks may reach. But Mr Law has said that any decision on a return to work would be left to a mass meeting of the men next Sunday.

Eleven British-Leyland car factories have been hit so far. A spokesman for the car industry has put losses at between £20m and £30m.

Commenting on the threat of Junior Tory Minister at the Department of Employment Mr Robin Chichester Clark to issue an Order in Council against British Road Services if they pay the £2.50 heavy goods vehicle bonus to drivers, Albert Caldicott, shop steward at Bromford Lane depot, Birmingham, said:

'We think BRS is hiding behind the government's skirts, but if we have to take on the government for 50 bob we will take them on.'

'I am not speaking for myself. I am speaking for 1,300 drivers who voted unanimously to fight.'

'We know that we also have the support of the British-Leyland trade union organization.'

Drivers at the Bromford Lane depot told our reporter about BRS pay and conditions.

Most drivers insisted that facilities were quite good, or at least comparable with most private road haulage firms.

But as Albert Caldicott explained: 'Facilities don't feed my family.'

BRS drivers earn, on average £4 to £5 less each week than other drivers in the area.

Trade union basic weekly

The firm's
hiding
behind
the
Tories'
skirts:
steward



rates for driving a top class vehicle (32 tons) are £28.60 a week. BRS drivers' rates are £24 a week.

Drivers' maximum hours of work are 60 a week, which would mean an average take home pay of £33.

For the same number of hours, driving similar vehicles, drivers working for

BRS drivers are obliged to take lorries wherever they are asked.

This means that when they leave home on a Monday morning they never know when they will be back.

On average, drivers expect to spend four nights during each week away from home.

enjoy the privilege of a free weekend.

Most return to their depots on Saturday afternoons.

Only if they work a Sunday can they return on a Friday and thus have the following weekend with their families.

To boost earnings, depots have negotiated bonus agreements. At Bromford Lane, drivers can earn 12½p bonus if they maintain an average speed of 28 m.p.h.

For many journeys, those through large towns, for instance, this is impossible.

They can also earn 25p for loading and unloading their lorries within a 3½-hour time limit.

But the agreement states that no bonus can be paid for time spent in queues waiting to unload and this often exceeds 3½ hours.

All the drivers who spoke to Workers Press insisted that their demands for £2.50 was not a wage claim, but a bonus for holding the HGV licence.

Nevertheless it is undoubtedly true that their determination to win this struggle comes partly from their feeling that the arduous nature of their job deserves better payment than they are at present getting.



private firms could take home £40 to £45.

One driver produced his wage slip.

For 60 hours' work, which involved five nights away from home and journeys from Birmingham, Southampton, London and Scotland, all at the average speed of 28 m.p.h. in order to earn a bonus, his gross earnings were £42 and net earnings £33.

Under their contract,

Night allowance is £2. There is no allowance for meals.

Average price for digs is £1.50, so after two days away, most drivers find that their expenses leave them out of pocket and they resort to sleeping in their cabs.

Night allowance in most private firms is higher than at BRS and is about £2 a night more at that other state-owned firm the GPO. Lorry drivers only rarely

A record year for Securicor

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

ANOTHER record year for Securicor, the armoured cars and cash-carry group, was disclosed yesterday. An increase in turnover of some £5m during the 12 months to the end of September boosted the pre-tax profits from £1.11m to a new peak of £1.39m.

Associated Hotels, the parent company, ended the year with earnings of £2m compared with £1.71m.

More records seem likely during the current year, despite the higher costs being faced by the group.

Chairman Keith Erskine told shareholders: 'We look forward to reporting another year of steady and substantial growth similar to the 11 preceding years.'

Socialist Labour League Public Meetings

UNITE IN ACTION TO DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

CLAPHAM
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14,
8pm
South Island Library
South Island Place
Stockwell, SW9
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

WATFORD
MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm
Trades Union Hall
near Watford Junction stn
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

NORTH KENT
MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm
The Shakespeare,
Powis Street
Woolwich
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

ACTON
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 8pm
Woodlands Hall,
Crown Street
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

London

WANDSWORTH
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22,
8pm
Wandsworth Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

SLOUGH
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28
8pm
Britwell Community Centre
Long Furlong Drive
Britwell Estate
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

MEDWAY
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 8pm
Aurora Hotel
Brompton Road
Gillingham
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

DAGENHAM
THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8pm
Manor Park Library
Romford Rd/Rabbits Road
opp Rabbits Pub
speaker: G HEALY
(SLL National Sec)

BRADFORD
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22,
7.30 p.m.
Central Library
Top of Hall Ings.
Speaker:
Cliff Slaughter
(SLL Central Committee)

BIRMINGHAM
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 7pm
Digbeth, Civic Hall
Digbeth, Birmingham
speaker: MIKE BANDA
(SLL Central Cttee)

White-collar power men delay claim

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

THE POSSIBILITY of trouble in the electricity supply industry was postponed yesterday when leaders of 50,000 white-collar workers in the industry agreed to hold over further discussion on their pay claim until next month.

Electricity workers have submitted a claim for a substantial increase to reduce the 'growing gap' between their pay and that of the industry's manual workers who got a rise immediately before the freeze took effect.

At yesterday's meeting between the Electricity Council and the white-collar workers' leaders there was general agreement that further discussion of their claim should await clarification of government policy.

Levin case for jury

THE HIGH COURT libel action over a Bernard Levin article in 'The Times' on the closure of the 'Daily Sketch' newspaper is to be tried with a jury.

By a 2-1 majority the Appeal Court yesterday allowed an appeal by Times Newspapers Ltd, from a High Court judge's ruling that the trial should be heard by a judge sitting alone.

Said Lord Justice Lawton: 'If the defendants lose their action and heavy damages are awarded against them, the newspaper scene in this country may never be the same again.'

OVERDRAFTS at National Westminster—second largest of the big four banks—will become 1 per cent dearer from today. The bank blames the rising cost of money for the move. A statement said the bank's 'base' lending rate would be increased from 8½ per cent to 9½ per cent for their overdrafts.



Rent rebels fined £5,000

Clydebank Town Council was yesterday fined £5,000 for contempt of court for refusing to implement the Tories' rent Act.

Lord Wheatley, the Lord Justice Clerk, told the Edinburgh Court of Sessions that the council's decision not to raise rents was 'deliberate defiance and flouting of an order of the court'.

In tones reminiscent of Sir John Donaldson, president of the National Industrial Relations Court, Wheatley said:

'The court must assert its authority. If it did not, the whole rule of law would be in jeopardy.'

Last month Clydebank council decided by a majority of 14 votes to seven not to implement the Housing Finance Act.

There are about five other local authorities not implementing in Scotland as well as Clay Cross in Derbyshire and Merthyr Tydfil and Bedwas and Machen in south Wales.

The 11 rebel Clay Cross councillors have been ordered to pay more than £6,000 in back rents.

They are now appealing in the High Court.

The Clydebank councillors were given 14 days to observe a Court of Sessions writ which was taken out against them.

When this expired yesterday—and they refused to attend court—Wheatley imposed the £5,000 fine which cannot be paid from local authority funds.

It is the same amount which was imposed on both the Transport and General Workers' Union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers when they failed to attend the NIRC last year.

At their second offence both unions were fined a further £50,000.

The Lord Advocate, Mr Norman Wylie, QC, told the court in Edinburgh that the council's decision to disregard the court order was 'a deplorable decision for any local authority to reach.'

Wylie is the Tory MP for the Pentlands division of Edinburgh.

Although the councillors didn't attend, they sent a QC, Mr J. C. Robinson, to represent them.

He said the majority of the council had found they could not 'in conscience, operate an Act which they regard as harmful to their constituents.'

'I am not suggesting for one moment that it is a factor which would justify what they have done, but it is the dominant consideration which has prompted this insistence on the majority's part.'

WHAT WE THINK CRAWLING BEHIND TORIES

MR REG PRENTICE, Labour Party Shadow spokesman on Employment, has urged the Tory government to support the 'moderates' in the trade union leadership. Prentice—who last August denounced the five dockers jailed for defying the Industrial Relations Act—said:

'I dissociate myself from anyone who says there should be a national confrontation between the unions and the government on the [pay] policy.'

This leader not only accepts the principle of Tory state control of wages and Tory laws against the unions, but seeks to advise the government's Employment Minister, Maurice Macmillan, on the most effective way of carrying these policies through.

He told Macmillan in Monday's parliamentary committee discussion on the state pay laws that in dealing with the trade union leaders he was dealing with men who were 'mostly moderate'. Hadn't the gasmen's leaders accepted a 200-per-cent increase in productivity over the past five years and a run-down of the labour force involving 22,500 redundancies?

'But this government had made it increasingly difficult for moderate counsels to prevail in the trade unions,' Prentice complained.

Now that the days of compromise, of 'give and take' between the state, the employers and the union leaders have come to an end, the Labourites consciously collaborate with the Tory government against the working class.

The Tory government wants a showdown. It has no intention of yielding to the 'moderate pressure' of the union leaders nor of listening to the wise counsels of Mr Prentice and his friends. Like the union leaders who waited at Baldwin's door in 1926 and the Labour leaders who fawned on Ramsay MacDonald in 1931, these reformists will be kicked in the teeth by the ruling class.

The Tory government has passed laws against the unions, against wage increases, against strikes, against elected representatives carrying out their mandates. It has attacked every basic right of the working class. It has deliberately accelerated inflation to force up prices.

But one thing is still lacking—a total defeat for the working class. This is what the Tory leaders must now seek to achieve. Collaborationist trade union leaders and reformist politicians would allow the Tories to do this, just as they allowed them to get away with the Industrial Relations Act, Common Market entry and state control of wages.

As the gasworkers go into battle, the Tories are undoubtedly preparing to declare a state of emergency, with the possibility of striking workers being arrested, in order to panic the middle class in preparation for a snap election.

An election fought on Tory terms—with powerful laws against the working class, a panicked middle class and possibly a defeat for an important section of workers—would strengthen reaction for even more decisive steps towards corporatism.

But an election resulting from the defeat of the Tory government by the mass action of the working class through its unions, along with the construction of a revolutionary leadership, would place in office a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

This would split off the right wingers, such as Mr Prentice, and create the conditions for the emergence of the revolutionary party at the head of the British working class.

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As High Court deadline passes

2,000 rally behind printworkers

BY IAN YEATS

MORE THAN 2,000 workers from London and a dozen provincial towns mounted a mass picket at the Old Kent Road factory of Briant Colour Printing yesterday.

The picket and a lobby of parliament were called to coincide with the expiry yesterday of a High Court writ taken out by liquidator Mr P. Granville-White in a bid to regain control of the occupied works.

The march was backed by workers from UCS, the Royal Docks, Kent miners, Shotton steelmen, London taxi drivers, Fine Tubes workers from Plymouth, British-Leyland and Rover car workers, engineers, electricians and students.

Although Fleet Street newspaper chapels stayed away, NGA, SOGAT and NATSOPA branches from all over London were represented.

Leader of the eight-month-old work-in, Mr Bill Freeman, told a factory-gate meeting:

'They will have to put us in prison if they want to move us out of here. We are in a serious fight to defend our jobs and the welfare of our families.

'We demand the right to work. We refuse to accept the dole queue as a way of life. We will continue to conduct our work-in until we've won a victory.

'In the event of arrests or evictions, we are calling on the entire working class and labour movement to stop work to demonstrate we will not allow this sort of thing.'

UCS co-ordinating committee chairman Mr James Airlie pledged £2,000 a week to the work-in's fighting fund for a period of five months.

'We understand the debt we owe to the labour movement and we will support Briant workers, Shotton workers or any other workers struggling for the basic democratic right to work.'

Airlie called for a round-the-clock picket to surround the factory and he said that any eviction would mean 'taking on the organized strength of the labour movement'.

London central SOGAT secretary Mr John Filkin said print union branches had fulfilled the pledge given eight months ago to back the Briant workers to the hilt.

But, he said: 'It will



Alan Smith, one of the Shotton steelworkers who joined the meeting at Briant Colour yesterday.

need the determined and full support of the trade unions and all political parties to see that the savagery of the law is not enacted on our members so that in then end they are forced to give way.'

Liverpool Labour MP Mr Eric Heffer told the meeting: 'As far as is possible within the limits in which we work in the House of Commons, we will do what we can to ensure the victory of this struggle.'

London district secretary of the Communist Party Mr Bill Dunn said: 'We pledge that if any action is

taken against the leaders of this work-in we will do all in our power to mobilize workers in London and nationally in their support.'

Kent miners' leader Mr Jack Dunn said the lesson of UCS and Briant Colour was that they had brought the slogan of the right to work to reality.

Before the demonstration moved off to march to parliament, messages of support were read from Royal Group dockers' leaders Bernie Steer and Vic Turner and from London lorry drivers' leader Eric Rehnitz.

FEBRUARY FUND NOW STANDS AT £267.78

WE ARE halfway through February, but a very long way to half our £1,750 target. It is a tough struggle for our Fund this month. We know you, dear readers, will do everything you can to pull the situation around. But we urge you all—please don't leave it too late.

As gasworkers prepare to come out on strike, they, together with the

rest of the working class, face a major confrontation with the Tory government. Emergency powers and a crisis situation face us all.

In the present political situation Workers Press is absolutely decisive. Only our paper has prepared for the enormity of this economic crisis. As thousands of workers join the fight, our paper must

reach out to them.

To expand, to improve our news coverage, we need our monthly Fund. We appeal therefore to all of you to rally around today. Make sure we push this month's total up. Post all your donations immediately to:

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February Appeal Fund
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