# THIS SUNDAY.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS CALL TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS AND YOUNG WORKERS

All out against the threat of

# UNEMPLOYMENT

# **DEMONSTRATE** THE LABOUR PARTY **CONFERENCE**

Assemble: 1.30 p.m., Palace Pier Meeting: Ocean Restaurant, West Pier, 3 p.m. Every factory and stewards committee should support

All out on October 2nd!

# Deliverymen first in jobs battle

THE SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY-NINE Birmingham car delivery drivers, whose official strike against the sacking of over half their number has shut down the Austin factory at Longbridge, are the first workers to take industrial action against the jobs crisis forced on the working-class by the government's

Their union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, has declared itself against redundancy and for work-sharing. Of the sacking of the 333 delivery drivers, union leaders have used such words as 'vicious and in-human', 'provocative', 'ruthless' and 'callous'.

Yet they seem to propose fight-

The strike has been joined by about 100 car delivery drivers employed by two Merseyside firms, and the T&GWU an-nounced it would also fight against the sacking of 40 British

Yet to date no move has been made to enlist support from car production workers also threatened with ruthless and cal-

lous sackings.

The strike has been contained within the limits of a union dis-

One union leader is quoted as

Another was reported as denya fight against the government, since Harold Wilson himself

Yet among the pickets at the gates are drivers who understand the political nature of this strike, and compare it with the sea-men's strike. They predict that the struggle will be a grim one,

per cent effective, is in protest against the redundancy plans of the Longbridge Group of Delivery Agents, the firm which transports over 90 per cent of the vehicles leaving Longbridge for distribu-

tion and export. at the factory until all storage space has been filled. Pickets on duty at Longbridge and other depots in Birmingham announced

At the end of last week the T&GWU proposed that work should be shared on the basis of drivers working one week on, one week off. This was rejected as 'impracticable and uneconomic' by the delivery agents.

secret trials.

Brighton, Sunday, October 2nd

this fight

Labour must nationalize the engineering and motor car industry at once

BY SYLVIA PICK

policies.

ing it purely as an industrial dispute, without political significance as a fight against the Labour government's attacks on the working-class.

Road Services haulage drivers.

pute affecting only transport

'I sincerely regret any losses that may be sustained by BMC.'

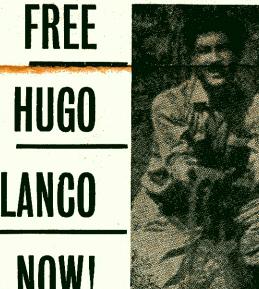
# 'Unreasonable'

ing that the struggle represented would disapprove of sackings carried out in such an unreasonable manner!

and may be long.

The strike, which has been 100

Vehicles have been piling up on Monday and Tuesday that not a car had left.



Vol. 9, No. 462

HUGO BLANCO, the Peruvian peasant leader, was sentenced to 25 years' jail early in September by a military court held in the small town of Tacna, near Lima.

A 22-year sentence was passed on Pedro Candela, and six others were jailed for between two and five years. Over 30 people were named as defendants, and 29 were in court.

Blanco's vicious sentence sent him — shouting 'Tierra o muerte!' (land or death)—to the infamous El Fronton prison, situated in Lima

His cry was taken up by the other defendants, and the large crowd in the public gallery. This also happened during the trial, and the court was cleared several times by the judges.

At one time it was feared that the judges would call for the death sentence for Blanco.

But the tremendous feeling and sympathy for the revolutionary peasant-guerrillas in Peru and throughout the world probably led to a change of mind by the repressive authori-

Advertisements were placed by students in the Lima daily 'Expreso' after the trial calling for the annulment of the sentences and an end to the Military Code, used to try political

The main case against many of the defendants was that they had attacked and killed three after policemen Blanco's peasants' union.

The union had been organised 'because of the misdeeds committed by the large land-

A police post had been attacked in 1962 to kill a guard who had shot and killed a 15year-old boy and wounded two peasants. After the attack, the peasants ambushed police per-suers and shot and killed two

In a statement to the court several defendants claimed they had been tortured by the police after capture—one had a broken shoulder and leg—and that they were not defended

Blanco told the court that he was only guilty of pressing for agrarian reform.

Both he and Candela are to appeal against sentence.

In the meantime, the British labour movement must aid these heroic revolutionary fighters by demanding their im mediate release. Telegrams and letters of protest must be sent now to the Peruvian Embassy, 52 Sloane Street, London

### **HASS** RELEASED

**Newsletter Reporter** 

IT IS REPORTED that Ludwig Hass, one of several Polish Trotskyists jailed earlier A resolution handed to the this year for issuing a docu-ment criticising Polish Workers' Embassy's second secretary, Mr. Jan Rabs, said that the Party leaders, has been re-Polish workers' movement had suffered at the hands of Stalinist bureaucracy—in 1938 the entire leadership of the Com-Hass, along with Romuald Smiech, Kasimierz Badowski, munist Party of Poland had Mozelewski, Jacek been wiped out in Moscow and Kuron and others were each between 1949-1956, Waldislaw jailed for three years following Gomulka (Poland's present Prime Minister) had been jailed

In May, the Young Socialists under the Stalinists. and Socialist Labour League marched to the Polish Embassy The resolution continued: 'Like these acts, the jailing of to demand their release.

Hass and his comrades is an attack on the international working class and, as such, undermines the existence of the Polish workers' state itself in the face of imperial-

The May demonstration dissociated itself from a previous march to the embassy which had been joined by the anti-Communist, pro - capitalist Polish Socialist Party.

The Newsletter hopes to confirm the news of Hass's release
—and that of the other
prisoners—in the near future.

Nationalization of the basic Freedom and self-deter-

Break from American im-

Of course these policies cannot built within the labour and trade union movement. This is the role of the Socialist Labour

We appeal to all sincere Labour Party members and trade unionists to consider working with and joining our organisa-

# DELEGATES MUST

ne Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

October 1, 1966

# SPEAKU AGAINS WILSON!

G. HEALY

'THE CABINET' will 'it is understood, today consider a proposal aimed at protecting employers against court claims arising from the wage freeze . . . ' This extract is from the opening sentence of the lead article in the 'Financial Times', September 29.

It sums up in a nutshell the role of Wilson's Labour government as seen by big business. It is a capitalist government carrying out policies in the interests of the employers.

> When they are threatened by the actions of the trade unions Wilson steps in, not to defend the unions, who supply the main support for the Labour Party, but to protect the Tory employers who are working night and day to destroy the Labour Party.

Delegates to the Labour Party Conference this coming week who close their eyes to these harsh facts cannot avoid accepting a share of the responsibility for betraying the labour movement

The government of Wilson is a government dominated by traitors to socialism. It must be ruthlessly fought with every ounce of energy that delegates can muster and it must be mercilessly exposed. A break has to be made publicly from all that Wilson stands for.

# FAKE 'LEFTS' EXCUSE

The excuse of the Communist Party, the fake 'lefts' and others of a similar breed that we must not bring down such a government because this would open the door for the Tories is both dispicable and cowardly.

It is an acceptance of capitalism and capitalist solutions, under the guise that it is better to have Labour men running capitalism instead of capitalists. This is really nothing more than an acceptance of the complete bankruptcy of reforms.

Consider one more example. Tens of thousands of trade unionists and Labour men are being thrown onto the scrap heap of unemployment, with no prospects of finding jobs.

One of the firms which was amongst the first to publish its redundancy lists was I.C.I.

A few days later it went to the City and called for a 50 million pounds loan. It received offers of more than thirty times this sum, and why? Because the city speculators wanted to get in quick so that they could re-sell the shares later and make a handsome profit.

In other words, when the most skilled sections of the working

class are being driven to the employment exchanges by a Labour government, the city sharks go ahead profit making as usual.

This is the two Britains, with Wilson and his government providing full support for Labour's most bitterest enemies—the profit makers.

The longer such a government goes on without a challenge, the more serious will be the con-sequences for Labour. The time to make such a challenge is now, this week, at the Labour Party conference. Wilson supports Tory policies-to keep quiet is to lend aid to this support. Wilson is opening the door for what could be long years of Tory rule just as MacDonald did in 1931.

All those who remain quiet and allow him to do this will share the guilt.

# ANSWER

Reformism and reformist policies are useless and totally inadequate. It is not just British capitalism but world capitalism which is in a mortal crisis. Only socialist policies can answer the

- industries without compensation under workers' con-
- mination for all colonial and semi-colonial peoples. Withdraw all British troops
- perialism and give the fullest support and aid for the National Liberation Front in Vietnam.

be successfully implemented un-League, supported by the Young Socialists.

# NEXT WEEK

Price 6d.

# The Newsletter

will carry full reports and photographs from the Labour Party conference by our team of reporters already in Brighton

> BE SURE OF YOUR COPY

#### PROBLEMS OF THE **FOURTH** INTERNATIONAL

The sixth in G. Healy's important series of articles will be resumed shortly.

# Lay-offs at BMC Oxford

By Newsletter Reporter

BMC ANNOUNCED on Wednesday that 1,300 men would be laid off from their Cowley, (Oxford) factory, including those with two years' service and less, and those over the age of 65.

This means that one in seven will lose their jobs.

So far no lay-offs have been announced in BMC spares section—one of the most militant departments. This could mean that the management is trying to head off action in Oxford.

A further 600 are to lose their jobs at Pressed Steel-Fisher.

MRS. OLIVE GIBBS, writing in the latest issue of 'Sanity', the campaign's monthly journal, has intimated that £5,000 is urgently needed or the campaign will have to close down.
'We have been crippled by lack

of money' she writes, starved of support especially because many of those in the

labour movement who used to be with us have been reluctant to oppose a Labour government

It is a great pity that Mrs. Gibbs did not publish a list of names of those 'left' fakes who have 'starved' C.N.D. of support. We are sure that 'Tribune', at least, would be interested.

# **BOOK NOW FOR**

# C C C OCTOBER 15 AGAINST NATO AND THE

There is still time for our readers to sign up to go to Liege with the Young Socialists of Britain to meet socialist youth from Belgium and countries all over Europe.

They will be protesting against the war in Vietnam and against the capitalist alliance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which has its headquarters near to Liege.

The cost of the round trip to Dover-Ostend and Liege £8 10s which includes a free meal at Liege and dancing on board ship there and back. All money must be paid in by September 30. Do not delay write now to Dany Sylviere, Liege Organiser, Young Socialists, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4, for further details or send a deposit of £2 with your name and address.

# 'left'

By John Crawford

THE MORE BLATANT the Labour government's attack on the working class, the more ludicrous becomes the position

of the Labour Party 'lefts'. For years they have participated in the time-honoured ritual of criticising the policies of the right wing, while loyally avoiding any challenge to its

right to lead. At conference after conference of the Labour Party they have performed their chosen role of safety valves for rank-and-file dis-

content.

But when this year's conference assembles in the Top Rank Entertainment Centre in Brighton, this routine will look somewhat

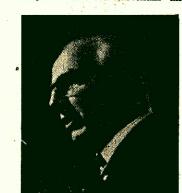
played out.

The 'left' resolutions have an empty ring. Like the sickly grin of a mangy Cheshire cat, they are all that remains of the old oppositionism. Take, for instance, the 44 resolutions on Vietnam. These, together with a number of

amendments, indicate the widespread disquiet in the Labour Party membership at Wilson's craven support for the US war against the Vietnamese workers and peasants. But, with a few exceptions, the

Holborn and St. Pancras South Constituency Labour Party 'urges HM government to dissociate it-self publicly from either side in conflict as the best chance of securing Russian co-operation in recalling the Geneva Confer-

Penistone thinks that 'the time has come for the Prime Minister to speak to both Vietnam and



Cousins: No preparation

China and try to bring all three governments together for a solution and make it clear to the world powers where Britain

stands. Naturally, most interest centres on the Prices and Incomes Act

and economic affairs.
Several Constituency Labour
Parties and unions have submitted resolutions on these issues. Later amendments refer to the pay freeze.

Even where they directly criticise the government, they evade the question of fighting against it. Many begin with declarations of loyalty to some abstract con-

cept of an 'incomes policy'. For example, the Constructional Engineering Union 'asserts that the restrictions outlined by the Prime Minister in the statement of July 20, 1966, and the wage freeze are no more than stop-gap measures, and that to restore confidence and to secure full co-operation, it is necessary the government to immediately take other positive steps to resolve the problems, inducting as priorities substantial cuts and curtailment in all forms of military expenditure and further in-

tional currency reform'. The Chemical Workers sound much more 'left', demanding 'a more equitable distribution of the national product', and firmly opposing 'repressive legislation against trade union rights'.

tensive efforts to secure interna-

But what has this to do with the actual role played by the Wilson government,

How does it prepare for the struggle against unemployment and the wage cuts into which workers are now thrown? Many resolutions this year

oppose anti-union legislation. But the job has already been done; the Act is law and about to be operated.

How many of those putting Continued page 4. column 6 ->

At the same time, political con-

tacts are established between the

Vatican and the pureaucracy via

the Italian Stallnists and the

liquidate the philosophical foun-

dations of Marxism by making its

peace with the most hated de-

fenders of reaction and opponents

of intellectual and scientific pro-

of the tremendous political power of the Calnolic church,

long ago gave up the struggle

against this most taithful outpost of the Vatican and the Franco

Now it turns its attention to

most outrageously of an, to the

Carlists, the leading shocktroops

of the fascists in the civil war.

The statement of the Spanish

Stailnists alleges that at a Cari-

ist rany in Montejuma, 'con-

tinual cries of "Liberty, Liberty, Liberty" mingled with the tradi-

tionalist slogans (not disclosed

the notorious Kequetes.

the demonstration'.

Franco.' (Emphasis added.)

new ailies.

SPANISH

CP ROVELS

In 'popular front'

policy statement

aware of the radicalising effect that the overthrow of the Franco

regime would have on the Euro-

pean, and particularly the French

working class, the Kremlin bureaucracy safeguards its re-

cently cemented friendship with

the Gaullist regime in France by

proving its loyalty to the status

The programme of the

Spanish Communist Party reflects

in its most extreme form the

counter-revolutionary role that is

played by the Soviet bureaucracy

in relation to the struggles of the

international working class, from

its strangling of the revolution in

south-east Asia to their British

counterpart's sabotage of the

campaign against anti-unon legis-

for its role as an international

policeman for imperialism pro-

ceeds at all levels.

mysticism.

This preparation by Stalinism

The columns of Stalinist

Recent contributors to 'Marx-

ism Today' have included the

Principal of the Church Mis-

sionary Society's training college

for men, the Superior of Farm

Professor of Divinity at Cam-

bridge University, the Canon of

Saints', Oxhey and the leading

Street Church, London,

Stalinist priest, John Lewis.

'theoretical' journals are thrown

open to leading advocates of

quo in the Iberian peninsula.

Spanish Stalinism, well aware

Thus Scaunism proceeds to

visit of Gromyko to the Pope.

# 'Hooliganism' and 'discipline'





The so-called 'hooliganism' in the Soviet Union illustrates, once again, that not everyone is, as 'Pravda' claims, happy under the 'collective leadership' of Kosygin (left) and Brezhnev. But the question goes much deeper, as our special correspondent

BY MICHAEL BEST

A SPECTRE is haunting the turrets and halls of the Kremlin - the spectre of Bolshevism. And like the old spectre of communism that had haunted all the powers of old Europe in 1848, it also has a physical breeding ground - the live, seething, potentially revolutionary discontent of the Soviet working class.

At the moment, this discontent is still masked by apolitical acts or by silent acts of ca'canny which the bureaucracy has christened 'breaches of public order' or 'hooliganism'. But this is only for public show.

Although not Marxists, they know which way their bread is buttered and they have read enough of Marx and Lenin to realise what this alarming increase in 'breaches of discipline' really mean.

That Trotsky's name has on three different occasions within the last six weeks on the pages of Pravda is no accident. From now on we can expect his name to appear more often than in the recent

past.
Officially, every Soviet citizen is as happy as a lark to live under the 'collective leadership' of the 'elected' Brezhnevs and Kosygins and on August 30, 'Pravda' burst into one of its periodic songs entitled 'The Honour and Dignity of the

'With profound patriotic feelings, every Soviet man into an inspiring poetical construction: "I-citizen of the Soviet

Union". With such false-ringing, pep-advertising language, the bureau-cracy seeks to 'inspire' the workers it exploits.

# Soviet pride

Quoting Lenin, who on the fourth anniversary of the October Revolution said that 'the workers of our country are rightly proud of the fact that it had been their good fortune to begin the building of the Soviet State and with this, begin a new epoch in world history', 'Pravda' went on, 'Now . . . the Soviet people feel very strongly pride in their own Fatherland, happy to be participants in the great communist construction.

What Lenin said in 1921 about the justifiable pride of the Soviet workers was true. But in 1966, is it also true what 'Pravda' says and 'pride' of being a Soviet Let us see what 'Pravda' itself

aren't looking.
On September 15, in a leading article entitled 'Public Order Is

tells us when its pep-writers

A Party Concern', it starts: 'In our country, there are

not a few collectives [the personnel of factories, mines, etc.] in which public order irreproachably maintained.

So we learn that there are also 'not a few' collectives in which public order is not 'irre-proachably maintained'. Further on we read that 'we still have hooligans and rowdies and drunkards, who trample roughly on law and order, who darken

the life of the toilers'.

The day after, it published another article signed by the Public Prosecutor of Leningrad, S. Solovyev, 'Man, Production, the Law', which gives us some insight into what is happening in the 'not a few' collectives in which 'breaches of public order' take place. We shall only give a few examples of the number

of cases he cites. He starts the article:

"There are no deficiencies whatsoever and we have none. The stock-taking and bookkeeping is carried out correctly in every detail." Thus declared the managers of Leningrad's watch factory just as they were getting to know that

the Public Prosecutor's office had received information about thefts of watches at the enterprise. This was said with confidence, but . . . it turned out that already on January 1, 1966, a deficiency of 390 gilded watch-cases at No. 7 workshop was declared, but this was flected in the inventory state-

'Is this an exception? A chance? Not at all!'
He gives another case.

'A worker from one of the enterprises stole about 700 metres of cable suitable for television antenna and was caught with it red-handed. Nonetheless, the management of the enterprise persistently asserted that the theft of cable there was an impossibility and, one after another, a pile of documents were sent to the investigating organs from which it appeared: all the cable received by the workshop was used up on the products, that there were no deficiencies according to the store-room

Such conspiracies by collectives against the State doesn't look like the acts of people proud to be Soviet citizens. Why, even State property can no longer be entrusted to them!

# 'Moral side'

Solovyev also turned to the

'It is clear to everyone,' he says, 'that absence of control and irresponsibility rears disrepeat towards the interests of people, trains people to think that the law, though it is written for all to see, can And further:

'If in his own workshop become worker] accustomed to breaking the laws in the letter and spirit, management indifferent towards its defence, can we expect him to respect the norms of behaviour in outside life, to actively oppose attempts to disregard the law? Hardly.'

One final example of how the workers and management 'do not reckon with the laws of the State

Quoting the case of a trading organisation that had returned to the factory 'Skorokhod' 853 pairs of footwear because of defects in manufacture,

'What was the cause of it? Gross negligence by many workers, unscrupulousness on the part of employees of OTK [the trading organisation]?'

When one bears in mind that these cases, as Solovyev himself states, are not exceptions and that they can be applied to 'not a few' factories all over the Soviet Union, then one gets an idea of the extent of the gulf factories all over the the bureaucracy has created between itself, as 'defender' of State property, and the workers.

#### Punishment

And what of 'hooliganism and rowdyism'? It has become so widespread that last July the government had to establish a special Ministry to cope with it. The Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on 'hooliganism' was published on July 28, 1966. It defines three categories of hooliganism.

1. Petty hooliganism. 'Using unquotable swear words' in public places, insulting behaviour towards citizens. Jail for a period of 10-15 days or 'correctional labour' for one to two months plus a stoppage of 20 per cent of wages. A chief of police can impose the fine himself or take the culprit to court.

2. Hooliganism. 'Deliberate' acts or rude violations of public vious disrespect for the public'. Punishment: Deprivation of liberty for six months to one year, or a fine of 30-50 roubles.

Malicious hooliganism, Distinguished by its 'exceptional cynicism or particular insolence or connected with resistance to representatives'. Punishment: One to five years 'deprivation of liberty'. Such, apparently, are the wide-

over the Soviet Union. But are not we ourselves opposed to such acts? We are, f course opposed to such acts. But while being opposed to

them, we also try to understand

How can one explain this enormous increase of 'hooliganism' in the Soviet Union except as an as yet unorganised, politically-unconscious act of rebellion against the existing social order? In a state where the possibili-

ties of conscious acts of opposition have been destroyed the people become atomized police terror, by an established conspiracy of silence about political alternatives. So hooliganism' is initially the only way the people can express their feelings of frustration, disgust and hatred for the bureaucracy.

When they steal from State, they do not steal from the public, as the bureaucracy would have them believe, but from 'them', the masters in the Kremlin, the ones who have for years robbed the workers of their earned share in the wealth they have created.

'If a ship is declared collective property,' wrote Trotsky "Revolution Betrayed", 'but the passengers continue to be divided into first, second and third class, it is clear that, for the third-class passengers, differences in their conditions of life will have infinitely more importance than that juridical change in proprietorship.

Like the stout females at the Conservative Party conferences, whose answer to the 'crimes' against bourgeois property is the outcry: Bring back hanging and the birch, so the bureaucracy's only 'solution' to the phenomena hooliganism' and 'breaches of public order' is the slogan: We need more and more discipline! sistant theme in the Soviet press.

But purely apolitical acts are no longer the only way workers react towards the State. Thousands, perhaps even millions, are now groping towards a real Marxist understanding of what is happening in the Soviet Union. One man wrote to 'Pravda' (September 12):

'Not long ago, studying Lenin's writings of the spring of 1918, I noticed how he had attached the greatest signifi-cance to the fostering and strengthening of socialist discipline—discipline of labour, in the observation of the laws of the Soviet Power, and in

the state of the proletarian dictatorship. But can one also correctly say in relation to the present times, when the building of communism is going on that in the USSR we have the task of strengthening discipline in every possible way, as in former times, as one lecturer had expressed himself? After all, the class structure of our society, and the political con-sciousness of the population, and the standard of social development in our country, and its democracy are at present years of the Soviet regime.'

A sixty-four thousand dollar 'Pravda' must have thought the question so representative of what is on the lips of millions of Soviet workers, that they mobilised no less than three members of the Academy of Science to answer it.

'If the lecturer to whom the reader refers,' the reply article begins, 'actually said that we have the task "as in former times" i.e. as in 1918, to strengthen discipline, then he had not correctly expressed himself, not aptly. It may be that he simply made a slip in

A Freudian slip, one might add And the rest of the reply, quoting Lenin, Brezhnev, the Central mmittee of the CPSU, pointed out that each historic period requires its own form of discipline; feudalism had the discipline of the stick, capitalism disciplined the workers through hunger.

# Wriggle and twist

And socialism? Although they actually quote Lenin saying that October Revolution a great historical transformation took place 'from a discipline, forced upon the exploiters, to a conscious and voluntary disci-pline, yet, so much did these Academicians wriggle and twist and turn that by the time they reached towards the end of the article they arrived at the conclusion that:

'An artificial curtailment of coercion, a weakening of the Continued page 4, column 2 ->

FOR THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE and its co-thinkers grouped around the International Committee for the Fourth International, the 30th anniversary of the fascist uprising in Spain was an occasion tor the re-affirmation of the basic propositions of Marxism-that the working class is the only torce capable of revolutionary change in society, and that the decisive role is played by Marxist leadership in harnessing and guiding this For the Stalinists, and particularly their Spanish con-

tingent, it served merely as yet another opportunity to prove to world imperialism their loyalty to the status quo, and the Kremlin policy of 'peaceful co-existence' with capitalism.

A statement published by the Spanish Stalinist Party and reproduced in the British Communist Party's weekly, Comment', takes to the furthest possible limits its long established policy of the 'popular front', elaborated by Dimitrov at the 7th Congress of the Communist International in 1935.

Its core is that in the struggle against war and fascism, alliances could and indeed have to be made with 'progressive' sections of the ruling class. The 'peoples' front' thus included the Radicals in France,

the Democrats and 'liberal' Republicans in the USA, the

Liberals and Anti-German Tories such as Churchill and Eden

in Britain, and right-wing Republicans in Spain. To secure such allies for the Soviet bureaucracy against the threat of war with Nazi Germany, all revolutionary demands had to be erased from the programmes of the Communist Parties concerned, and a world-wide witch-hunt organised against the only movement which refused to acquiesce in this betrayal of Marxism-

Side-by-side, therefore, with the seduction of liberals and anti-German Blimps, went the destruction of the old cadre of the Bolshevik Party in the Soviet Union, and the assassination and persecution of revolutionaries where ever the Stalinists were able to act with impunity, as in the case of Spain during the civil war.

Whatever the feelings of workers who were swept by the Stalinists into the 'Popular Front', this strategy was in its essence counter-revolutionary and aimed against the resurgence of working class militancy that swept across Western Europe from 1935 on-

It is this theory of the 'Popular Front' which is the basis of the Spanish CP's anniversary state-

It first of all takes the fascist regime to task for its failure to carry out its original programme of 1936, in that it only 'pretended to safeguard the rule, faith and unity of the Nation'.

It argues from this proposition (absurd in that no fascist move-ment or regime can fulfill all its pledges due to the conflicting social groups from which such movements seek their support) that the old supporters of the regime, the forces that lined up against the working class and the peasantry in the civil war of 1936-39, are seeking a shift to the 'left' in order to speed up the development of the Spanish economy.

These new opposition forces include, according to the state-ment, the fascist Falange, the military, Church. Monarchists, finance and big

The Spanish Stalinists echo this mood faithfully stating that around us other countries which have overcome these obstacles are advancing and outstripping us more and more'. The statement concludes that

the crisis within Spanish capi-talism is opening the eyes of many of those who accepted the illusions of the nationalist and pseudo-revolutionary demagogy of

#### Scared of action Driven on by a very real fear

independent working-class action against the fascist regime -action that has already been under way since the big strikes in the Asturian mines in the summer of 1962—and fully any section of society—neither the Army, the Church, the capitalists nor the Monarchists (i.e., landowners) throw their weight behind Franco.

Thus the manner of his removal must, it is asserted, be peaceful, as there are no forces which will resist.

In this way, the Kremlin bureaucracy's theory of 'peaceful co-existence' is neatly inserted into a country where miners are tortured to death for striking, and where veteran communists such as Grimau, of the civil war are executed by firing squad for 'crimes' alleged to have been committed nearly 30 years ago. Having characterised the Franco regime as the rule of one man and not of any class, the

propose an alliance of all classes against the regime. And this is precisely what the Stalinists do The Stalinists now become ad-

vocates of a national 'strike' of a new type. 'It is possible to make a

general strike of the working class coincide with strikes of peasants, students, professors, employees and civil serv men and industrialists.' (Emphasis added.)

Obviously some instruction in the gentle art of picketing will and especially industrialists, and

# From page 2

based a true estimate of the

On the contrary, they were all familiar with Trotsky's detailed and meticulous answer from exile to each point of the trials.

commission headed by John Dewey which went into every aspect of the question Trotsky's attitude to individual terror to his movements in Norway.

They knew quite well that he had declared his intention of returning to Moscow if the Dewey Commission found him guilty of any of the charges.

men who long ago gave up every scrap of priciple. Their flexible spines adapted to every twist of Stalin's line, their mouths uttered each required calumny.

main line of defence—the international communist movement.

It was Trotsky and his cothinkers who alone maintained the traditions of that movement

and fought to defend the heritage of October from the corruption of Stalinism and the pre dations of the imperialists.

# INTERNATIONAL POWER

For the working class to take the power internationally and remove the imperialist threat to October, it must be led by a world party which sees the world Those whose political careers

were based on the defence, not of the USSR, but of the bureaucratic disease of which Stalin's overthrow of imperialism.

breaking the grip of the right-wing agents of the bosses. The treacherous role of the

Stalinists today will come as no surprise to those who study their history of lies.

In finishing with the Wilsons, Browns and Carrons, the workers' movement will have to finish also with the friends of the right wing, Gollan, Dutt, Rothstein

of the partne 'On the the Commun the temptation ism with wh the 1936 rev Naturally,

will have

workers why

refusing to

hard day's w

broad allian-

concessions

Again, suc

for reconcilia exterminated your cor the Monarchist groupings, and independenc working class perialist war

and decorum Small ques not be allow on the 'Nat

here), giving a new character to Neither is the army (the officers

Here, too, the Stalinists find civil war to and to arrar 'Among the officers the idea is could take growing that the role of the military is to defend the frontiers of 'peaceful against toreign enemies and not to act as the policemen of their could chat own people, the role they have been competted to play by wards the v Thus the statement presents the were in Spa

ludicrous picture of a tascist dic-Naturally tatorship without support from modestly st organisers of

'Through Communist intention of parties, grou personalities a meeting of Just as through the

classes, to a heroism to vres of the Soviet burea with the im As in 193 Kremlin des

propaganda They pres fenders of faith, and la Spanish v by the hur paid with th formist pol bureaucracy lings in Spain

to forget.

# The second of two articles by JOHN CRAWFORD

WE HAVE SEEN how the Moscow show trials of 1936-1938 were obvious frame-ups, and must have been known to be such by the leaders of the British Communist Party. This pretended ignorance of Stalin's crimes until they were suddenly 'revealed' by Khrushchev in 1956 is simply yet one more lie.

Perhaps they fall back on the second line of defence: they knew the trials were faked, but the interests of the USSR de-manded their complicity. This is the worst type of

sophistry.
Who defended the Soviet Union in 1937? Stalin, who, on Khrushchev's e, destroyed the Red General Staff in the evidence.

Tukhachevsky trial? Or Trotsky, who from exile, warned against the dangers of these actions in the face of a possible Nazi attack?

King Street machine worked flat out in those years to sell the genuineness of the Moscow Trials in the labour Every absurdity was justified,

every slander re-echoed. Each day, the 'Daily Worker' poured out its quota of lies. The leaders of the Party wrote of Trotsky and Zinoviev as fascist agents. Anyone who questioned the possibility that these leaders of the October revolution were along enemies of socialism, was himself denounced in similar

It is impossible to write on this subject without mentioning the name of Denis Nowell Pritt, QC, however sickening that may be. Now retired, this man re-cently published his autobio-

In it he tells us how he just 'happened' to be in Moscow as the 1936 trial opened, and how he had been convinced of the genuineness of Zinoviev's con-

\* We have drawn a great deal of the information here from British Stalinists and the Mos-

cow Trials' by Brian Pearce, 'Labour Review', Vol. 3, No. 2.



DENNIS NOWELL PRITT, QC, (left) led a whole number of Stalinist writers in justifying every absurdity of the Moscow Trials—and justifying the murder of the leaders of the October Revolution. Vishinsky, (right) an ex-Menshevik and prosecutor at the trials, was their hero.

# Stalinism and the Moscow Trials

apparently so satisfied of the genuineness of the case, and the guilt of the accused that they published the full shorthand-transcript of the hearing, translated into English. What their views of the case now are, after the revelation made at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (to which I will come in Part II) of the tragic abuses of the Stalin period, do not know. I have thought it best to leave unchanged my account of the trial, and of the views of it that I formed at the time, which I in fact wrote before the revelations

were made. 'One sequel of the publication of the transcript was that the more industrious anti-Soviet propagandists in the West-those who sought to find a basis for their stories instead of just inventing them —eagerly studied the tran-script, believed that they had found a certain number of errors of fact in it which would help to discredit the trial, and published the errors broadcast. and others then naturally studied the allegations, and found that they were not in fact errors, although they looked as if they might be.' ('Autobiography of D. N. ritt—Part one: From Right to

Left', Lawrence and Wishart.)
And so this comfortable law-

yer tries to evade his direct re-

sponsibility for the murder of

thousands of communists.

Pritt was a vital part of Stalin's murder machine. As a Labour MP, he worked to convince many who would have otherwise doubted the guilt

of those who confessed. He wrote, for example, a pre-face to a pamphlet reporting the first trial. This document carefully omits the reference in Holtzmann's 'confession' to the non-existent Hotel Bristol (mentioned more fully last week).

# **ABSURDITIES**

In another pamphlet, 'The Zinoviev Trial', Pritt set out to answer critics of the trial by slurring over the many absurdi-

The 1937 trial was defended 'Soviet Justice and the Trial of Radek and Others', by another barrister, Dudley Collard. Victor Gollancz published this book, like the pamphlets already mentioned, and Pritt wrote an intro-

'At the first of these trials, it seemed clear to me on direct study on the spot that the case was genuine. . . . The impression gained from Mr. Collard's description will, I think, enable many who were puzzled by the first trial not merely to convince themselves of the genuineness of the second, but also to derive from that conviction of the genuineness of the first.'

visit of Piatakov to Trotsky, he

Trotskyism'. Collard follows every twist of the frame-up. On the alleged

'I have read some statement to the effect that no aeroplanes flew from Germany to Norway in December 1935. It seems hard to believe that this is so, and one does not know, of course, whether "special" aeroplanes were referred to or only civil airliners.'

In fact, Trotsky had established from the airport records that no planes at all from Germany landed on the Oslo air-field in December 1935, and this quite precisely contradicts Piatakov's 'confession'. All the leaders of the CP

added their contribution to the campaign. Campbell compared Zinoviev to Franco.

Jack Cohen twisted an article of Trotsky's to make him appear advocate the murder of Stalin. Pat Sloan played his part as a 'Friend of the Soviet Union' by declaring his conviction that the defendants were all guilty. Page Arnot reported the Piata-

kov trial in the 'Daily Worker'. Gollan addressed the Young Communist League national counon 'The Development of Trotskyism from Menshevism to Alliance with Fascism and ounter-Revolution'. Dutt and Pollitt contributed to

pamphlet 'The Truth About Rothstein wrote a whole series of articles in the 'Daily Worker' containing a stream of the kind of lies and distortions of which he is a master.

Ted, now Lord, Willis, at that time an undercover Stalinist in the Labour League of Youth, called for the Trotskyist 'wreckers' to be turned out of

the labour movement.
William Wainwright, later
author of the pamphlet 'Clear Out Hitler's Agents: An Exposure of the Trotskyists', wrote on the Bukharin trial in 'Challenge', the YCL newspaper.

Every one of these writings was a conscious and deliberate lie,

and each of these men knew it. They applauded as Stalin wiped out the bulk of Lenin's comrades. Vishinsky, the former right-wing Menshevik, had joined the Party only after it was well established and the bureaucracy had started to develop. As chief prosecutor in the trials he was the hero of the Stalinists.

# OCTOBER LEADERS

Who were his victims, those whom he denounced as 'fascist mad dogs', 'counter-revolutionary terrorists', and the like?

Apart from some planted agents-provocateurs like Olberg planted or Sharangovitch, they were the leaders of October. For example, 25 people were members of the Party Central Committee between 1919 and 1921. By 1939, four had died natural deaths, 17 had been shot the imprisoned Tompky.

or imprisoned, Tomsky com-mitted suicide, Trotsky was exiled and later murdered Only Stalin and Kalinin lived

# The history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had to be rewritten many times as its

chief personages were shot or discredited, including the authors of the earlier histories. The men slandered by Gollan and Rothstein were those who

had devoted their lives to serve

the workers' movement and the

Take, for example, what must surely be the bitter irony of the last plea to the court of Y. N.

'Yesterday, the State Prosecutor gave a complete and ex-haustive summary of all my heinous crimes. And so I, a shoemaker, who at the age of 15 became an active revolutionary, a Party member who served six years in a Tsarist prison, who survived three death sentences, sit in the dock as a grave offender, as a traitor to my country.'

Such men 'confessed' after they had been politically broken by Stalin. Many thousands of others went to their deaths without ever giving in to the bureau-

These faced not only their own torture, but often that of their

Did Dutt or Rothstein know nothing of this? Rothstein's father lived in Moscow throughout this period. Pollitt and the others paid innumerable visits to

Were no facts available to them on which they could have

They knew of the independent

But the Stalinist leaders are

Far from defending the October revolution, the Pritts and Dutts weakened it by destroying its

blood purges were a symptom, can never lead the revolutionary Today, the British labour movement faces the possibility of

Sink The states appeal for al ought on c Europe' (why without tak attitude dur

various agen weight behi working class suicidal alli

in Spain, ups entire balance continent of To this socialism i Stalinists.

zeneration ar from history of Stalinists un

IT IS NO following t gressional

United Stat

son and his

and peasant

Since Au

to step up

Newsletter US is now war in Vi been a wh developmen same directi For exam 'Washington carried inspired Saigon that to double Vietnam du the total in 600,000, and

and puppet

and

million.

Thieu-head Vietnam—ca of North Vie quickly if invaded'.

And, follo 'elections' puppet regin US air raids Republic o Vietnam) har of intensity: troops have within 20 m almost insid

West Germany was

British firms, on the other

hand, produced some 1,722,000

cars and managed to export

During the first seven months of this year, the Ger-

mans produced approximately 1,654,000, exporting a half,

whereas Britain only exported a third of the 1,035,361 cars

Even before the seamen's strike, the February and March British figures showed

a drop on the 1965 figures.

The industry's experts say

roughly one third.

produced

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE and ers grouped around the International or the Fourth International, the 30th of the fascist uprising in Spain was an r the re-affirmation of the basic of Marxism-that the working class is ce capable of revolutionary change in that the decisive role is played by lership in harnessing and guiding this

talinists, and particularly their Spanish coned merely as yet another opportunity to prove ialism their loyalty to the status quo, and the of 'peaceful co-existence' with capitalism.

at published by the Spanish Stalinist Party and the British Communist Party's weekly, es to the furthest possible limits its long estabf the 'popular front', elaborated by Dimitrov at ss of the Communist International in 1935. that in the struggle against war and fascism, and indeed have to be made with 'progressive'

ruling class. es' front' thus included the Radicals in France, and 'liberal' Republicans in the USA, the nti-German Tories such as Churchill and Eden right-wing Republicans in Spain.

such allies for the Soviet bureaucracy against the vith Nazi Germany, all revolutionary demands had m the programmes of the Communist Parties conworld-wide witch-hunt organised against the only refused to acquiesce in this betraval of Marxism-

therefore, with the seduction of liberals and antiwent the destruction of the old cadre of the in the Soviet Union, and the assassination and evolutionaries where ever the Stalinists were able unity, as in the case of Spain during the civil war.

ie feelings of ere swept by the e 'Popular Front', is in its essence mary and aimed gence of working hat swept across from 1935 on-

y of the 'Popular the basis of the nniversary state-

takes the fascist for its failure to iginal programme at it only ard the rule, faith Nation'.

this proposition can fulfill all its the conflicting rom which such ( their support) upporters of the es that lined up rking class and the civil war of eking a shift to der to speed up t of the Spanish

opposition forces ng to the state-ist Falange, the military, the nance and big

talinists echo this y stating that countries which these obstacles id outstripping us

t concludes that in Spanish capiing the eyes of who accepted the nationalist and nary demagogy of

of action

a very real fear working-class he fascist regime ias already been e the big strikes 1962—and fully

whole number surdity of the of the leaders (right) an ex-

ras their hero.



#### d, Willis, at that over Stalinist in The history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union had eague of Youth, to be rewritten many times as its the Trotskyist e turned out of chief personages were shot or discredited, including the authors

revolution.

Drobnis:

of the earlier histories.

The men slandered by Gollan

and Rothstein were those who

had devoted their lives to serve

the workers' movement and the

surely be the bitter irony of the last plea to the court of Y. N.

Take, for example, what must

'Yesterday, the State Prose-

cutor gave a complete and ex-

haustive summary of all my heinous crimes. And so I, a

shoemaker, who at the age of

15 became an active revolu-tionary, a Party member who

served six years in a Tsarist

prison, who survived three death sentences, sit in the dock

as a grave offender, as a

Such men 'confessed' after

they had been politically broken

by Stalin. Many thousands of

others went to their deaths with-

out ever giving in to the bureau-

These faced not only their own

Did Dutt or Rothstein know

this? Rothstein's

traitor to my country.'

ainwright, later pamphlet 'Clear Agents: An Exrotskyists', wrote in trial in 'Chalnewspaper.

hese writings was id deliberate lie, ese men knew it. d as Stalin wiped Lenin's comrades. ie former rightt. had joined the ter it was well the bureaucracy develop. As chief he trials he was e Stalinists.

# **LEADERS**

is victims, those unced as 'fascist nter-revolutionary the like? some planted

h, they were the 25 people were

and Kalinin lived

torture, but often that of their ne Party Central ween 1919 and b, four had died father lived in Moscow through-out this period. Pollitt and the 17 had been shot Tomsky comothers paid innumerable visits to . Trotsky was murdered.

Russia. Were no facts available to them on which they could have

At the same time, political contacts are established perween the Vatican and the pureaucracy via the Italian Stalinists and the visit of Gromyko to the Pope.

Thus Scannism proceeds to liquidate the philosophical foundations of Marxism by making its peace with the most hated defenders of reaction and opponents of intellectual and scientific pro-

Spanish Stalinism, well aware of the tremenuous political power of the Camplic church. long ago gave up the struggle against this most taithful outpost of the Vatican and the Franco regime.

Now it turns its attention to the Monarchist groupings, and most outrageously of all, to the Carlists, the leading shocktroops of the tascists in the civil war, the notorious Kequetes.

The statement of the Spanish Stailnists alleges that at a Cariist rally in Montejuma, 'continual cries of "Liberty, Liberty, Liberty" mingled with the traditionalist slogans (not disclosed here), giving a new character to the demonstration'.

Neither is the army (the officers of course) neglected. Here, too, the Stalinists find

new ailies. 'Among the officers the idea is growing that the role of the military is to defend the frontiers against toreign enemies and not to act as the poucemen of their own people, the role they have

competted to play by

Franco.' (Emphasis added.) Thus the statement presents the ludicrous picture of a fascist dictatorship without support from

# SPANISH CP CROVELS

# In 'popular front' policy statement

aware of the radicalising effect that the overthrow of the Franco regime would have on the European, and particularly the French working class, the Kremlin bureaucracy safeguards its recently cemented friendship with the Gaullist regime in France by proving its loyalty to the status quo in the Iberian peninsula.

The programme of the Spanish Communist Party reflects in its most extreme form the counter-revolutionary role that is played by the Soviet bureaucracy in relation to the struggles of the international working class, from its strangling of the revolution in south-east Asia to their British counterpart's sabotage of the campaign against anti-unon legis-

This preparation by Stalinism for its role as an international policeman for imperialism proceeds at all levels.

The columns of Stalinist 'theoretical' journals are thrown open to leading advocates of

Recent contributors to 'Marxism Today' have included the Principal of the Church Missionary Society's training college for men, the Superior of Farm Street Church, London, the Professor of Divinity at Cam-bridge University, the Canon of Westminster, the Vicar of All Saints', Oxhey and the leading

Stalinist priest, John Lewis.

any section of society—neither the Army, the Church, the capitalists nor the Monarchists (i.e., landowners) throw their weight behind Franco.

Thus the manner of his removal must, it is asserted, be peaceful, as there are no forces which will resist. In this way, the Kremlin

bureaucracy's theory of 'peaceful co-existence' is neatly inserted into a country where miners are tortured to death for striking, and where veteran communists, such as Grimau, of the civil war are executed by firing squad for 'crimes' alleged to have been committed nearly 30 years ago. Having characterised the Franco regime as the rule of one man and not of any class, the next logical step would be to propose an alliance of all classes against the regime. And this is precisely what the Stalinists do

propose. The Stalinists now become advocates of a national 'strike' of a new type.

'It is possible to make a general strike of the working class coincide with strikes of neasants, students, professors, employees and civil servants, tradesmen and industrialists.' (Emphasis added.)

Obviously some instruction in the gentle art of picketing will have to be given to civil servants, and especially industrialists, and

# From page 2

based a true estimate of the

On the contrary, they were all familiar with Trotsky's detailed and meticulous answer from exile to each point of the trials.

They knew of the independent commission headed by John Dewey which went into every aspect of the question from Trotsky's attitude to individual terror to his movements in Norway.

They knew quite well that he had declared his intention of returning to Moscow if the Dewey Commission found him guilty of any of the charges.

But the Stalinist leaders are men who long ago gave up every scrap of priciple. Their flexible spines adapted to every twist of Stalin's line, their mouths uttered each required calumny.

Far from defending the October revolution, the Pritts and Dutts weakened it by destroying its main line of defence—the international communist movement.

It was Trotsky and his cothinkers who alone maintained the traditions of that movement and fought to defend the heritage of October from the corruption of Stalinism and the predations of the imperialists.

# INTERNATIONAL POWER

For the working class to take the power internationally and remove the imperialist threat to October, it must be led by a world party which sees the world as it really is.

Those whose political careers were based on the defence, not of the USSR, but of the bureaucratic disease of which Stalin's blood purges were a symptom, can never lead the revolutionary overthrow of imperialism.

Today, the British labour movement faces the possibility of breaking the grip of the right-wing agents of the bosses.

The treacherous role of the Stalinists today will come as no surprise to those who study their history of lies.

In finishing with the Wilsons, Browns and Carrons, the workers' movement will have to finish also with the friends of the right wing, Gollan, Dutt, Rothstein and company.

it will have to be explained to THE ANNOUNCEMENT workers why their employers are refusing to put in their normal hard day's work.

Again, such an unprecedented broad alliance demands certain concessions on the part of some of the partners:

'On the thirtieth anniversary the Communist Party puts aside the temptation to extol the heroism with which the people fought the 1936 revolt. . . . What must extolled today is the desire for reconciliation. . . .'

Naturally, when you are on the picket line with the class that exterminated a whole generation your comrades, and helped, its destruction of the political independence of the Spanish working class, to pave the way for the most brutal of all imperialist wars, a certain restraint and decorum is called for.

Small questions like that must not be allowed to become a pretext for scabbing by industrialists on the 'National Strike'.

#### Sink Differences

The statement ends with an appeal for all those forces which fought on opposite sides in the civil war to sink past differences and to arrange a meeting 'which could take place at a town in Europe' (why not Moscow, home of 'peaceful co-existence'?) where yesterday's mistaken enemie could chat over their problems without taking into account their attitude during the war or towards the war, or whether they were in Spain or in exile'.

Naturally enough, the Stalinists modestly step forward as the organisers of such a get-together.

'Through this declaration the Communist Party announces its intention of getting in touch with parties, groups, associations and personalities to examine the practical possibility of organising a meeting of such a kind.'

Just as in 1936, Stalinism, through the intervention of its various agencies, throws all its weight behind a campaign to break up the consciousness of the working class, to enmesh it in suicidal alliances with hostile classes, to adapt its power and heroism to the cynical manoeuvres of the counter-revolutionary Soviet bureaucracy in its dealings with the imperialist powers.

Kremlin desires is a revolution in Spain, upsetting as it must the entire balance of power on the continent of Europe.

To this end, all mention of socialism is barred from the

As in 1936, the last thing the

propaganda of the Spanish stalinists. They present themselves as the true party of the Nation, the defenders of private property, the

faith, and law and order. Spanish workers and peasants by the hundreds of thousands paid with their lives for the reformist policies of the Soviet bureaucracy and its corrupt hire-

lings in Spain.

We are confident that a new generation of Spanish workers, far from being intimidated by the past defeats, will examine the history of the civil war that Stalinists understandably wish us

UP UNTIL 1964, British car that the British Motor Corexports led the world. But by poration is to sack as many beating Britain in all major as 10,000 of its labour force export markets. and has already placed nearly The figures for last year show that the Germans pro-40,000 on short-time working duced approximately 2,800,000 reveals a growing crisis in cars and exported about half this industry which has come this figure.

The cut-back announced by BMC, involving a reduction of 100,000 in its vehicle production for the home market, is the most severe since 1945.

Labour's economic policy.

under the hammer of

Even in the bad recession of 1956, only 6,000 lost their jobs.

The BMC cut-back is part of general crisis in the industry: already in Coventry, 5,000 workers are on short-time at Standard Triumph, 3,000 at the Jaguar plant, with Rootes threatening to sack as many as 500 at its Scottish plants, where 3,000 are already on short time. Vauxhalls have now announced

maker, is certain to be affected by the crisis in the near future. The background to these sackings is, of course, the enormous slump in car sales resulting from interest rate policy of the Labour government

short-time and say they can

make no firm promises about

further job prospects this winter,

and Ford, the other large car

As a result of successive bouts of deflation, the deposit on a car has been raised to 40 per cent and the period of repayment cut

# SALES DOWN

Sales of new cars on hire purchase show nearly a 30 per cent fall in August this year, compared with the same month last year, with purchases of second-hand cars down by about 25 per cent.

The severe restriction of bank credit has also meant that the dealers are unable to carry large stocks of cars and are reducing their orders from the manufacturers as rapidly as possible.

Figures issued last week by the British Bankers' Association show a £92 million fall in bank credit over the last three months compared to the previous quarter. which brings to an end what has been an almost continuous expansion of bank loans over the last two years.

The impact of the crisis cannot be confined to motors alone. This industry stands at the centre of a whole complex of other trades which depend directly upon it for their pros-

perity and survival.

Steel, rubber, glass, electrical suppliers and others will be hit in the immediate future — Dunlop has already announced cut-backs. Joseph Lucas, Hardy Spicer,

Wilmot Breeden Automotive

Products, Guest Keen Forgings

one of the 'backward' sectors of British capitalism. On the contrary, this has been

# The fact that it is now one of

is no ordinary recession. In 1961, for example, the employers were willing to retain much of their labour, despite falling markets, in anticipation of a quick up-turn in the industry.

tion of its labour force because it knows that the present crisis

drop on the first six months. But the industry confidently stockpiled, expecting a good The first six months of this

The early months of 1965

335,000—a 42 per cent

produced 789,000 new car

registrations, but during the

last six months, sales slumped

year came up to expectations and an all-time record of 809,000 new car registrations was reached. By July the industry was expecting the usual

downturn in sales. A 45 per cent downturn was expected — representing 315,000 cars for the second half of the year.

But the credit restrictions of April and July soon produced the present slump.

# THE BMC CUTBACK

# Harsh result of worst money This is why Ray Gunter, CPISIS by PETER JEFFRIES

that if they could maintain

the record of the West Ger-

mans, the industry would

But the fact that after the

expansion programme, during the 1961-1964 production

spree, at Ford (Halewood).

Vauxhall (Ellesmere Port),

BMC (Bathgate), Rootes (Lin-

wood), and Standards (Speke,

Liverpool), they were unable

to maintain exports show the

evils of an unplanned eco-

made the industry weaker than its Continental rivals—

the exact opposite to the ex-

up by sales in the home mar-

This weakness was covered

perts' predictions.

The expansion, in fact, has

have no problems.

warnings about redundancies or short-time working. The steel industry will be very

Figures announced two weeks ago by the Iron and Steel Board show that a rapid run-down in stocks of steel is taking place over a large range of industry. Richard Thomas and Baldwin.

hard hit.

John Summers (employing 13,000 Connah's Quay in North Wales and producing a third of the sheet metal for cars) and the Steel Company of Wales will suffer a severe reduction in orders as a result of the motor crisis. Stocks of steel fell by 27,000

tons in the second quarter of the

year, with a 71 per cent decline in the production of ingots and castings in August compared with the same month in 1965. It is now estimated that the industry is working at only a little over 75 per cent capacity. Demand for steel has fallen considerably on the part of motor

car manufacturers and from the

building trade. This was before

the BMC announcements were made. In dealing with the motor industry, we are not speaking of

one of the major 'growth indusof the economy, one where, in the cliché of the Prime Minister, 'science and techonology' have been applied to the

# RECESSIONS

the first and hardest hit by Wilson's severe deflation gives an indication of the depth of the The trade, of course, suffered major recessions in 1956 and and again in 1961. . . . But this

Now this policy is at an end. BMC is sacking a large proporMinister of Labour, attacked work-sharing and short-time working as a remedy for the

bankers are insisting on permanent sackings to raise level of unemployment and force wages down. BMC obviously hopes to regain its lost production with a much smaller labour force. The motor industry is, in fact, dominated by a handful of rich and powerful monopolists. The

in profits. These four companies alone employ over a quarter of a

million workers. Owners of these motor giants made over £300 from each of

Together they have an export

Despite its apparent wealth and power the British motor industry is finding it more and more difficult to compete in the fiercely competitive markets of the world. Ford and Vauxhall are in any case wholly US owned and Roots, the fifth largest concern, is increasingly dominated by US

Labour leaders and the City

capital of over £500 million, which last year made over £80 million

largest firms have a total

these workers during the last

turnover of £500 million.

capital in the form of the Chrysler Corporation.

Car production has been slipp-

production.

# and Castings, Triplex Safety Glass and others, have also given Despite its enemies and dubious allies, and despite partial

# or temporary defeats The Vietnamese Litt of the string and the Revolution will triumph!

BY ERIC WEBSTER

IT IS NOW CLEAR that, following the November Congressional elections in the United States, President Johnson and his government intend to step up further their war of aggression against the workers and peasants of Vietnam.

Since August 13, when The Newsletter warned that the US is now preparing an all-out war in Vietnam, there have been a whole number of new developments pointing in the same direction. For example, the 'New York

Times' on August 29, and the Washington Post' on September 15, carried stories—obviously inspired 'trial balloons'-from Saigon that the US is planning to double its forces in South Vietnam during 1967, bringing the total in that country to about 600,000, and the total American and puppet forces in Indo-china and Siam to over one a half

On September 25, General Thieu-head of state in South Vietnam-called for an invasion of North Vietnam. 'The war', he said, 'would end quickly if North Vietnam was

invaded'.

Furthermore, recent months have seen a powerful upsurge of AIR RAIDS And, following the fraudulent elections' conducted by the USA.

puppet regime in South Vietnam, US air raids on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) have reached new levels of intensity; more Korean puppet troops have landed, and US marines have established bases within 20 miles of the Republic, almost inside the 'demilitarized zone' along the 17th parallel.

This is not, however, a sign of strength of the US imperialism -on the contrary, it is a sign of terrible weakness Vietnam and at home. Domestically, US imperialism

is challenged, at a time of international economic crisis, on three The heroic struggles of oppressed Negro workers continue throughout the United

States: most recently, in Chicago

and Grenada, Mississippi, big fights have been waged, and important gains made. At the same time, as the war Vietnam throws increasing burdens on the American workers-current spending on the war is now put at 964 million pounds a month—and becomes ever more barbaric, the movement against that war continues to

#### **UPSURGE OF WORKERS** At present, of course, many

members of the anti-war movement are still confused by the renegade Socialist Workers' Party and the Stalinists, but even so the American bourgeoisie cannot tolerate for too long mass opposition to its policy of aggressive war.

the organised workers of the The most recent example of this was the magnificent airline

machinists' strike; which demon-strated for all to see that when the American working class moves, it has the power to shake the world. An especially important feature of this strike was the workers' defeat of Johnson's ill-fated

attempt to intervene through the capitalist state machine. Faced with mounting economic difficulties, the US capitalists had introduced a 3.2 per cent. a year 'guideline' for wages and prices increases. WON 8 p.c. RISE

# Despite this, the militancy of

the strikers forced Johnson to recommend an increase of over 4 per cent. as a 'settlement' of the dispute. This 'settlement', however, was rejected over-whelmingly by a ballot of the machinists, and eventually they won an 8 per cent. increase. At the same time as US

imperialism is faced with a grave challenge at home, the ignominous collapse of its military plans in Vietnam during the last dry season-the most favourable time of the year militarily for the US—has forced it to prepare an even bigger intervention. During the months from October 1965 to May 1966, the US's aim in South Vietnam was

The troops in 'Zone One' (Da Nang, Phu Bai, Chu Lai) were to connect their three small coastal enclaves, and then drive Those in 'Zone Two' had to

threefold.

clear the Qui Nhon-Ankhe-Pleikon road, and those in 'Zone Three' to defend Saigon. The National Liberation Front, however, attacked Da Nang, Chu Lai, and Ankhe, destroying many US planes. The first phase of their plan

having collapsed by the end of 1965, the US launched a new offensive in January. A series of operations designed to 'encircle the Vietcong' were launched. US Commander General West-

moreland was therefore forced to try a new attack in April.

He announced a 'continuing drive to cripple the expected monsoon offensive by the communists' by blanket bombingby B.52s from Guam, an American colony—of large jungle

This merely confirmed the old military dictum that it is impossible to bomb or shell trees successfully, and in May the National Liberation Front forces inflicted further casualties on the 1st Airmobile Division at Ankhe, and attacked near Hue and Da Nang.

#### **DEFEATS SUFFERED** In June, they launched a major offensive north of Kontum, in the northern highlands.

Since then, the US imperialists have suffered further defeats: the conscript soldiers of the South Vietnamese puppet army continue to desert or go over to the NLF at a considerable rate, forc-ing Ky's regime to introduce draconian measures promising terrible reprisals upon deserters. At the same time as the US offensive in South Vietnam

failed, the air war against North Vietnam, despite its enromous scale, and the paucity of Soviet and Chinese aid, did not achieve the desired results. On the contrary, it merely increased the determination of the

workers and peasants of the North to resist. Bridges, railways, etc., were repaired in record time, so that transport could keep moving. Factories were dispersed throughout the country to elimi-

nate concentrated targets for the Simultaneously,

struggled even harder to keep the industries going, and not only prevented the reorganisation from disrupting production, but actually increased their output! Workers and peasants throughout the country kept weapons handy and prepared to man the

anti-aircraft guns with such success that, according to the latest figures, 1,428 US planes

have been shot down, and countless attacks have been disrupted. While in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam workers and peasants have increased their resistance to the US bombers and the NLF has won many victories in the South, in the small areas still controlled by the Saigon puppet regime the workers have been fighting to preserve their living standards in the face of tremendous inflation, and hamper the US intervention.

Earlier this year, a series of militant shock strikes in Hue, Da Nang and other places gravely the supply of bombs impeded to the US and puppet air forces.

# COSTS RISE

At the giant American combine RMK-BRJ, which has invested over one billion dollars in South Vietnam and is the country's second largest employer, bitter struggles have been fought over wages and conditions. Despite a 64 per cent increase in the cost of living in the past

18 months, workers at this firm still earn only from 7d to 1s 5d per hour, the 1957 rates, and suffer extremely harsh discipline. From April to June, thousands of workers struck against these conditions: in May, 1,600 walked

work at the port.

out in Saigon, delaying vital seems, therefore, that

Vehicle production slipped last year and, as a result of the pre-sent crisis, it is widely anticipated that production will fall by 5-7 per cent during this year. In contrast to this, the Euro-

ing badly over the last years.

pean industry continues to boom and is expanding at a much faster rate.

Western Germany expects to pass its peak of 2.75 million vehicles this year; the French industry has now almost caught up with the British in terms of cars produced, and Japan, expanding rapidly, soon hopes to pass the million mark.

This, together with a growing crisis in the United States, which is hitting the giants such as General Motors, indicates a rapid sharpening of competition in the market for car sales in which many firms will be driven out of

Volkswagen, Europe's biggest producer, has a capital of over £400 million (about twice the size of Ford in Britain) and even Fiat has a larger capital employed than any of the British firms. Both these firms are, of course, small at the side of their

The present policies of deflation will make the British car industry even less able to compete. By cutting back production, costs will rise and export orders will be even more difficult to

# COSTS UP

Sir Patrick Hennessey, President of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, summed this up when he said, speaking of the BMC cut-back:

'If we are not working to capacity our costs go up rapidly and we are less competitive in the export market. In other words, far from deal-

ing with the accumulated prob-lems of British capitalism, the policies of the Labour government intensify that crisis. To save the pound, on which a section of the capitalist class relies for its income, and which Johnson and the US authorities

nsist is kept at its present value,

Wilson is forced to carry through

policies which bring stagnation

to key sectors of British capital-

ism and further weaken its ability to compete in the world. These policies flow, not from the 'mismanagement' or 'stupidity' of Wilson and the Cabinet, but from the deep contradictions of British and world capitalism.

One thing is certain: the growing crisis in the motor and other industries will lead to increased attacks on the working class as the employers drive for faster and more ruthless methods of

Only a political fight inside the trade union movement for nationalization of these giant irms, and the construction of a leadership to carry through this fight to the end, can now meet the needs of car workers and of

#### events are moving to a climax in Vietnam. The US, thwarted every turn, has been forced Vietnam at a time when it is facing growing difficulties at home, and the international economic

crisis is deepening.

**NLF VICTORIES** The American workers are most unlikely to accept increased burdens that their bosses and Johnson will try to impose for the sake of the war.

and has increased its support in the countryside by carrying through the distribution of land to the peasants (about which it was initially rather hesitant). Recently, preparations have been made by the NLF for a land

The NLF has won new victories,

Combined with an uprising of the city's workers this could blow the Ky regime and its imperialist masters sky high. Of course, the Vietnamese re-

and sea blockade of Saigon.

volution still faces grave dangers. In 1954, the Soviet bureaucracy backed by China, was able to transform the historic victory of Dien Bien Phu into the defeat of Geneva Agreements. It may, with its agents throughout the world labour movement, be able to inflict another temporary setback on the workers and peasants of Vietnam through another dip-

But the heroism and devotion of the Vietnamese people and solidarity of the international working class will make this very difficult. Without doubt, despite all its

lomatic conspiracy.

enemies and dubious allies, despite any temporary or partial defeats, the Vietnamese Revolution

Union

decline

linked

with

govt.

action

By Newsletter Reporter

BRANCH OFFICERS and

stewards of the metal, en-

gineering and chemical group

of the north west London Transport and General Workers' Union branches met

last Sunday to discuss the

serious drop in membership

of the group stressed the serious-

ness of the decline in view of

the growing economic recession,

and reported a number of ex-

periences where whole branches

had collapsed and recruiting cam-

gineering factory commented on the number of workers in other

unions who wanted to join the T&GWU because of its apparent

opposition to the Prices and In-

But when the role of the Wil-

son government was raised in discussion—how it had taken

measures intent on breaking the

organised strength of the work-

ing class—the district secretary replied that Wilson had no such

intentions. In any case, he added,

the economic crisis was exag-gerated. He agreed with another delegate that workers 'are having

The convenor of a large en-

The London district secretary

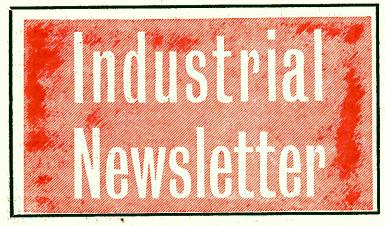
over the last year.

comes Act.

it too easy'.

# Midlands BMC workers meet

# NO LEAD FOR CARMIDN



BELFAST BY-ELECTION

'Lefts' abandon

working class

NEXT WEDNESDAY

(October 5) an important by

election will take place for

a vacant seat on the Belfast

City Council in the Dun-

The seat, which has always been held by the Unionist (Conservative) Party, was once held by Lord Carson, Northern Ireland's first Prime

Minister, and is regarded as a safe Unionist seat. This time it will be contested by the Labour Party, Unionist Party and Paisley's Protestant Unionist Party, with Paisley's wife as a candidate.

The decision by the Labour

The decision by the Labour Party to fight this seat has brought to the surface the opportunist nature of the right wing. It has also exposed the middle-of-the-road religies of the centrists and

policies of the centrists and fake 'lefts' for their lack of

class consciousness and their

inability to fight the right-wing policies of the Labour

Duncairn Labour Party,

which has always been known

as a 'left' Party, decided not

to fight the seat, even though

No vote

The reason given by the 'lefts' was that they could not ask the working class to vote for Labour while Harold Wilson was preparing to jail

In other words, they in-

tended to abandon the working class and leave it leader-

less and defenceless while the

extreme right fought for con-

said they would.

trade unionists.

two organisations

cairn Ward.

**Newsletter Correspondent** 

treme right.

THE SHEER SIZE of the crisis facing workers in the car industry was revealed last Friday in Birmingham. Union officials told a mass meeting of thousands of men from the giant Austin plant at Longbridge that about 20,000 workers employed by the British Motor Corporation alone would be thrown out of their jobs. At Longbridge one in five of the 21,000 workers in the factory could be out of work.

All through the week reports were piling up of short-time and threatened sackings at fac-tories in the Midlands. Many of these were plants manufacturing components and fitments for cars, such as Fort Dunlop, Triplex Safety Glass, Joseph Lucas, and BXL Plastic

working class is by building

based on socialist policies to

defeat the right wing and ex-

allowed the party executive to

step in and nominate a right

ing the seat not on class issues of a struggle against re-

action and neo-fascism, but as

just a chance to gain a seat on a split Tory vote.

Reactionary

sing on an anti-O'Neill basis.

This does not mean, of course, a more liberal Tory policy, but a more reactionary one appealing to disoriented sections of the middle class and

backward tendencies in the

working class.

This will be done also on the basis of opposition to the

'Common Market' and the Anglo-Irish Trade Pact, both of which will allow British

and international big business

into Ireland, pushing Irish small business to the wall and

eliminating large sections of

Of course, there will be the

usual 'no surrender' of the

constitutional position of Northern Ireland and the 'Re-

member 1690' policy by both Unionist and Protestant Unionist parties.

There must now be an all-out fight by the labour move-ment in Northern Ireland

against these reactionaries through struggling with the Young Socialists and Socialist

the middle class.

Mrs. Paisley will be canvas-

winger to fight the seat.

By their action, the 'lefts'

The executive will be fight-

strong labour movement

Materials, all in Birmingham. It was disclosed at the Longbridge meeting that the number of jobs available as alternative employment for redundant car workers was in fact small.

In spite of government talk about redeploying workers into key export industries, the only field where apparently there were plenty of vacancies were service industries, such as public trans-

For sacked car workers to take bus drivers' and conductors' jobs would mean a drastic cut in their

In an atmosphere of what appeared to be almost feverish activity, car workers in fact re-ceived no clear-cut lead from union officials and leading shop stewards.

Dick Etheridge, BMC combine

committee chairman and works' convenor at Longbridge, called at the mass meeting for 'utmost resistance to redundancy'.

But his proposals for 'utmost resistance' went no further than pressing for work-sharing instead of redundancy, and a decision to take 600 workers to Brighton on a special train, to 'bring pressure' on the Labour Party Conference.

Etheridge stressed that he was not proposing the lobby 'in the sense of attacking the Labour Party', since if Labour was 'got out' workers would suffer worse under the alternative.

# Image

Etheridge, a prominent mem-ber of the Communist Party, devoted much energy to lambasting the press for blackening the 'image' of car-workers by suggesting that they were 'greedy lay-

abouts'.
This tactic did not, however distract the attention of all workers present. They were more interested in action to save their jobs than their image in the Tory newspapers.

In reply to a question put by a rank-and-file worker: 'What is meant by fighting redundancy to the full?', Etheridge

replied:
'We will lead you as far as

you are prepared to go. George Evans, area organiser of the National Union of Vehicle Builders, appealed to BMC chairman Sir George Harriman to suspend the time-table of short-time and sackings while union leaders and the Minister of Labour got

declared: 'If we want industrial peace and want to have it done constitutionally, BMC has a part to

together to discuss the crisis. He

The comment of one worker present was: 'Listen to them! They are just lying down and letting it happen too us.'

# Nor anysign of from GP

By Newsletter Reporter

ON SUNDAY the Birmingham Communist Party called a meeting of workers to discuss the crisis. Here left-sounding phrases and militant speeches were the order of the day, but still no call to action from Etheridge, Arthur Harper (convenor at Tractor and Transmissions plant) or Peter Nicholas (of the Rover factory, Tyseley), who sat on the plat-

Etheridge declared that there would be 'unemployment in this district the like of which we have

never seen'. He was asked by a worker from Fisher and Ludlow's fac-

'When is a statement going to be given to the press that some action is going to be taken? It

is all very well to talk about these things: when is something positive going to be done?' In reply Etheridge said: 'The leaders will act as pressure is put on them from the

workers.

#### Etheridge challenged He was challenged by a Young

Socialist about his plea to car workers that 'any action taken should be devised not to embarrass the Labour government.' The Young Socialist demanded:

'What preparation do you think this is for workers about to be involved in a political struggle against the government?'

Etheridge replied that the policy of the leaders of the Labour Party had got to be changed 'because they'll destroy you if you don't.' Predictably he made no sug-

gestion that workers, in order to avoid destruction, would need to change the leadership of the Labour Party, together with some other 'leaderships' in the labour movement.

This sort of leadership from behind is disastrous in the present situation. The 'Morning Star' carried a triumphant headline: 'Austin Battle Cry'. But what sort of battle cry is it to urge your forces not to 'embar-rass' the enemy when the fight is about to begin?

# NCB picking

# ON US SAY EX-CAMBRIAN COLLIERY MINERS COLLIERY MINERS

FROM OUR CARDIFF CORRESPONDENT

MINERS AT THE CAMBRIAN colliery (Rhondda Valley), which closed on September 24, claimed this week that the National Coal Board was 'making an example of us', to intimidate other miners who might take militant action against future

# YS gain union support for October 2

ACTON AMALGAMATED ENGINEERING UNION No. 4 branch passed the following reso-

'The branch expresses deep concern of the threat of un-employment (i.e. ENV's) en-couraged by the Wilson government's incomes policy to smash

The motion was passed after much hesitation. The chairman, a Communist Party member who works at the ENV engineering actory in Willesden, north London, proposed that the words 'the call by the Young Socialists' and to smash the trade unions' be

The reasons he gave were that the Young Socialists could not possibly be organising the demonstration because workers were going from BMC, and that the second phrase was too harsh on Wilson. It was just a question of opposing unemployment not Wilson, because the main people

bankers. He said that the branch should

lution this week:

the trade unions.

'We will not let this matter rest at the mercy of the employers and the government. Therefore, support the call by the Young Socialists to demonstrate against these measures on October 2, on the eve of the Labour Party conference, and send a delegate with fare

omitted.

responsible for the government's measures were the Wall Street

not worry too much about sending a delegate to the Brighton demonstration because workers in other factories would take

# CONVENOR SUSPENDED AT **LUCAS**

By Newsletter Reporters

CONVENOR at the Lucas factory in Liverpool, Mr. Ernest Johnson, a member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union national committee and district committee, has been suspended from work on minimum pay. This followed a visit by him to the CAV factory on the same site to advise on a dispute.

The Lucas-CAV factories have identical rates of pay and

conditions and many departments, such as personnel, cover both firms. But union organisation has been kept separated.

On Thursday (September 22) a dispute broke out on the morning shift at CAV when a clerk was told to go home and return for the later shift. The clerks had recently cut their overtime from 30 hours to 10 hours after the management had refused to pay them merit money.

Both the CAV convenor and

deputy convenor were not on the morning shift, so Johnson was called in from the Lucas factory to advise on what action should be taken.

He was ordered out of the CAV factory while discussing with a foreman.

Half an hour later he was

told by a representative of the Lucas management that he would be given a week's pay in lieu of notice and would finish work the same day.

A lunchtime meeting of about 350 workers from both factories voted to strike until Johnson was reinstated. The afternoon shift endorsed

This Monday a union organiser met the management who agreed to suspend Johnson until the case was fully dis-

cussed. The shop stewards met and at a lunchtime meeting of workers, their motion to stay out on strike was narrowly

The Cambrian men returned to work last week after a special conference of the South Wales area of the National Union of Mineworkers had failed to endorse their strike action (see last two issues of The News-

They demanded, however, that their transfers to other pits must be arranged through their union lodge, and that men must be transferred to equivalent jobs.

The National Coal Board has refused to discuss the men's Instead it has attacked them

on three points.

Firstly, those miners who, having lost confidence in the future of the South Wales coalfield, and want to transfer to English pits under the NCB's 'pick your pit' scheme, have been told that there is a 'freeze' on recruitment out of the South Wales area.

Secondly, many miners indicated a wish to transfer to the Western colliery in the neighbouring Ogmore Valley. They were told there is a 'freeze' on recruitment into Western Colliery!—places there are being kept for men from pits which may close in the Afan Valley, says the NCB.

#### SHORTAGE

But the distance of the Afan Valley from Western colliery is several times more than the distance from the Tonypandy area, where most of the Cambrian miners live.

Furthermore, the secretary of Western colliery lodge, Emlyn Hughes, has said that over-age, day-wage men, who should be working in other parts of the pit, are being kept on the coal face Western because of the shortage of men there.

Thirdly, the NCB has refused to co-operate with the Cambrian lodge over the question of men who have been working on mechanised faces at Cambrian.

Though many of these men have not worked on conventional faces for years, the NCB is insisting that it should be free to put them back on conventional

put them back on conventional coal faces.

Miners are being told that the Board will send them where it likes, and they are to have no say in the matter. This is a clear attempt at intimidation, many

claim.

The NCB, in line with government policy and the wishes of the employers, wants to smash militant trade unionism.

NUM leaders must be held responsible for this victimisation of the Cambrian men.

At the recent coalfield conference, the area officials (both Communist Party and right-wing Labour members) prevented support for the Cambrian lodge and thus laid them open to the present attacks.

A new leadership, committed to the fight against unemployment, wage freezing and pit closures, must be built.

This is wholly possible, and necessary.

# **ELECTION RESULTS**

Last week, the result of the elections for President of the South Wales NUM were published.

Though the right-wing former vice president Glyn Williams won the election, he polled only 21,000 out of the 52,000 votes

The rest of the votes were divided between three candidates, all of whom oppose the official policies of the NUM.

This is the first time for 30 years that a non-member of the Communist Party has held the South Wales presidency. But the

CP has not opposed Glyn Williams. Ianto John, a CP member who stood, apparently without Party backing, received only 5,000 votes. This indicates the low opinion which miners have of the

Communist Party, after years of collaboration with the NCB by its leaders.
Glyn Williams only won the Presidency because the opposition was not united and had no clear political programme to unite on.

When an alternative appears, the present leadership will be doomed.

# 'Left' motions' empty ring concern may be experienced in

forward such resolutions did anything to fight against the government while it was preparing to bring in the Act?

It was last year's conference in Blackpool that gave Wilson the go-ahead on wage legisla-

resistance to the Labour leaders' betraval.

socialist. The right wing will tie up the

Conference with appeals for unity. They only echo the words not so long ago.
As Hull City Labour Party

sternly reminds these MPs:

respect of some facets of policy or turn of events, it is nevertheless incumbent upon every
Labour MP to support and give
absolute loyalty to the Prime
Minister and his government . . . which is displaying courage leadership and tolerance in the most difficult circumstances experienced by this country since 1945.'

While in the Entertainments Centre, Her Majesty's Ministers will be fighting to whip the dele-gates into line behind their betrayals, the workers who elected them face a different kind of struggle-against sackings, cuts in earnings, and attacks on trade unionism. In these battles, the 'lefts',

whose principles are transcended by loyalty to those leaders they pretend to criticise, will be rejected with contempt.

## Labour League for the estab-lishment of a strong labour movement to take the power. But the only way forward for the Northern Ireland 'Hooliganism' and 'discipline' in the USSR

# From page 2

fight against crime and other breaches of law and order could not only retard their liquidation, but at times even lead to a temporary growth of their numbers.'

And again:
'Mistaken is he who considers that under conditions of socialist democracy, the need for regulating the conduct of people by firm rules and norms falls away.'

So now, far from having conscious and voluntary discipline, according to Lenin, this discipline has to be forced upon the people by a strong State.

'The higher the State rises above the people and the more fiercely it opposes itself as guardian of property to the people as its squanderers, Trotsky wrote, the more obvious does it testify against the socialist character of the State property.'

Finally, one item from 'Pravda' (September 18), which apparently may have no connection with the theme of this article, but must be mentioned, because, of course, it has to do with it very much.

This was a cable from the Tass correspondent in Pyongyang, capital of North Korea, containing what appears to be a summary of an article on Trotskyism, which had appeared in the North Korean newspaper 'Nordon Sin-

Monitor, 'The Times' correspondent in Moscow (September 19), described the article as a thinly veiled Korean attack on China'. This Kremlinologist's explanation seems to be too clever by half when one reads the body of the article (or its summary):

The 'Pravda' article begins: 'The newspaper "Nordon Sinmun" has published an article about Trotskyism. In it, it is stated that the main initial point and basic position and line of Trotsky's "left" opportunism is the theory of permanent revolution". Trotskvism is also an anti-revolutionary theory denying the possibility of the victory of socialist revolution and the building of socialism in one country alone.'

# 'Strata of poor'

No Chinese Stalinist could possibly be accused of that, either in North Korea, where Chinese publications circulate freely, or even in the Soviet Union, where they don't any more.

'The Trotskyists have as-

serted that, under socialism, the improvement of the material and cultural conditions of the people will, supposedly, call forth the decay and degenera-tion of society and thus the danger of a capitalist restoration will be created. Influenced by such ideas, there had appeared at one time in the Soviet Union the incorrect tendency, which in essence led to the idea that without a strata of the poor, neither the Bolshevik cause, nor socialism, were possible and that it was necessary to strive for the preservation of the strata of the poor, since, allegedly, socialism and the improvement of the standard of life are two phenomena which contradict one another.

'Slandering the Soviet socialist society . . . Trotsky asserted that under socialism, just as under capitalism, there takes place class divisions, a relationship between rulers and subjects must rise again. . .

'The author writes that the Trotskyists came out categorically against the combination of methods of violence with non-violent methods in the revolutionary struggle, forms of legal with illegal struggle, in-sisting only upon "attack" and reckless revolt.

'The national - liberation struggle in the colonies is composed of parts of the world proletarian revolution and of important sections of the antiimperialist revolutionary forces. However, Trotsky did not want to see the important role and place of the national-liberation struggle in the colonies and regarded it with contempt.'

Enough has been quoted here to give the reader an idea of the sort of distortions of our views the Stalinist now use.

It is a far cry from 'the fascist mad dogs' of the past. Altered times require a different tech-nique in this reviving struggle against Trotskyism.

For apolotical people there is the jail dished out by the Ministry of Public Order. For thinking workers, like the one who wrote to 'Pravda', there

is the distortion, just in case they might begin to think and ask questions about Trotsky-or have they already began to ask, with 'Pravda' only keeping this concealed?

# New interest

The logic of Soviet development is such that a revived interest in Trotsky cannot be suppressed for ever.

For once the workers begin to distinguish between the 'Marxism' of the Stalinists and real Marxism, they MUST arrive at Trotskyism.

For if Leninism, according to Stalin's famous definition, is the Marxism of the epoch of imperialism, then Trotskyism can be defined as the Marxism of the epoch of the degeneration of the workers' state and the Communist movement—that is to say, the Marxism of our own times.

We do not really mind if they so grossly distort our views, for know that the North Korean workers, and particularly the Soviet workers, no longer take if they ever did-as gospel truth anything their press tells them. There will be many a reader

idea about not being able to build socialism in one country alone does not make sense, after As for the gross distortions about two classes under socialism, the need to preserve the poor, etc. thinking workers will have their reservations. One thing

who will keep an open mind about whether the Trotskyist

Soviet Union is salt—to take a large pinch with such distortions. Our only fear-and many a Trotskyist has been awakened at night in a cold sweat by this nightmare—is that the bureaucracy, wishing to court popularity among the workers, might one day declare themselves to be the real Trotskyists.

Then, indeed, our name would become mud.

I only hope that no Stalinist bureaucrat reads these lines—as, f course, no well brought up bureaucrat ought to-and get this idea about the way really to discredit us.

But so long as they attack us. distort our views so that they sound absurd, we shall be safe and will increasingly gain more

#### From page 1 they are not short of in the

tion.

The 'lefts', from Foot to Cousins, refused to prepare any

They played a major part in selling Wilson to the rank and file as some kind of radical

of the Mikardos and Dribergs of

'Whilst it is recognised genuine

#### Despite a number of protests, the chairman joined in and said that such a discussion was irrele-vant to the question of declining membership! 'Natural drift' The speaker said that the closure of factories in the area was

could do anything. When challenged on the closure of the ENV engineering factory, the chairman insisted the dis-cussion revolve around organisational details on recruiting and various disputes with the Amalgamated Engineering Union over 'poaching' members.

part of a natural drift to other

districts about which nobody

The so-called T&GWU 'opposition' to the Prices and Incomes Bill and government measures was clearly exposed by the attitude of this union's officials to action, especially when one referred to the October 2 demonstration outside the Labour Party conference as 'goose-stepping politics'. But only by following the lead

of the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League in their

opposition to the betrayals of the

Wilson government will the T&GWU and other unions stop

their active membership declin-

Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper Published by The Newsletter, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4 Frinted by Plough Fress Ltd. (TU), r.o. 180 Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4