

Workers Press

18p

ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Saturday January 4, 1986

Number 2

INSIDE YOUR WEEKEND PAPER

Irish news
and comment

PAGES 4 & 8

TV GUIDE page 14

What the Tory
Cabinet did in

1955 — see page 4

Science — pages 10 & 11

US-ISRAEL PLAN LIBYA ATTACK

LIBYA is increasingly the target of a fresh military attack as the US and Israel this week threatened to step up Middle East aggression.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres warned of reprisals against Libya following the attacks against the Israeli El Al airline in Italy and Austria.

Reports from Washington said the Pentagon had prepared a list of military strikes that could be made against Libya. The Reagan administration was making it known that the USA would fully back such Israeli action.

In the Israeli parliament on Thursday, Peres said his government would not let the attacks at Rome and Vienna airports go unpunished, and that Libya was held responsible for them.

'If the countries abetting murder are not

BY OUR OWN
REPORTER

struck at, the war against terrorism will never be won'. He went on to call Libya a 'state that deals in crime,' for harbouring the anti-PLO group led by Abu Nidal which has been accused of having organised the attacks in which 18 people died and over 100 were injured.

Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, speaking at the funeral of one of the Israelis killed in Vienna,

said: 'We will react, but we will do it at the time, in the place and the way that we choose. They should know that we have been able to go great distances in order to protect our people.'

The Israelis have a long history of such reprisals. On previous occasions raids have been made into Iraq, Lebanon, Uganda and Tunisia. On October 1 last year they launched an air raid on the PLO headquarters near

Tunis, in retaliation for the killing of three of their agents in Larnaca harbour.

In Tripoli the Libyan leader Muammer Gaddafi denied that his country was responsible for Palestinian guerilla actions. At a press conference, Gaddafi said that Israel had used terrorism against the Palestinian people and that the Israelis were the number one terrorists.

He added that 'all the

world must act to remove this terrorist camp'.

Gaddafi reiterated Libyan support for the Palestinians, who, he said, were engaged in a 'sacred struggle for freedom' and added that 'American threats do not make us go back on principles and just causes'. He warned that an attack on Libya would lead to war in the Middle East, the Mediterranean and possibly the whole world.

He called for unity between Libya and Syria to face up to the imperialist and Zionist challenge, and accused the United States and Israel of wanting to have the means of attack and destruction while forbidding others to have them.

Target

The Israelis are receiving encouragement from US imperialism for their threats, provided that Libya is the target.

The newspaper 'Yedioth Ahronoth' in Israel said that 'despite the fighting spirit in the US, the administration there is making it clear that any Israeli retaliation must be against Abu Nidal... and that it must be confined to Libya and not to Abu Nidal terrorist targets in Syria, or the PLO in Syria or elsewhere'.

US intelligence sources, reported in the London 'Evening Standard' on Thursday, said Libya had accelerated installation of new Soviet-built anti-aircraft missiles



LIBYAN leader Muammar Gaddafi has blamed Israel for the terrorism in the Middle East

£60,000 legal fund appeal

THE LATEST contributions have brought in a total of £2,406.39 — giving us a grand total of £28,200.27.

They came from Newcastle £110, Willesden £65, Edinburgh £182.51, Glasgow South £100, Albion £15, Govan £15, Jarrow £10, Nottingham £12.60, Leicester £62.07, Portsmouth £11, Merthyr £20, Bethnal Green £104, Basil-don £18, Dagenham £11, Fords £20, Woolwich £15, TFY £10, BG £10, East London £43.82, Liverpool £43.62, Crewe £21.39, Acton £17.50, Paddington £70, Kilburn £19, Hackney £30, Peckham £150, Brixton £173.16, Crawley £123.45, West Croydon £11, Wigan £4.87, St Helens £10, Bishop Auckland £30, Middlesbrough £10, Hull £20, Bracknell £21.81, Oxford £10, Exeter £3, Harlesden £85, Forest Gate £10, Millwall £2.22, Tottenham £65, Enfield £10, Woolwich £100, J.R £60, Swansea £100, Paisley £24, Lewisham £30, Tooting £100, Brighton £20, Anon £4.40, London £85.17, CC £23.61, Bristol North £4.19, Wandsworth £10.

We need £1,800 to reach the half-way mark. Once again, we urge members and supporters to send in

their contributions for this fund. Small sums from many members add up to large sums, and we know that this is the way we are going to achieve our objective.

Messages have been flooding in support of our decision to bring out the Workers Press, and these messages have also given us confidence to continue on the road we have chosen. We are not frightened by the bourgeois courts — we are not shaken by the wordy editorials of the Healy rump in the bogus 'News Line' aimed at intimidation.

Our intransigence is based on the living internationalism of Trotskyism — the building of Marxist parties all over the world, inspired by the struggles of the anti-apartheid fighters, the Irish anti-imperialist movement, the Libyan anti-Zionist stand and the jailed British miners.

We are confident that the Workers Revolutionary Party will not be deflected from its course.

Send your donations to:
£60,000 Defence Fund,
21B Old Town,
Clapham, London SW4
OJT

VIGIL BACKS JAILED MINERS



Trade union and Labour leaders from the north-east held a vigil outside Durham jail on Christmas Eve in support of the miners jailed during and since the end of the year-long strike. See centre pages

Union officials organise secret ballot Ford strings main threat

SERIOUS dangers face Ford's 37,000 workers in the UK as union officials organise a secret ballot on the company's final pay and conditions offer.

This is the first time a ballot has been used in a bid to decide the Ford annual negotiations since union leaders accepted the result of a company-organised ballot to end the nine-week strike in 1971, after more than half the workforce boycotted that ballot.

The forthcoming ballots are in line with the new Tory anti-union legislation. Balloting will follow mass meetings, while the EETPU electricians will hold a postal ballot.

The 'final' offer put by Ford management is for a two-year deal offering just 3 per cent for the first year and 6 per cent for the second.

Even these increases are tied to a productivity and efficiency agreement that opens up the workforce to wide-ranging attacks on jobs and job demarcation, in line with Ford 'Japanisation' plans.

A further 4-per-cent allowance on productivity and efficiency is conditional on individual workers signing a document accepting any future company proposals on productivities and efficiencies, including line-workers doing the tasks of janitors, stockfeeders and quality control skilled maintenance men doing assembly and other work while awaiting maintenance work.

All time-studied work

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

standards would be abolished enabling the increase of workloads. The 4 per cent would not be received unless an actual increase in work is shown.

Company propaganda has stated that individual signing of the document was not optional and have told the union convenors that those who refused to sign could be disciplined.

Lineworkers have been told they can expect a 2-per-cent allowance but the company's definition means that only a few hundred would actually receive it.

These various different allowances, plus the already existing attendance allowance that has still not been consolidated into the basic rate, create sub-divisions designed to split the workforce.

The terms have generated widespread opposition on the shop floor amongst even the most conservative layers

There is a strong feeling that union officials should not sign this agreement under any circumstances.



Ford workers lobby pay talks late last year in London

HALEWOOD CLEANERS ARE IN ANGRY MOOD

CLEANERS working at the Ford's plant in Halewood on Merseyside are particularly angry over new clauses in the settlement put to unions. 'These changes in conditions are an attack on my right of employment,' Workers Press was told by one of the cleaners, employed by Cameron Industrial Services.

He went on: 'They mean I won't be guaranteed a weekly wage. They are ploughing all the profits from here and the rest of Europe into the parent Ford company in the United States, which is not making a profit with the models they're producing.'

'The majority of the workforce has rejected this contract. When we go back after the New Year, before car production begins, we'll be waiting for them to call us out.'

He pointed to some of the extracts in

the proposed deal, saying: 'The pay offer is linked to changes in working conditions. When a man goes ill, we're expected to fill in the hours for him, rather than bringing in another man. They're trying to end demarcation, and want Japanese working conditions.'

The contract includes a paragraph saying: 'All employees will be on a "casual basis only", working four hours per day, plus overtime as and when necessary; note you may be asked to work overtime at short notice.'

It also states: 'Cameron Industrial Services reserve the right, if because of a shortfall in work, to terminate your casual basis contract at one hour's notice. Lateness, and telephone calls, holidays, dental or outpatients appointments will not be tolerated unless in extreme emergencies during your temporary employment.'



Maxwell's see-saw Mirror

MIRROR Group boss Robert Maxwell has claimed 'a historic change in Fleet Street practice' following yet another threat by him to suspend publication of the 'Daily Mirror', 'Sunday Mirror' and the 'People'.

Maxwell made the threat on Wednesday, saying that print unions were holding out for 65 more jobs that was allowed for under his 'survival plan.'

But after late night talks, he stated that agreement had been reached with four out of 73 print union chapels in London and Manchester still resisting proposals.

One of the chapels was the NGA composing room chapel which, Maxwell said, was insisting on 30 more staff than was permissible.

In addition, 35 members of Sogat 82 had withdrawn acceptance of voluntary redundancy terms, he had stated. Finally, just before midnight on Wednesday, the suspension threat was lifted.

Gorbachev's GLC letter

SOVIET leader Mikhail Gorbachev has offered to dispel the threat of a Russian nuclear attack if the British government completely gives up nuclear arms and removes foreign military bases from its territory.

The offer comes in a letter from Gorbachev to GLC leader Ken Livingstone, who had written to

Gorbachev and US President Reagan about the GLC's declaration that London is a nuclear-free zone.

In his reply, Gorbachev offered 'firm and effective' guarantees that Britain would not be attacked under certain conditions. 'Such guarantees could be given by concluding a formal agreement which takes into account all relevant aspects of a military nature.'

The letter goes on to say that Britain could become involved in negotiations with the USSR and the USA 'to find a mutually acceptable solution' to the nuclear problem.

'We are in favour of an immediate freeze of nuclear weapons, complete and indefinite ban on their tests, moreover in conditions of the most effective verification.'

Livingstone said that it was 'an indication of Mr. Gorbachev's willingness to talk to the West and should be taken seriously.'

£5,000 Monthly Fund

Rally round to complete the Fund

THE Central Committee of the Workers Revolutionary Party at its meeting on December 29 called for all members to rally round and bring in the Monthly Fund. We decided to make a target of £5,000, and up to the receipt of yesterday's post we have £1,886.88 — leaving £3,154 to come in.

In launching the Workers Press, the Editorial Board stated: 'This paper is and will develop as a weapon of struggle; it will be a real organiser of the Party and the class. It will grow as the Party grows, confident of its new-found strength. It will never act as a yoke on the backs of the membership for the aggrandisement of a clique.'

We want to emphasise this, and say that we know that the Workers Press will bring forward members of the Workers Revolutionary Party and the Young Socialists dedicated to the struggle for Marxism. 1986 will be a year of clarification of our Party. We are proud to ask our members and supporters to make sacrifices for this purpose.

Please send in your donations to:
Monthly Appeal Fund, 21B The Old Town,
Clapham, London SW4 0JT

Rough Justice for TV investigators

TWO BBC journalists who helped secure the freedom of an innocent man are to be suspended without pay for what a judge branded their 'outrageous' methods of investigation.

BBC managing director Bill Cotton said 'Rough Justice' reporter Martin Young and producer Peter Hill had used 'unjustifiable threats' to gain an interview and had brought the BBC 'into disrepute'.

They will be suspended for three months, axed from the programme which sets out to right injustices in the courts, and banned from any BBC investigative journalism for two years.

The man at the centre of the case, labourer Anthony Mycock, 33, freed last month after serving two-and-a-half years of a five-year sentence for robbery, has attacked the BBC action against the journalists.

'They proved what they set out to prove,' said Mycock. 'I am out of prison because of what they have done.'

The National Union of Journalists described the decision as 'harsh'.

Mycock was wrongly convicted of robbery and

the programme secured an interview with Miss Anne Fitzpatrick denying that she had been burgled by him — showing that the crime did not take place.

The key prosecution witness, she 'confessed' in the interview that she had made up her story of being beaten, bound and gagged by Mycock at her Manchester home.

The BBC inquiry into the two journalists' behaviour concentrated on three allegations:

● That they had made up

their minds that the burglary had never taken place and refused to accept any contribution from Fitzpatrick varying from their perception of the events.

● That they used information gathered in the USA that was detrimental to Fitzpatrick, to put pressure on her to grant an interview.

● That there was a thinly-veiled threat to disclose lesbian tendencies unless she agreed to the interview.

RELEASE JAILED MINERS! REINSTATE SACKED MEN!

PIT JOBS BLOW TO STALINISTS



GEORGE BOLTON, heir apparent to MICK MCGAHEY as Scottish NUM president. Both has created illusions in 'pressure' on the NCB winning back jobs of men sacked during and after the miners' strike

THE Euro-Stalinist Communist Party plunged deeper into crisis over the Christmas period when a Scottish industrial tribunal refused to reinstate four miners sacked as a result of fighting for jobs during the 12-month strike.

The judgement, announced in Edinburgh, drives a coach and horses through the strategy of the Stalinist NUM leadership in Scotland which relies entirely on appeals to 'public opinion' to pressurise the National Coal Board to be charitable, pending the hoped-for return of a Labour government.

The NCB had been shaken by the principled and determined struggle of the sacked men into weakening its initial stand that not a single sacked man in Scotland would be re-engaged.

But it has now turned the screw further on Scottish NUM president, Michael McGahey, and his heir-presumptive George Bolton, by announcing that the tribunal's call for four other men — all lay union officials — to be re-engaged would only be 'studied in detail'.

The tribunal does not have the power to enforce its rulings, and the NCB may decide to offer compensation rather than retreat further from its efforts to smash the union organisation at pit-level.

Tribunal decision blow to pressure politics

Ludicrous

The four are: Jackie Aitchison, branch secretary at Bilston Glen colliery, near Edinburgh; James Lennie, a faceworker from the same pit; Tam Mylchreest and Sam Cowie, branch officials from the Castlehill colliery, Fife.

Aitchison and Lennie were originally sacked on the ludicrous grounds that they crossed a white line, arbitrarily painted by the board on the road outside the colliery, without wearing safety gear.

Even the tribunal called the incident 'more an exercise in point scoring than a genuine exercise in safety and discipline'.

Mylchreest and Cowie were sacked for staging a protest sit-in at Castlehill against the management's threat to flood the pit in an effort to force the union to provide safety cover.

This, the tribunal said, was a 'surprising' use of 'brinkmanship' by the management, and the decision to dismiss the men was deemed 'authoritarian, harsh and unreasonable'.

The attempt at even-

handedness with regard to the more blatant dictates of the board, however, is exposed in an appendix to the tribunal's findings which basically gives the Board's anti-union policies the go-ahead.

Enforce

The policy of Albert Wheeler, Scottish area NCB director during the strike, of exemplary sackings of active strikers to give confidence to scabs is seen as a legitimate tactic, though it was liable 'to result in unfairness to at least some individuals'.

This remark refers in particular to Wheeler's assumption that anyone convicted of a breach of the peace was guilty of 'violence', without examination of the individual circumstances.

Having defined its own role as upholding 'fairness to the individual', the tribunal went on to enforce the dismissals of all those before it who had convictions for breach of the peace.

The danger is that the two thirds of the sacked men in Scotland who have not been offered their jobs back will now feel more isolated than ever,

at the point where the Board's offensive against miners who are working is being stepped up.

At Seafield colliery, East Fife, for example, it is widely believed that a New Year attack against 'malingerers' letting down 'the Scottish economy' is about to be launched in a drive for astronomical increases in productivity.

Some men are openly criticising the pit's leading officials, members of the Communist Party, for attempting to keep things as quiet as possible until Bolton succeeds McGahey in the presiden-

tial chair at the NUM's Edinburgh headquarters — a manoeuvre expected to be attempted in the first half of 1986.

No doubt the rationale for this is the 'theory' — most openly identified with Bolton — that the NUM was totally defeated in the strike because of its failure to hold a ballot and pay sufficient attention to 'public opinion', capitalist law and the sensibilities of Labour Party and TUC leaders Neil Kinnock and Norman Willis.

Lessons

It is resulting in the growing isolation of the sacked men and the disarming of those at work in the face of a renewed offensive from the Coal Board and the Tory government, with the full backing of the capitalist

state machine, industrial tribunals and all.

While not detracting at all from the right of the sacked men to extract every conceivable concession from such organs, it is clear that what is required is a radical rethinking of policy and tactics.

A leadership based on the real lessons of the strike, in particular the need to defeat the capitalist state and its reformist and Stalinist agents, must urgently be built amongst the Scottish miners and in the NUM as a whole.

The presidency of the NUM Scottish Area is not a question of political heredity. It must be made the focus of the broadest, democratic discussion within the NUM on the alternatives to the pro-capitalist, counter-revolutionary defeatism of Stalinism.



HUNTERSTON, Scotland, where many of the Fife men were arrested during the miners' strike as they attempted to stop scab coal reaching Ravenscraig steelworks

Sixteen die in S.A. clashes

JOHANNESBURG — The death toll in widespread New Year violence across South Africa rose to at least 16, police and hospital officials said on Thursday.

Police said that two black men died at Johannesburg's Alexandra township during clashes, while a man and a woman were killed by police during 'disturbances' at Kwandebele tribal homeland in the north-east.

On Wednesday night, police reported five deaths in the rural Transvaal region, three in fighting at a township near Cape Town and another three shot by police and local government officials elsewhere in the Cape province.

The most serious fighting was around Moutse, Transvaal, a black community due for incorporation into the Kwandebele homeland, a move bitterly opposed by young blacks

clashes

in the area.

Residents in Moutse said that the conflict, which claimed five lives, began when a group from the homeland attacked opponents of the incorporation on Tuesday.

The incorporation is part

of the apartheid regime's policy of setting up tribal homelands in which the 74-per-cent majority of South Africa's population will be allocated 15 per cent of the country's land area. Fears among the Sotho speaking residents

of Moutse are that in the incorporation they will lose their South African citizenship, despite government assurances to the contrary.

Meanwhile in Durban six people were hurt as 5,000 blacks marched from a beach reserved for them under the racist segregation laws. They marched down through the 'Indian' beach to the centre of the resort.

WRP PUBLIC MEETING

Why the WRP Expelled Healy — Revolutionary Morality and the Split in the WRP
CRAWLEY

February 4, 7.30 p.m.

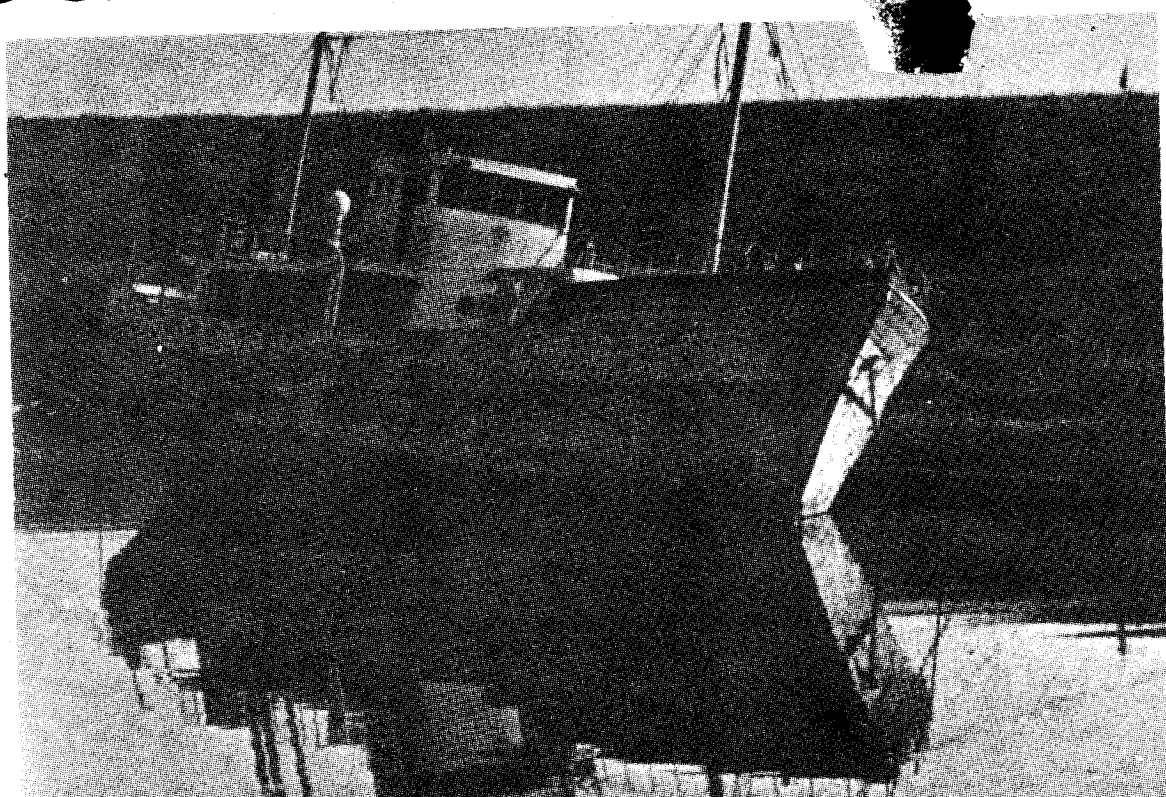
AUEW Hall, Robinson Road

Speaker: Dorothy Gibson (WRP Central Committee)

John Spencer reviews Cabinet papers for 1955

Safety claims dropped

Nuclear test fears



There was concern within Tory circles following the US H-bomb test in the Marshall Islands on March 1, 1954, which contaminated the Japanese fishing boat Fukuryu Maru (Lucky Dragon)

THE EDEN government was more worried about the long-term effects of atomic weapon testing than it was prepared to admit publicly, according to Cabinet papers for 1955 released at the New Year.

The papers in the Public Record Office show that Eden insisted on dropping from a Tory election draft a claim that a test ban would be 'unrealistic'.

In a manuscript note on the margin of a draft briefing note for Tory candidates, he wrote: 'I was rather in favour of "ban the bang" at one time myself.'

He was backed by the Medical Research Council, which advised the Tories to drop from their briefing note a number of other sweeping claims about the safety of atom tests.

As a result of strong representations from the MRC, the Tories dropped a claim that health would not be affected by any tests 'likely to be undertaken'.

Summarising the MRC's objections, one civil servant wrote: 'I have just heard that No. 10 are suggesting possibly adding... the words "Test explosions in themselves are not harmful to the human race".'

'The MRC press extremely strongly that these words should not be used. They say the whole reason for the present anxiety, and for the inquiry that they have undertaken, is the fear that test explosions may be harmful to the human race.'

'There are, unfortunately, sound reasons for this fear, which would

prove justified beyond a certain, so far unknown, level of test explosions.

'The MRC think that to make any such statement on those lines would be extremely dangerous.'

Also among the documents released at the New Year under the 30-year rule is a letter dated April 19, 1954, from Sir Edwin Plowden to Sir John Cockcroft concerning a planned speech by then Prime Minister Churchill.

It reveals the concern within the government following the US H-bomb test in the Marshall Islands on March 1, 1954, which contaminated the Japanese fishing boat Fukuryu Maru (Lucky Dragon).

Plowden's draft tries to play down the danger. He writes: 'We have been keeping a continuous watch in this country on the radioactive deposition following each bomb explosion.'

'The results show that we do not need to worry about the health hazards due to a dozen or so hydrogen bomb explosions of the type we have so far experienced.'

In June of the same year, Selwyn Lloyd, then a minister of state in the Foreign Office, had an alarming conversation with a Canadian diplomat.

Lloyd was informed that Canadian scientists believed 'that if there were another ten or a dozen explosions it would be impossible to be sure that they would not bring human and animal life to an end on large parts of the earth.'

Cockcroft was alerted, and briefed Lord Salisbury who told Lloyd later the same month that the Canadians' fears went 'far beyond the facts as we know them, though these are formidable enough.'

Cockcroft was still

trying to find out the full effects of the Marshall Islands test. He learned from Professor Kathleen Lonsdale that Japanese professor Yashuki Nishiwaki who had treated the 'Lucky Dragon' victims was attending a peace conference in Stockholm.

Cockcroft wrote to Plowden: 'We would like to talk to Prof Nishiwaki, because of our very great interest in the magnitude of the fall-out within 100 or 200 miles of the super-bomb explosion.'

'Possibly a way out would be to send Marley to Stockholm ostensibly to visit Dr Hevesy. He should certainly not go to the conference, but it would be easy enough to arrange with some mutual friends for discussion to take place.'

'Menace' of working class Indians

A BILL to restrict Commonwealth immigration was drawn up in 1955, but rejected by the Tory Cabinet, government papers released at the Public Record Office show.

It is clear from the papers that the Tory objection was to the immigrants' class and colour and that what ministers had in mind was a hidden colour bar.

Future Tory Prime Minister Lord Home, then Commonwealth Secretary, said in a memorandum: 'It would be presumably politically impossible to legislate for a colour bar and any legislation would have to be non-discriminatory in form.'

'On the other hand, we would not wish to keep out immigrants of good type from the "old" dominions, and indeed two-way immigration is a policy to which we have always subscribed.'



One of the Tories' main fears was the influx of Commonwealth immigrants with working-class backgrounds

He went on: 'I myself would argue that we should not take any action which would give the impression that citizens from India, Pakistan and Ceylon

are less favourably treated than citizens from other Commonwealth countries. 'I am aware that there had been an increase in the last year in the number

of working-class Indians coming here. This is a new development, and unless it is checked, it could become a menace.'

colonial immigration — especially from the West Indies and the Indian sub-continent — was frequently in the Cabinet agenda.

A memorandum from Home Secretary Gwilym Lloyd-George complained about increased immigration from Ireland and about the growth of the coloured population.

The draft legislation had two criteria for admission — employment and housing. Immigrants could be refused admission unless they could satisfy the immigration officer that authorised employment was waiting for them and that accommodation was available.

The move was opposed by Colonial Secretary Alan Lennox-Boyd, who said it would be criticised as racial discrimination and would have a particularly unfortunate effect on relations with the West Indies.

Tories masked cash crisis

GOVERNMENT attempts to mask the depth of the country's economic crisis 30 years ago are disclosed in Cabinet papers released in the Public Record Office.

The then Chancellor, Rab Butler, wanted parliament recalled in late September 1955 to introduce new measures to deal with the growing economic difficulties.

But he was overruled. The Cabinet felt a sudden recall would weaken rather than strengthen confidence. Sir Anthony Eden said

foreign opinion might find grounds for inferring that Britain was on the point of collapse.

The measures were eventually introduced in late October, after parliament had resumed.

In his statement to parliament, Butler raised purchase tax by 20 per cent, curbed council loans and increased the profits levy and telephone charges.

Churchill, then 80, had resigned in April and in the budget two weeks later the Tories cut income tax by 6d in the pound (2.5 per cent).

Cloak over dock unions

A SERIES of Ministry of Labour files relating to the blue union strike on the docks in 1955 will remain closed until 1990, it emerged this week.

The strike involving thousands of dockers in London, Liverpool, Hull and other ports, challenged the stranglehold of the right-wing Transport and General Workers' Union bureaucracy.

Many dockers had left the T&GWU, known as the white union because of the colour of its card, to join the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers (the 'blue union').

After the strike, the TUC forced the dockers back into the T&GWU, but this ruling was successfully challenged in the courts and the dockers won the right to belong to the union of their choice.

The Tory government of Anthony Eden depended heavily on the bureaucracy of TUC and the individual unions leaders to keep discipline among the workers.

This was true in the pits as on the docks. A Cabinet memorandum from Minister of Labour Sir Walter Monckton, dated June 2, rejects legislation to impose secret ballots or compul-

sory arbitration. Secret ballots 'would be resisted as an interference with the right to strike and as an interference with the union's management and regulation of its own affairs'.

In any event, Monckton added, unofficial strikes were against the will and authority of the union.

Making such strikes illegal raised 'difficult questions of handling and enforcement'.

Penal sanctions against tens of thousands of workers would be ineffective and dangerous, he added, but penalties could hardly be imposed on the unions whose authority was being flouted.

Monckton added: 'Unless we carry with us the responsible element, who are at present in a majority, we run the risk of uniting the whole movement against us.'

In addition, to the docks strike, Monckton had to cope with a London bus strike and a stoppage in the Yorkshire coalfield.

Eden was briefed about the pit strike in a memorandum from Monckton on May 10. Monckton's note makes clear the government's dependence on the union leadership:

'The position is still confused. There are still about 60 pits wholly or partly affected. The general impress-

ion is that the strike is crumbling under pressure from the National Union of Mineworkers.'

Monckton drafted a further memorandum to the Prime Minister on August 18, before leaving London for his annual holiday. The Yorkshire coalfield heads a list of trouble-spots.

Monckton wrote: 'We are being kept informed by the National Coal Board of developments. It was a sudden flare-up in the individual pits.'

'One knows how inflammable the Yorkshire mining area is. I doubt if the NCB are to blame for not having foreseen this one.'

World News

Third joins hunger strike

A THIRD prisoner joined the Republican hunger strike at Long Kesh (The Maze) prison camp on Thursday. The Northern Ireland Office confirmed that Thomas Power, from the Markets area of Belfast, refused breakfast. Two other prisoners, Robert Tohill and Gerard Steenson, are already fasting.

The hunger strike followed the conviction of those three and 24 other men on the word of supergrass Harry Kirkpatrick. They have threatened to starve themselves to death unless an early date is set for an appeal hearing and the government reviews the whole system of informers and their uncorroborated evidence.

Power, Tohill and Steenson are all serving life sentences, and relatives have warned they will be joined on the fast by prisoners at weekly intervals.

Both the Tories and the Republic's foreign affairs minister Peter Barry, have condemned the hunger strike.

ARRESTS TO HINDER ULSTER ELECTIONS

But Sinn Fein will not be shaken

SEVENTEEN elected Sinn Fein councillors and party members are still being held in interrogation centres in the north of Ireland.

Martin McGuinness, the party's vice-president was among those arrested in dawn raids last weekend. At the same time the Tory government announced it was sending another 550 troops to the Six Counties to help the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

The operation throughout the north in Derry, Armagh, Strabane, Craigavon, Belfast, north Antrim and Fermanagh was a well-planned affair with premises raided, documents and cassettes seized.

As well McGuinness, four other leading members of Sinn Fein in Derry are being held — Hugh Brady, Gerry O'Hare, Sean Collins and Noel McCartney.

Under the terms of the emergency laws, they can be held for a week

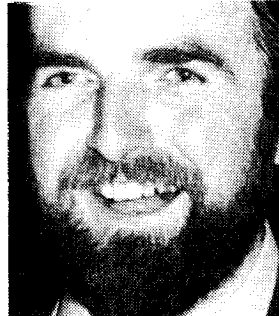
without charge before being released.

Also arrested and charged with firearms offences just before Christmas was Sinn Fein party agent and former MP Owen Carron.

The arrest and detention of Sinn Fein members in the run-up to elections this month is a direct attempt to undermine their preparations and give support to the Social Democratic and Labour Party, who have



MARTIN MCGUINNESS



OWEN CARRON

collaborated to the hilt in establishing the bogus Anglo-Irish deal.

Meanwhile the Official Unionists and Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party are daily marching through the north of Ireland countryside en route for Belfast on Saturday and another mass rally putting forward their policy that Dublin should be given no say whatever in affairs at Stormont.

But the Irish Ministers who have so far made any comment on affairs north of the border have been so mute as to be almost inaudible. Irish Foreign Minister Peter Barry was in Whitehall last week for a meeting with Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King.

His brief was to discuss the hunger strike now being undertaken in Long Kesh concentration camp by three of the 27 men

JIM McALLISTER, chairperson of the Six Counties Sinn Fein Executive, commented on the recent arrests:

THE recent dawn raids on homes of Sinn Fein members and the arrest of 18 people, seven of them elected representatives, are a natural result of the London-Dublin accord. The arrests are a serious attempt to disrupt the work of Sinn Fein elected representatives and to disrupt the work of Sinn Fein. It should be seen as significant that these arrests were the first bitter fruits of the London-Dublin accord. And they come at a time when Sinn Fein are preparing to fight the forthcoming by-elections.

sentenced in the no-jury Diplock courts on the word of supergrass Harry Kirkpatrick.

Dublin government representatives are under pressure to protest at the supergrass system in the north — Barry was personally handed a mass petition opposing the show trials at his Cork home recently.

However, the only statement on the hunger strikes was one that both sides deplored them as a wrong and wasteful attempt to bring about a change in the system of administration of justice in Northern Ireland.

crisis that pervades its economic and political structures.

It has a population which is predominantly young and faces a future on the dole queues.

The situation led one bourgeois political commentator to write last month that the day was fast approaching when there would not be enough people at work to pay for those out of work.

In November the official unemployment figure stood at 228,049, but this has been challenged by Fianna Fail.

They say the real situation is being concealed by the high level of emigration, now estimated to be at least 15,000 a year.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has pointed out that there are over 70,000 young people jobless, many of whom have never had a full-time job.

This is part of the reason why Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald has put his name to a deal which undermines the 26-county constitution and, in the words of Tom King, 'accepted that for all practical purposes and into perpetuity, there would never be a united Ireland'.

Diversion

It is abundantly clear that the Unionists have little to fear from Dublin interference.

It has been made known that Dublin regards the arrest and detention of Sinn Fein members as a 'legitimate' RUC operation and not an attempt by London to interfere with the electoral process.

The Fianna Gael-Labour coalition is a government desperately seeking a diversion from the economic and social

Egypt's top journalist makes a comeback

EGYPT'S best-known journalist, jailed under the Sadat regime, and out of his country's press for over a decade, is due to make a comeback — in a government-owned daily.

Mohammed Hassanein Heikal, sacked from editing the daily 'Al-Ahram' in 1974 for criticising the ceasefire agreement with Israel, and arrested in Sadat's 1981 mass round-up of opponents, is to write a regular column in the daily 'Akhbar el-Yom'.

Announcing this recently, Ibrahim Nafeh dismissed any suggestions that it heralded a return to Nasserist policies.

'How can the return of a star writer . . . signal a return to the policies or symbols of a certain age?' he wrote. Any Egyptian writer was free to voice his opinions 'from whatever forum he chooses'.

For the past 11 years, since his period at 'Al-Ahram' ended, Heikal has been writing for Arab Gulf newspapers and interpreting his country's history and politics in books, some of them widely published and read abroad. 'Autumn of Fury', dealing critically with Sadat's presidency from 1970 until his assass-

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

sination in 1981, is still banned in Egypt.

The book accuses Sadat of abandoning his nationalist ideals for personal aggrandisement and deals with the extent of economic corruption and political reaction that grew under his regime.

It also details the secret diplomacy which led to Sadat's trip to Jerusalem. Heikal says the move to a separate peace with Israel, in the hope of US economic rescue, was behind the war with Libya in 1977.

It helped provide conditions for the Israeli inva-

sion of Lebanon in 1982, he says.

Interviewed in Cairo a few months ago, Heikal said he did not feel bitter over his 1981 arrest and that he had wept in prison when he heard Sadat had been killed. He had, despite everything, not hated his former friend.

Risking arrest was part of a journalist's job, Heikal said. 'In the third world generally, if you want to do any public work, journalism, expressing a point of view, political work, you must be prepared for the idea of going to prison.'

Heikal said he had been expecting arrest ever since 1974, when he criticised the troop disengagement agreement with Israel. He believed Egypt could have gained from continuing the 1973 war.

By going for the US-sponsored 1978 Camp David accords, Sadat had 'destroyed the Arab world's great strategic assets. He dismantled all elements of Arab power. . . ' Heikal said. 'But you cannot hate him because he did it with lots of panache.'

The Egyptian journalist is currently completing a new book on the 1956 Suez crisis, Nasser's nationalisation of the canal and the abortive British-French invasion in collusion with the Israelis.

Of Egypt's successive leaders — Nasser, Sadat and Mubarak — he said recently:

'With Nasser, there was a play and there was a script. Under Sadat there were theatrical effects but no script . . . and no play. The problem now is that there is no script and no theatricalities also — so people are waiting and the stage is practically empty.'

President Mubarak was now beginning to show more confidence after a careful and difficult start. Heikal said.



HEYKAL . . . Wept for Sadat



Heikal believes President Mubarak (right) has improved his image slightly, but it will be interesting to see what the writer makes of Mubarak's insistence that the PLO leader Yassir Arafat accept UN Resolution 242 which recognises Israel

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LETTERS to the Editor

Welcome to Workers Press

LIKE THE vast majority of our members, readers and supporters, I would like to welcome the re-emergence of the Workers Press as the voice of the Workers Revolutionary Party and its Central Committee.

A worker at Vauxhall Motors, Ellesmere Port, a long-time reader of our press, described it as the best Christmas present he could have had.

Workers Press (1969-1976) had a real history in the working-class movement, particularly in workplaces like Vauxhall's where the Socialist Labour League, and later the WRP, had branches and considerable influence.

The publication of the

new Workers Press signals an end to the sectarian, opportunist and super-activist policies of the Healyite leadership which systematically destroyed such important party branches and left loyal workers confused and politically disorientated.

The News Line not only became thoroughly centrist in its politics, but cut off from the real struggles which these workers faced daily. How could they fight in their union branches and shop stewards' committees, against redundancies or wages cuts when the only perspective being offered to them was that they had to get everyone to join the WRP, bring down the Tory government and set

up a Workers Revolutionary Government?

According to the News Line, we are in a revolutionary situation, it is impossible to fight for any concessions for the working class and the only future is the revolution. If workers are too stupid to understand that, well too bad for them!

Although the News Line was well-produced and written, it was not a working-class paper. Consider Trotsky's critical description of the 'Socialist Appeal', the paper of the American Socialist Workers Party:

'The paper is very well done from the journalistic point of view; but it is a paper for the workers and not a workers' paper

As it is, the paper is divided among various writers, each of whom is very good, but collectively they do not permit the workers to penetrate the pages of the 'Appeal'. Each of them speaks for the workers (and speaks very well) but nobody will hear the workers.

'In spite of its literary brilliance, to a certain degree the paper becomes a victim of journalistic routine. You do not hear at all how the workers live,

fight, clash with the police or drink whiskey. It is very dangerous for the paper as a revolutionary instrument of the party. The task is not to make a paper through the joint forces of a skilled editorial board but to encourage the workers to speak for themselves.' ('In Defence of Marxism,' New Park Publications. p.139).

Workers never drank whiskey (or ale!) in the News Line. Such ordinary working-class behaviour

was 'backward' according to the middle-class, elitist conceptions of the Mitchell-Healy dominated editorial board.

Even Christmas parties put on with great sacrifice by striking miners and their wives were censored out of our paper as being too much like 'charity' for the miners — even though it was of vital importance for the families that their children should have a good time after all the long months of going without.

When striking miners in north Wales specifically invited the News Line to report on their Christmas party, it was never allowed to appear in the paper.

The Workers Press will

educate and unite our members and readers under conditions where they will have time to study it.

At the same time, its pages will be open to 'encourage the workers to speak for themselves'.

Like the Bolshevik press in Lenin's time, it will encourage discussion among ordinary workers on every aspect of their lives and struggles.

The appearance of a large number of letters — unlike previously when any letters which did not fit the 'line' were buried in the nearest drawer or wastepaper basket — is a good augur for the future.

Carmel Dersch
Ellesmere Port

IN WELCOMING the new Workers Press, and wishing it every success, I also want to express my outrage at the action taken by Vanessa Redgrave and Co. against the former News Line printers, Astmoor Litho. If I'd retained any lingering doubts about the issues at stake between the Workers Revolutionary Party and the Healy-Torrance-Redgrave-Mitchell crew, this little stroke in the bourgeois courts has made everything very clear.

It is a class question.

The courts are not on the side of the working class. Every class-conscious worker knows this, especially since the miners' strike. Given a case between a left-wing printers and Vanessa Redgrave's property rights, the judge evidently had no difficulty making his mind up. Nor should we.

I've defended the right of socialists and revolutionaries to use the bourgeois courts, insofar as this is possible, to defend such rights as we have under this system.

For instance, trade unionists may have had recourse to the courts in industrial injury cases against employers. The revolutionary party

might take action, through individual members, to protect itself and its comrades against smears and libels in the capitalist press, particularly when these might otherwise be used to set us up for right-wing provocations or even police actions. (Witness the 'Observer' case.)

There have unfortunately also been cases where so-called 'socialist' papers or individuals have been willing to act as vehicles for reactionary attacks; or where union bureaucrats and politicians have exceeded their authority in acting against left-wing militants.

In these cases, while it would obviously be preferable to fight the issues out in the workers' movement — and this is where the main fight should be — there is some justification for protecting ourselves in the courts if need be, as part of the struggle.

All these cases concern defence of our rights, and of the revolutionary movement. But the only 'right' I can see defended in the Redgrave case against Astmoor is the right of the bourgeois to dispose of their money and 'property' as they see fit!

It must, incidentally, have come as a shock to many workers and revolutionaries — and even, perhaps, to some of those misled into following Healy and Co. — to realise that such financial relationships not only existed, but could be used in this vindictive way, by one comparatively-affluent individual,

together with her lawyers.

For decades, the comrades of the WRP, and supporters in the working class and among the professions, etc., had a well-earned reputation for hard-work and sacrifice.

Things were achieved which no other party in this country would dream possible. Certainly not the Labour Party, which has too many right-wing careerists, in it for what they can get; and whose own newspaper was long ago sold-off to capitalists, winding-up as 'The Sun'!

Did anyone who made such sacrifices over the years, who gave everything they had to the Party, because it represented the cause of the working class and international socialism, imagine they could have a 'money-back guarantee'?

So far as I know, that is a privilege claimed only by the Redgraves, and pledged to them secretly by Healy!

Even if it was necessary to make particular arrangements for the running of a press — after all we live under capitalism — or for financial exigencies, I don't think many of us would have imagined that individuals in whom trust was once placed would subsequently proceed, with the help of the courts, to behave like capitalist investors; using their financial 'clout' to clobber the Party, through attacking a left-wing press and its workers (whose rights, unlike those of Redgrave, were presumably ignored by the capitalist court.)

That the money involved was from Red-

grave's personal account, and not from her company, must rule out any disclaimer of responsibility for bringing the case.

It can only have been a deliberate political decision by the Healy-Redgrave clique. They have taken their stand not on working-class democracy or revolutionary traditions, but on private property.

But then, what else could we expect from those who wanted to defend the infamous 'droit de seigneur' (or jus prima noctis) within the workers' movement, and in a purportedly revolutionary party!

To those like Alex Mitchell, who spoke of history being made 'in the class struggle, not in bed', we must reply that a person's real politics come out 'in bed', too!

If party comrades could be treated as objects, as items of property, to be taken up, used, then disposed of as 'rubbish' (to quote Torrance's choice expression), then treating material resources as private property is a small thing.

To those of us who have witnessed over the years the ferocious hostility of Fleet Street for the WRP, it was instructive to see how comparatively sympathetic has been recent treatment of Healy.

'The Observer' diarist Peter Hillmore found the charges against him 'hard to believe'. (This from the same paper that launched the famous 'Maria Martin'-style 'Red House' story!), and referred to young women comrades as 'dewy-eyed camp followers'.

Auberon Waugh, whose column in 'Private Eye' is always anti-women and anti-working class, sneered that the WRP had been 'taken over' by followers of Mary Whitehouse.

(True to form, he also referred to young working-class women as 'appalling scrubbers'.)

These are the kind of quarters in which Healy's departing crew now enjoy respect and support.

Healy as a revolutionist had been treated as the big bad ogre! Healy as abuser of privilege and exploiter of young women could be accepted, by newspaper bosses and upper-class reactionaries, as 'one of us, after all'!

In the same way, the recompense so readily granted Redgrave by a bourgeois court contrasts with the reluctance of the courts to accord justice to workers fighting employers, or with the treatment Vanessa Redgrave herself received when fighting in the courts against the 'Observer' newspaper.

Then, everything possible was thrown in against her as a member of the Workers Revolutionary Party and a supporter of the Palestinians. This time, her record as a member of the Party could be forgiven, as she was acting as a bourgeois property-owner against the revolutionary party!

When the Healyites were expelled from the WRP, they made a lot of 'left'-sounding noises, and talked of fighting in the working class to vindicate their position.

This has not lasted long. Having decided

against trying to fight within the Party, they have been neither willing nor able to defend their stand in public meetings. (They were too cowardly to show up at the WRP's Friends House meeting, or to admit opponents to their own little gatherings.)

Having got only a few ignorant middle-class individuals or backward elements to boost their blind-cult following, they have turned to the enemy's courts. This, from people who insist as an article of faith (definitely the operative word in their attempts at 'theory') that 'we're in a revolutionary situation'!

What are Healy's Loyalists going to tell people now when they go to them for funds, supposedly to re-launch a daily paper?

'In the event of future splits, large individual donors will be entitled to claim a refund, with interest?'

I think those workers who might still be conned by Redgrave, Torrance and Co. deserve to be told!

Maybe others, like myself, were reluctant at first to get involved, by taking a stand in what seemed a distressing fight between Trotskyists.

No longer. It is a fight that concerns all of us. The court action was an open, vindictive and destructive blow against a working class press.

The court made its judgement. So must we. Long live the WORKERS PRESS!

Charlie Pottins
ex-member News Line staff (1976-8)

Court moves make split even clearer

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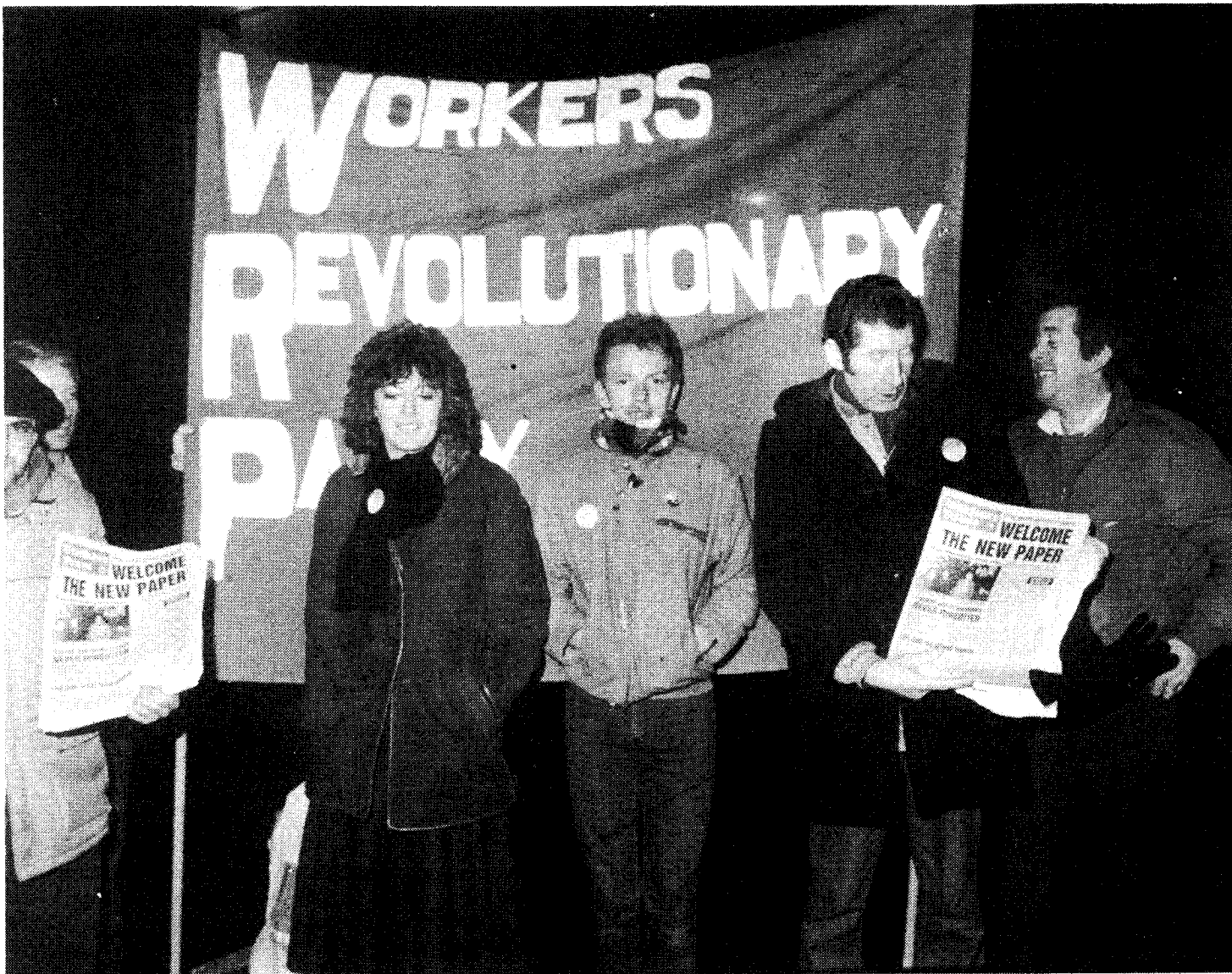
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LETTERS



Readers and supporters of the new Workers Press on the Contract clothing strike picket line in South Shields

Truth twisted on the UDM

MR BEN RUDDER, writing in the bogus News Line on December 18, 1985, about my letter to the real News Line, on December 10, 1985, continually twists the truth and tries to impose his subjective ideas on to the objective realities.

Rudder starts with the point that they, the Healy rump, expelled the 'Banda clique'. How did this minority of 12 members on the Central Committee of the Workers Revolutionary Party expel a majority of 23?

Now Mr Rudder states that I call on miners to leave the National Union of Mineworkers and join the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. He comes to this conclusion from a statement purportedly from myself: 'We as Marxists should work within the Union of Democratic Mineworkers'. This quote is actually taken from different parts of my letter and twists what I said.

What I did say was: 'We as Marxists, or training to be, should work with', not within as Rudder implies, 'members of the UDM'.

As it is, NUM policy is to rebuild the branches in the areas and individual collieries around the coalfields, in whole or part, controlled by the UDM. How does Mr Rudder think this is to be done, if not by working to show the members of the UDM by their own experiences just what type of union they have joined. From thin air maybe!

Of course the UDM is not an independent trade union. I never said it was! It is a company union whose leaders work hand in hand with the state.

The problem here is not what we or the rump think, but what the members of the UDM think. As they regard the UDM as a trade union, we must work with them to show them what type of organisation they are in. To just say it is not a trade union is insufficient.

State attack

I agree that the UDM are Thatcher's latest form of state attack on the miners. But, Mr Rudder, how do you explain that your group are using the same methods as the UDM used against the WRP. You are actually using the same lawyers' firm, and you say we are capitulating!

Rudder still insists, as his master (Healy) tells him, to push the slogan for 'the general strike'. How is this to be done when the workers, who still look to the reactionary trade unions and political parties i.e. Labour Party and the TUC?

We will only achieve this by hard and long

campaigning among all sections of the working masses for our policies. In this way we will win them to our side, by showing them through their own experience.

Then and only then will it be possible to call for a general strike in starting the process for the taking of power through revolution.

In continuing the rump's current line of thought, Rudder states we are in a revolutionary situation. This is supported by naming certain of the current events that are happening around the world i.e. falling oil prices, South African revolution and the collapse of the City of London (when did the last event happen?).

Although they show the crisis that the capitalist system is in, they themselves do not constitute a revolutionary situation.

S. Torrance, before she was expelled along with the rest of the rump, stated in a document on the tactic of the united front: 'Let us refer to Lenin for some help on this important question'. 'Lenin asked the question "What generally speaking are the symptoms of a revolutionary situation?" I quote his first point only

of the three major symptoms he lists, but the whole passage is in Volume 21 of his Collected Works on pages 213 to 214 in the "the collapse of the Second International".

"When it is impossible for the ruling class to maintain their rule without any change: when there is a crisis, in one form or another, among the upper classes, a crisis in the policy of the ruling class, leading to a fissure through which the discontent and indignation of the oppressed classes burst forth. For a revolution to take place, it is usually insufficient for the 'lower classes' not to want 'to live in the old way' it is also necessary that 'the upper classes should be unable to live in the old way'."

Two points

If we put this quote next to the objective reality, does this show that we are in a revolutionary situation, as Torrance seems to think and Rudder repeats in his article? I do not think so.

To have a revolutionary situation, two of the main points are that the working masses must see the need to break from their present way of life and,

equally important, the ruling classes must be unable to continue in their present way of life. Is this the objective situation today?

So for Rudder and the Healy rump to say it is a revolutionary situation, by only stating certain individual conditions without looking at the overall practice, is a complete misunderstanding of what is happening today.

By continuing in this way, which is part of their overall method, is to impose their subjective needs to the objective reality, which is totally corrupt and opportunist.

I appeal to all youth and trade unionists to reject the Healy rump so they will be obliterated in the same way as the UDM.

All members and supporters of the WRP should write in with their views on this subject, and others, to the Workers Press. For to be able to analyse the strength of the party we need not only to show the size of the membership, but also its quality.

So through the pages of the Workers Press, with discussion with all sections of the working masses, we can educate and improve the overall consciousness of the masses. In this way the struggle will be taken forward and the question of taking of power for the working masses will, in time, be answered.

Kenny Thomson
Castlehill Mine
Stirling WRP

A false picture of Grayson

IN THE December 10 News Line, 'JP's' book review uses MP David Clarke's attempt to recast Victor Grayson in the mould of a modern, if somewhat eccentric, Labour MP as the basis for a completely false and unwarranted attack on Grayson himself.

To mention Grayson in the same context as Mosley and David Owen insults not only his memory, which is still held in high regard amongst the socialists of Colne Valley, but also all our foreparents who worked for his election and for the building of socialist organisations in the area, in the period prior to his personal breakdown and political degeneration in World War I.

Grayson was not a member of the 'Labour Party' which then only existed in parliament. He consistently refused to accept the Labour whip.

Even the leaders of Independent Labour Party (ILP), Keir Hardie, Ramsay MacDonald and Philip Snowden, dissociated themselves from his candidacy for Colne Valley and Grayson, and the Colne Valley Labour League which selected him, were in constant friction with the ILP leadership.

Far from his ideas being a 'private concoction', he reflected the views of many members of the Colne Valley Labour League who hailed his victory at the polls as one for 'pure revolutionary socialism'.

He not only believed in the inevitability of class struggle, he preached it

and when possible attempted to further it. It was for his unequivocal support for the Belfast strikers' right to physically resist the military in 1907 that he won the most bitter condemnation from the bourgeois press and the Labour leadership.

He encouraged unemployed demonstrations and was himself ejected from the House of Commons and suspended for disrupting proceedings by his insistence that the question of unemployment be discussed.

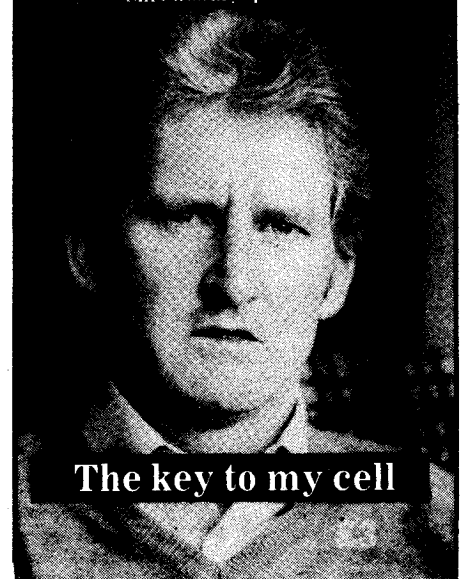
Nor did he support imperialism and militarism before the war. In Manchester he was involved in the campaign against the Boer war and was attacked physically by jingoists. He also fully supported the Russian Revolution of 1905 and campaigned against the repression which followed.

Conscious that his individual attempts to achieve anything in parliament were ineffectual without co-ordinated activity in the working class, Grayson was one of the main advocates of the creation of a class struggle socialist party in opposition to the ILP. This led to the formation of the avowedly Marxist British Socialist Party in 1911.

Victor bore no relation to any other Labour or Socialist MP of the time — let alone of right-wing reformists of today like David Clarke who are attempting to subvert his memory.

Alan Brooke
secretary, Honley Labour Party, Huddersfield.

DES WARREN
Shrewsbury picket 1972



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Workers Press COMMENT

Hands off Sinn Fein

THE SPATE of arrests of Sinn Fein councillors and political activists in the north of Ireland again highlights the completely reactionary basis of the Thatcher-Fitzgerald agreement. It underlines the pro-imperialist role of Neil Kinnock and the Labour Party and trade union leaders who have backed the Tory government to the hilt in its deal with Dublin.

The arrests coincide with the dispatch of an extra battalion of British troops to Belfast and the news that a third victim of the Kirkpatrick super-grass frame-up trial has begun a hunger strike.

Kinnock and his supporters have endorsed without question a combination of stepped-up military repression, state frame-up through no-jury courts and mass arrests aimed at perverting the electoral process. The state attack on Sinn Fein has been endorsed in off-the-record comments by Dublin government officials. The same sources have condemned the hunger strikes.

The hidden clause of the deal between British imperialism and the southern Irish bourgeoisie is the suppression of Sinn Fein, whether by outright proscription or by systematic persecution of its party workers. The agreement was called into being because British imperialism had proved incapable of isolating the Republican fighters from the Catholic working class in the north. The message was driven home to Thatcher by the growth of Sinn Fein's vote in local and parliamentary elections.

The collaboration of the crisis-ridden Dublin regime with British imperialism stretches back to the days of the Anglo-Irish treaty in the 1920s. The significance of the new Anglo-Irish agreement is that this collaboration is given constitutional weight.

By bringing the Dublin government directly into the administration of the six counties, the Tories and their Labour allies hope to shore up the disintegrating position of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. The mass arrests are specifically designed to weaken the Republican movement's intervention in the parliamentary by-elections taking place in a fortnight's time.

These elections were forced by the resignation of Unionist MPs who oppose any role for Dublin in the province's affairs. The Tories hope the anti-Republican campaign will stave off any Unionist rebellion.

The cynicism is breathtaking. It reveals the total contempt in which the Tories and their Labour allies hold the entire population of the north of Ireland, Protestant and Catholic alike.

Workers Press sends its warmest fraternal greetings to all the Irish political prisoners in British imperialist jails. We pledge to continue the fight for their release and to expose the regime of murder and oppression which rules the occupied six counties as part of the struggle to defeat British imperialism.

We demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all British troops from Irish soil. We fully endorse the demands of the Long Kesh hunger strikers and call for the immediate release of the imprisoned Sinn Fein party workers.

RELEASE JAILED MIN

VIGIL AT DURHAM PRISON

SACKED miners, engineers, unemployed, clothing workers, lodge officials, Labour councillors, women and children, demonstrated outside Durham Jail on Christmas Eve in support of the jailed miners.

At very short notice, delegations representing the Durham coalfield and Tyneside came in sub-zero temperatures to the vigil called by the Miners Support Groups and supported by the Durham Mechanics.

The delegations gathered with their banners outside the front gates of the jail, where five of the nine 'Murton' miners were held. The men were jailed one week before Christmas, amid controversy over their legal representatives.

The judge also refused to allow them to change their pleas to 'not guilty' to the charges of 'affray' during incidents in the year-long miners strike in defence of jobs.

Groups of young children danced in front of the gates of the jail as the banners and the delegations lined up.

MOVE

The 'Stumbling Band', 12 musicians from Tyneside, set the mood with everybody singing 'Here we go, Here we go', but it was later, when we all joined in a rousing chorus of the 'International', that the real class nature of the vigil was brought home.

Then the chanting started. 'To fight for jobs is not a crime. Release the jailed miners'.

Not content to stand at

the front gates, the demonstration, led by the Durham Mechanics banner with the Miners Support Groups, followed by the banner of the Workers Revolutionary Party (North East) and the Gateshead Unemployed Action Group, Heaton Labour Party, the Communist Party (Northern Area) and the Durham Peace movements' banner, they marched around the perimeter of the jail.

There were loud shouts of 'Release jailed miners. Reinstate sacked men', 'Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, out, out, out'

The shouts cut through

the dark cold night as surrounding households opened their curtains to investigate and then came out to watch as the march passed by.

The demonstration arrived at the courtyard, overlooked by the cells of the inmates of the jail.

REPLY

The band stopped playing, complete silence. Then it started: 'Release!'. Every single person replied with the thunderous reply — 'jailed miners'. No loud-hailers were necessary. 'Reinstate, sacked men'.

This was kept up solidly for nearly an hour, echoing around the courtyard up and over the prison walls with the intermittent beat of the base drum. The anger and the pride of those that came was evident.

The shouts got louder, then louder still as the demonstrators saw the inmates waving and pressing up to their barred windows to peer out and try to see the marchers.

It was an eerie sight, seeing the silhouettes of the cell windows as the thunderous chant and the beat of the drum kept on and on.

The message was clear, the Durham vigil was a beginning — a necessary step towards the massive campaign coming this year, 1986, to secure the release of the jailed miners and their supporters, and the reinstatement of the sacked men.

PROUD

The demonstrators travelled back to Tyneside, back into the coalfields of Durham, proud and more determined than ever to continue the campaign for these class war prisoners locked up in Tory jails.

Proud to fight f

A NUMBER of members of the north-east labour and trade union movement on the vigil outside Durham jail spoke during their campaign.

Billy Etherington, general secretary of Durham Mechanics:

WE CAME here to show solidarity with the men in jail. Xmas can be a very lonely time for jailed and sacked men. Whilst not agreeing with some of the actions carried out in the heat of the moments, you have to realise that these lads wanted to change their pleas to the courts, but they were not allowed to do so by the judge.

These miners got more time in jail than 'child killers'. This has to be said. The jailed and sack-

ed men are priority to the Durham Mechanics. There can be no chance of rest or any industrial peace in the pits until these men are released and the sacked men are reinstated.

I want to thank everybody here tonight for turning out. If our lads in jail could see this it would give them a great lift. I hope that vigils like this will take place at all jails where our men are held.

Anne Suddick (Miners Support Group).

WE ARE giving up our time on Xmas eve because we want the lads inside the jail to know that we have not forgotten them. Although they are not going to spend Xmas at home, we want to bring the spirit of Xmas to them with our solidarity.

This is also a gesture in solidarity with all the miners and their supporters in jail at this time.



BILLY ETHERINGTON



ANNE SUDDICK



GORDON ARGUMENT

This vigil has to be seen as a stepping stone in the campaign. There is a national amnesty campaign being launched, with a rally in London on March 2 and also a Hero's concert in the Albert Hall on the same day.

Both those events will be in line with the TUC and Labour party resolutions on the jailed and sacked men. We will nev-

er rest until these men are released and the sacked men get reinstated.

This is our message for 1986.

Gordon Argument (Durham Mechanics delegate from Wearmouth pit) told of the four days he spent in Durham jail

during the miners' strike for an alleged 'breach of the peace' on the picket lines last August.

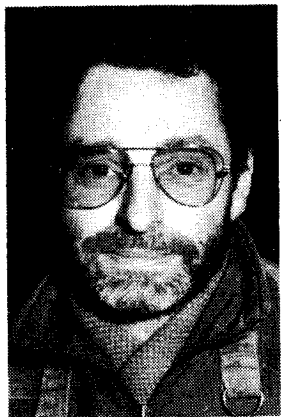
I WAS only in jail for a short time, but I cannot put into words what I feel for those lads inside now. A lot of people have accused these lads of 'hooliganism'. What really hap-

ERS; REINSTATE SACKED MEN



The Durham Mechanics joined other members of the labour and trade union movement from the north-east outside Durham jail on Christmas Eve in a solidarity vigil

or jailed men



NIGEL TODD

pened as they were caught up in an incident during the miners' strike, when they were confronted by riot police in the village.

We have to understand the provocations they faced.

I sincerely hope that 1986 will be a better year for them and I know that the miners' union will do ev-



MARK STEVENS

everything we can to help them.

Nigel Todd (Newcastle City Labour Councillor):

'I'M HERE to support the jailed miners. There is a lot of support at constituency level in the Labour Party and a willingness to campaign for the release of these jailed

miners. We can understand the position of the NUM as they are fighting on every front the continuous attacks of the NCB and the Tory government.

But the TUC and Labour leaders' refusal to lead a campaign is a tragic betrayal of the miners. These leaders are frightened of their own shadows. The energy they put into witch-hunting and trying to ditch socialist policies in the Labour Party shows their real position.

I'm proud to be here tonight.

Mark Stevens (Chairman of the Gateshead Unemployed Action Group):

'WE MUST get these lads out of jail. This is why we came down from Tyneside tonight. This is one of the most important struggles that the working class have got to face

now. The unemployed must unite with those in the trade union movement to secure the release of the jailed miners and the reinstatement of the sacked men.

Jeff Hartnell (Sacked miner — electrician from Tursdale Workshops):

'WE MUST support the release of the jailed miners. They are in jail because they fought for their class. They are also in jail because of the betrayal of the TUC and Labour Party leaders who refused to lead a fight in support of the Miners.

I am very pleased with the support we got here tonight and the 'Stumbling Band' from Tyneside really did us proud.

This vigil or demonstration was an act of solidarity with all jailed miners and sacked men throughout the country.

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

NORTHUMBERLAND

WILLIAM SMITH: Whittle — 2½-year sentence from February 1985. E44975, Durham Jail, Old Elvet, Durham DH13HU.

DURHAM

JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.

JOHN HEMINGWAY: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

JOHN ROBSON: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

ROBERT HOWE, 22, miner, affray, attempted not guilty (judge refused to allow change of plea), 21 months

ANTHONY RUTHERFORD, 24, miner, affray attempted not guilty, 18 months

JOHN ROBINSON, 21, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months jail

GARY BLACKMORE, 19, charge affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years youth custody

ANTHONY HOWE, 19, affray, attempted not guilty, two years youth custody

WILLIAM BELL, 20, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months youth custody

YORKSHIRE

MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18-month sentence. G76424 Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston Lancs.

CLIVE THOMPSON: Frickley — Three-year sentence from April 1985. G79348, Acklington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF.

DAVID TEASDALE: Student — Nine-month sentence from April 1985. HMYCC, York Road, Wetherby, West Yorks LS22 5ED.

N. DERBYSHIRE

PAUL BROTHWELL: 12-month sentence.

DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037, A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Doddington Road, Wellingborough.

KENT

MARK BEST: Two-year sentence from April 1985. B74749,

Spring Hill jail, Aylesbury, Bucks.

TERRY FRENCH: Betteshanger — Four-year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent

GARRY NEWELL: Two-year sentence from April 1985. B574745, Eastchurch jail, Stamford Hill, Sheerness

CHRIS TAZEY: Betteshanger — Three-year sentence from January 1985. A29398 Youth Detention Centre, Springfield Road, Chelmsford

JAMES WADDELL: Two-year sentence from April 1985. B574747, Eastchurch jail, Stamford Hill, Sheerness.

EMLYN DAVIES: A Two-year sentence from April 1985. B74746, Spring Hill jail, Aylesbury, Bucks.

BRIAN DAY: Two-year sentence from April 1985. B74748, Spring Hill jail, Aylesbury,

SOUTH WALES

DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicesters.

RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, Leicesters.



Science today

Checking out the bombs

BY OUR SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

Devastation produced by the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima (opposite) looks superficially similar. The current problem for the verification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is how to distinguish their shock waves apart.

GEOLOGY can only contribute to international debates from the standpoint of being able to provide clear and unbiased data, on the foundation of which politicians can hopefully base sound judgement. In this situation, it is necessary to stress that neither science nor its journals can have a political stance. Scientists, whatever their personal political inclination, must always be bound, in the final analysis, by their loyalty to their data, by their unswerving support for the maintenance of the integrity of their scientific disciplines.'

Dr. L. B. Halstead, introducing the article reviewed on these pages

NEWS LINE (predecessor of the resumed Workers Press) recently carried an exclusive story about a break-in at the home of the editor of the academic journal 'Modern Geology'.

This week we look in detail at the article contained in the journal which may be the reason behind the burglary.

The various treaties between the major nuclear states designed to limit or ban the testing of nuclear warheads have invariably run up against the problem of verification.

The case of the Limited (Partial) Test Ban Treaty of 1963 was something of an exception as the detonation of nuclear devices in the atmosphere or oceans release clouds of radioactive material which disperse widely in the upper atmosphere and can easily be detected by monitoring aircraft.

Limited.

The Threshold Test Ban Treaty of 1974, which limited the scale of underground explosions, and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which is currently under discussion, however, must rely on the detection of shock waves propagated through the earth.

This is the province of the science of seismology.

Techniques used to measure the different types of shock wave released by an earthquake have given geologists vast amounts of data on the internal constitution of the earth and ultimately underpin the current major geological synthesis, the theory of plate tectonics.

In principle, a seismological station is a pen rigidly attached to the earth which can trace a line on a freely suspended, continuously moving drum of paper.

The trace produced (see figure 1) gives an indication

of the magnitude of the shock and the types of waves produced.

By analysis of the records of several stations the site of the earthquake (epicentre) can be pinpointed, the depth can be estimated and even the direction of movement of the fault which produced the shock can be worked out.

The problem with using this technique to monitor the effects of underground nuclear blasts is with differentiating the shock waves produced from those of naturally occurring earthquakes.

This is the substance of Dr. Leggett's article 'Geoscience and the feasibility of cheating on Test Ban Treaties'.

This question of verifiability has been used by the British and US governments to block the resumption of talks on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty with the USSR.

These talks, initiated in 1958, finally broke down on the verge of the finalisation of a draft agreement in 1982 when the US withdrew in the aftermath of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The question of verification, which according to the Foreign Office is 'a major obstacle', is centred around this question of whether it is possible to differentiate the explosion of small but militarily significant devices from earthquakes of a similar magnitude.

Problem

In the case of the Threshold Test Ban Treaty this is not a significant issue. This treaty was designed to ban the explosion of devices of over 150 kilotons (equivalent to 150,000 tons of TNT) and explosions on this scale are reasonably easy to differentiate from earthquakes.

The problem arises with the explosion of smaller nuclear devices down to one kiloton.

While the limit set by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is insignificant in terms of current warheads — the largest test to date was of a 58,000

kiloton (58 megaton) device by the Soviet Union in 1961 — scientists are agreed that the key to most developments in nuclear weapons technology is the trigger device (see figure 2) which initiates the major fusion reaction.

As it is only necessary for the trigger to be of the order of 10 kilotons in order to initiate the major fusion reaction it is analysis of shock waves produced by explosions of this magnitude that is the major bone of contention.

There are four types of waves produced by earthquakes and nuclear explosions, primary (P) or compressional waves and shear (S) or secondary waves which travel through the body of the earth. These produce complementary waves at the surface of the earth called Rayleigh and Love waves respectively. It is these latter waves which produce the damage associated with earthquakes.

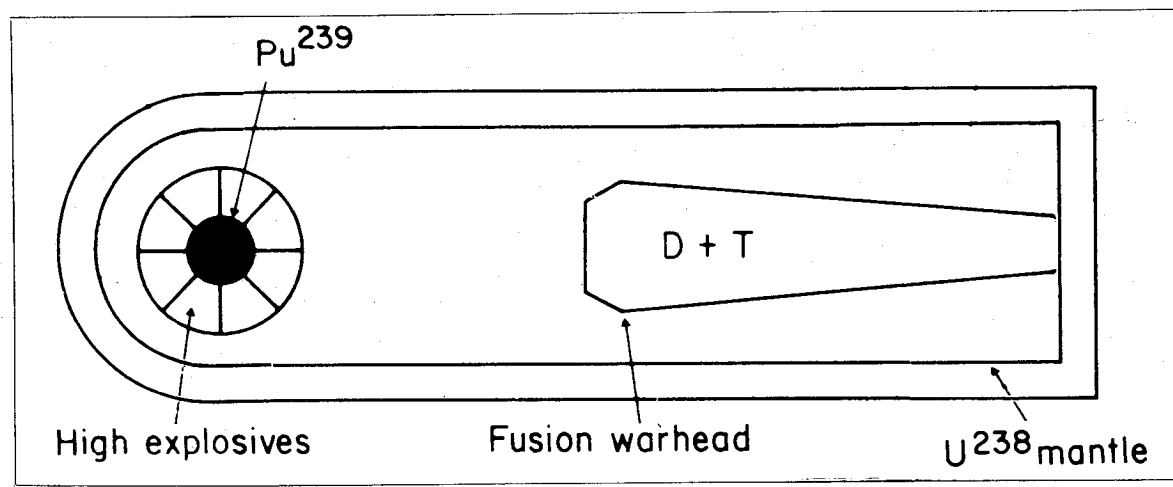
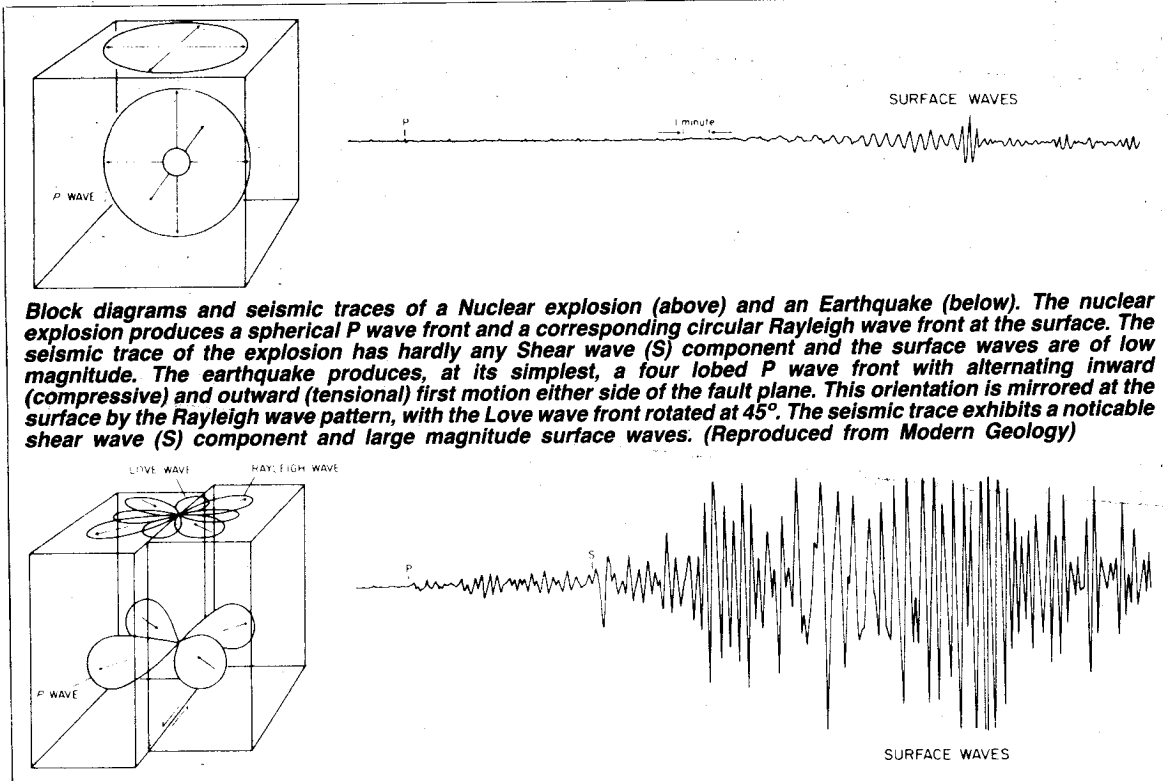
Radiates

The difference between waves produced by earthquakes and those produced by an equivalent nuclear explosion is due to the fact that the explosion is an instantaneous event, of the order of 80 billionths of a second, which radiates energy (initially compressive) equally in all directions.

Earthquake waves on the other hand are produced by a series of slower movements along a fault plane. As a consequence earthquake waves are of a longer wavelength and higher frequency.

Earthquake movements are also primarily in one particular direction and produce a distinctive 'signature' with an initial compression in one direction and dilation in the other (see figure 1). Though as Dr Leggett notes: 'This rule, like most in geology, is not inviolate.'

More significantly, the nuclear blast does not initially radiate any shear waves, though these may be produced as a result of



The main elements of a thermonuclear bomb — highly idealised. The trigger mechanism is a 'shaped charge' of high explosive which implodes a supercritical mass of Plutonium 239. (Reproduced from Modern Geology)

NUCLEAR BLAST



stresses in the rock being released by the explosion. In other words, small natural earthquakes may be initiated. Similarly Love waves may only be produced as a secondary and insignificant by-product of a nuclear test.

Probably the best discriminant between nuclear tests and earthquakes is provided by a comparison of the magnitudes of Rayleigh waves and body waves, the so-called $M_s:M_b$ criterion, which produces two distinct populations when plotted out. Out of 383 'events' recorded over a six month period only one earthquake fell within the explosion 'population'.

It must be noted that the officially accepted

level of confidence in being able to detect clandestine tests is 90 per cent.

The possibility of 'cheating' by disguising a small nuclear blast as an earthquake is possible, but the chances of getting away with it are small in the extreme. Dr. Leggett outlines two possible methods, masking and muffling.

Hide

The former involves trying to hide the explosion in the coda, or tail of aftershocks of a large earthquake. However, the technical problems of holding a test in readiness for an unspecified length of time while waiting for

a suitable earthquake to come along are massive.

In any case, current processing techniques would be able to unscramble the explosion signal, particularly if high frequency detection sites were available.

In the latter case, muffling, two techniques are available. The test can be sited in dry alluvial deposits (thick, loosely compacted, clays and silts) which collapse and reduce the magnitude of the blast by a factor of 10.

The US National Academy of Sciences consider that there are no suitable deposits in the Soviet Union which could mask an explosion of over one kiloton.

The second and more

plausible strategy is called 'Big Hole Decoupling' and involves exploding the device in a large underground chamber, such as an abandoned coal or salt mine. The reduction of magnitude in this case can be by as much as a factor of 100. However, again monitoring at high frequencies blocks this potential loophole.

Photographic

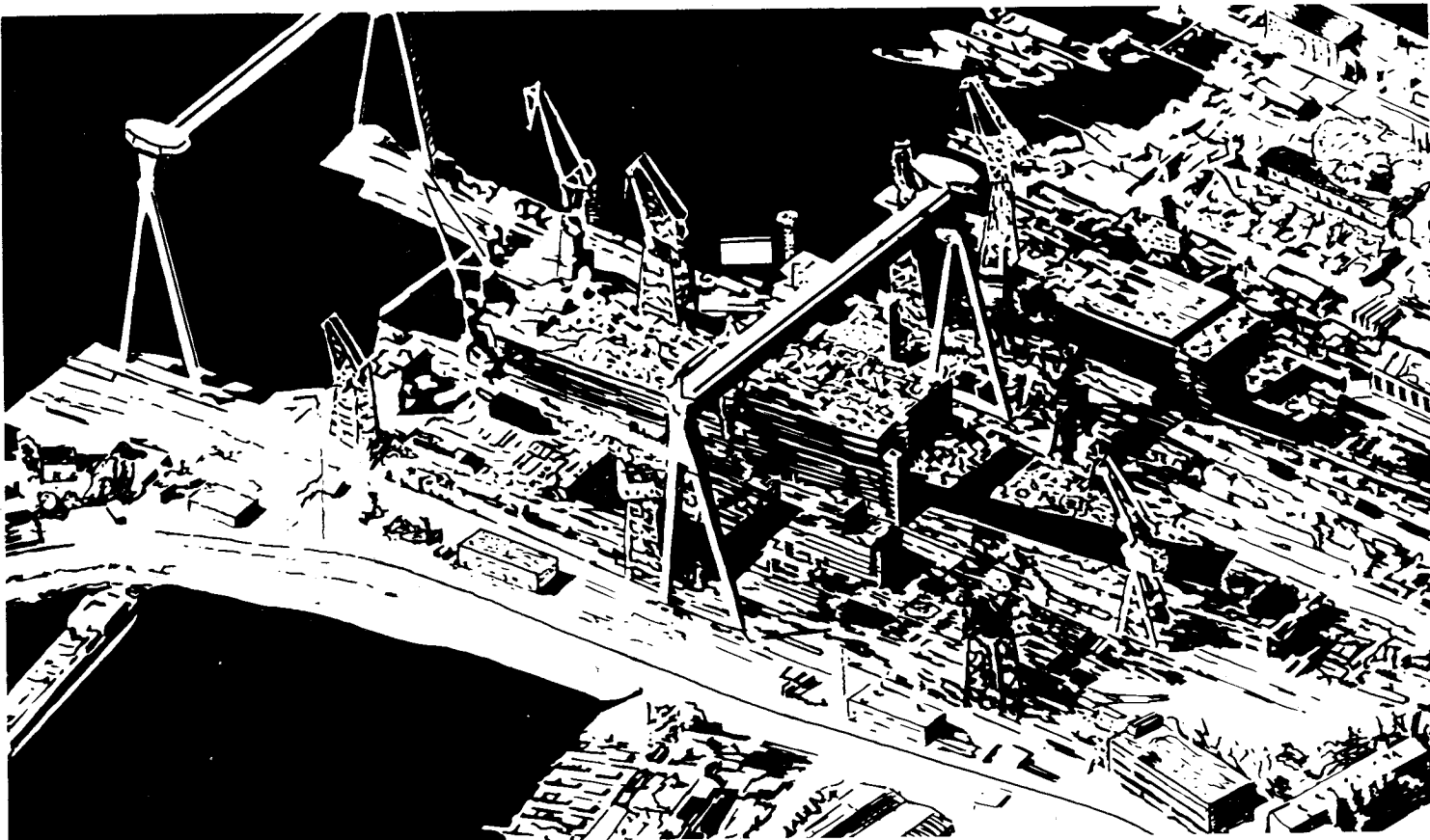
As a final check on a potential clandestine test, Dr. Leggett points to the ability of modern spy satellites to take detailed photographs from which objects less than a foot across can be identified (see Fig 3).

So any excavation in a geologically appropriate site as a prelude to a test could easily be picked out, as could subsequent cratering and subsidence associated with the aftermath of such a test.

He concludes: 'Those who advance verification as an obstacle are asking geoscientists to do the following:

1 DISCOUNT a wide body of published expert opinion in the USA, Europe and the USSR that nuclear explosions down to the militarily-insignificant level of one kiloton can be detected with confidence.

2 OVERLOOK the clues that are available to us as to the power of resolution of military satellites.



Artist's impression of an American spy satellite photograph of a top-secret Black Sea dockyard with the Soviet nuclear-powered aircraft-carrier 'Kremlin'. This shows the kind of detail currently available. (Reproduced from Modern Geology)

Thatcher fudge on Westland

PRIME Minister Thatcher has declined to take sides in public between the rival rescue packages for Westland Helicopters.

Her views were made public for the first time after the Westland board, headed by chairman Sir John Cuckney, met a team of top executives from the US firm Sikorsky on Thursday morning, apparently to discuss an improved rescue offer.

Sikorsky, part of United Technologies, has combined with Fiat of Italy in a rescue bid supported by Trade and Industry Secretary Leon Brittan.

Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine has put his political weight behind a rival all-European solution involving British, French, Italian and West German companies.

Thatcher was forced to declare her hand after Cuckney wrote to her for clarification, before putting the facts before his shareholders later this month.

He wanted to know whether his company would be banned from future European joint ventures if it rejected the European package favoured by Heseltine.

In reply, Thatcher steered clear of expressing a preference between the rival bids, but pledged government backing for Westland's continued participation in such projects.

But Denzil Davies, Labour's defence spokesman, said the Prime Minister's letter was 'a monumental fudge' and would make life much more difficult for Heseltine.

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Astmoor Litho: The true facts

ON DECEMBER 10 last year, Astmoor Litho Ltd, printer of the News Line, was compulsorily wound up on a petition by Vanessa Redgrave Enterprises Ltd.

The action was taken by Redgrave's company following the expulsion of G. Healy from the Workers Revolutionary Party and the walk-out and subsequent expulsion of his supporters after they had held their own Congress in opposition to the constitutionally-convened Conference of the Party and printed their own bogus 'News Line' and 'Young Socialist' papers.

Eleven days after the judgement, a lying account was presented in the editorial of their 'News Line'. Like the prisoner who imagines that the rest of the world is behind bars, the Healy clique imagine that they still represent the Workers Revolutionary Party!

And they still imagine that truth is what they need others to believe. Aiming the editorial at the bourgeois courts, they are trying to show that the real Workers Revolutionary Party is based on an illegal conspiracy against them, to lend some legitimacy to their claim that the party's College of Marxist Education belongs to them.

The truth is that the Healyites represent but a small rump consisting of Healy himself and a band of middle-class acolytes and camp-followers.

LIE No. 1: That the Workers Revolutionary Party supported Vanessa Redgrave's winding up petition. THE TRUTH is that Healy's rump supported it; the Workers Revolutionary Party opposed it.

LIE No. 2: That debts had been 'concealed deliberately from the party, the Central Committee and the Political Committee by a small group of plotters centred on the finance department.

IN FACT, all major financial decisions were taken by G. Healy alone and he made sure that certain financial dealings were never presented to any party committee. The following are examples:

1 A green BMW car bought in 1982 for £16,000, mainly with money donated by the Australian section of the International Committee 'for security purposes' and kept, secretly from the Party, in a multi-storey car park.

2 £20,000 secreted into a bank account quite separate from the Party and discovered only when Aileen Jennings sent a letter to the Political Committee exposing Healy's anti-party practices.

3 A web-offset printing press ordered for £90,000 by G. Healy at a printing exhibition in West Germany for use abroad to print a daily paper. The purchase was cancelled at a fee of around £20,000 when he was faced up to the impossibility of it ever being used!

These and many other dealings, at best based on idealist pipe-dreams, constituted a real financial loss to the movement. Healy and his clique wasted the movement's resources and expected the finance department to keep the show on the road.

LIE No. 3: That on December 10 the petitioner's counsel brought 'caste-iron' (sic) proof a £29,000 gift from Vanessa Redgrave Enterprises Ltd. to the WRP was a loan. THERE WAS no such proof; there was even evidence that the money came not from the petitioner's bank account, i.e. Vanessa Redgrave Enterprises Ltd, but from Redgrave's personal account.

COMMENT

Judge Harman ruled that no proof was in fact required: the onus was on the defendant to show that it was a gift. Proof — cast, wrought or scrap iron — was never called for. The source of the money was not deemed relevant.

LIE No. 4: That 'the party-wreckers of the Banda-Slaughter rump... systematically and secretly led the party into a grave financial crisis'. A RUMP is a small or contemptible remnant of a parliament or similar body; the Healy clique is the real rump by any arithmetic or political estimation. And, of course, the real responsibility for the grave financial crisis lay with the de-facto party leadership at the time, namely Healy and his clique.

LIE No. 5: That the 'Banda-Slaughter rump... had capitulated to Thatcher's Bonapartist regime and the pressure of imperialism and they were seized with the need to prove that the party must liquidate its revolutionary programme, its daily News Line, its Young Socialist Youth Training Centres and all its other conquests'. PRESUMABLY its other conquests include the BMW mentioned above and a luxury Ford Granada Ghia saloon used exclusively for the benefit of G. Healy, principally to drive him back and forth around the corner between his flat and the party centre. These have indeed been liquidated!

When Thatcher decreed that trade unions at GCHQ in Cheltenham were to be outlawed, Healy decided that we had a new, Bonapartist, form of government. Bonapartism was said to have continued ever since. At the WRP's London May Day rally in Friends Meeting House this year, Healy explained that the next stage after Bonapartism was fascism, and showed how rapidly the votes cast for the German Nazi party rose in the years up to 1933.

In other words, Thatcher and her so-called Bonapartism were not only here to stay but could only develop into fascism. We maintain that Healy's notion of Bonapartism is a travesty of Marxism and we have every confidence that the working class, given revolutionary leadership, will overthrow the capitalist state, here and all over the world. Who capitulates to Thatcher?

What was our revolutionary programme under Healy? We had wrong perspectives and no programme, apart from empty calls for Workers Revolutionary Governments.

LIE No. 6: That 'Led by Banda, they unconstitutionally halted production of the News Line and the Young Socialists in October and installed a so-called "occupation committee" in the printshop'. PRODUCTION was halted on the grounds that the News Line represented neither the party nor the Central Committee; after a majority of workers in the party's printshop voted to walk out in solidarity with those who had walked out from the Clapham headquarters, the north west district spontaneously occupied the printshop to prevent the minority of workers there printing papers by themselves.

LIE No. 7: That 'They smashed up the Central Committee and the Political Committee and suspended all the leading members of the Editorial Board.' WHEN charges were laid against G. Healy at a Workers Revolutionary Party Central Committee meeting on October 12-13, 1985, by 25 votes to 11 (Vanessa Redgrave

had left the meeting by then to appear at a theatre), 12 members of the Central Committee declared themselves a minority under the Party's constitution.

They failed to attend both the Central Committee meeting on October 19 and the Conference on October 26. On October 25 at 11.15a.m. eight members of the News Line Editorial Board walked out from the production of the paper.

All of these were long-standing members of the Workers Revolutionary Party, fully aware of their minority rights under the Party's constitution; their documents were circulated to the Party membership. It was their decision to walk out, hold their own Conference and set up bogus papers. It was their decision to break with Marxist principles and try to smash our Party through the bourgeois courts.

LIE No. 8: That Corin Redgrave was placed in charge of the investigation into the party's financial crisis. IN FACT, Corin Redgrave was placed by the Political Committee to work in the party's finance office in July; there was no party investigation. There was only a frame-up attempt led by Healy and carried out by Redgrave behind the back of all the party's committees to finger those who opposed Healy as being responsible for the party's financial crisis.

LIE No. 9: That 'two Youth Training Centres were sold behind the back of the party.' IN FACT, the Glasgow Centre was sold to a party member with the agreement of the party's Finance Committee comprising Healy, Torrance and Vevers with the endorsement of the Central Committee as part of their plan to overcome the financial crisis. Nottingham Youth Training Centre had been sold previously in a similar way without Healy's knowledge. They remain in party hands.

Those on the Central Committee who opposed charges being laid against Healy formed a minority faction on the basis of two documents: that on the 'United Front' submitted by Sheila Torrance and printed in the (genuine) News Line on November 4-5 and a statement by the rump of the Political Committee drawn up during the short period of the walkout. They wanted to keep Healy in the party at all costs: they still claim him as a member in their rump paper, but their two factional documents have not been heard of since.

The bogus 'News Line' editorial is a falsification designed to give credibility to their claim to be the 'true' Workers Revolutionary Party. For them, there are no such things as morals or principles. But there is property involved.

The party's College of Marxist Education in Derbyshire is owned by the Workers Revolutionary Party. Until the split, the nominee was Corin Redgrave on behalf of the Central Committee; the day before Healy was charged, Redgrave secreted away the title deeds. When this was discovered, he had to return them. On December 23 came the inevitable solicitor's letter demanding the 'return' of the deeds to Corin Redgrave.

This rump led by G. Healy is exposed as a thoroughly unprincipled group of pirates and adventurers. While they are sparing no effort to smash the Workers Revolutionary Party and to launch a new daily News Line next month, we shall continue to expose their lies and their idealist political methods. We are confident that the working class will draw its own conclusions and consign the Healy sect to the dustbin of history.

The Left Opposition on Party democracy



Members of the Left Opposition before being exiled

IN AUGUST 1933, the International Left Opposition (ILO) took part in a Conference of Left Socialists and Communist Organisations in Paris.

The delegation of Bolshevik-Leninists made public a declaration putting forward the basis of their platform to build a Fourth International.

Parts of the declaration explain the type of party regime necessary to build a revolutionary party. For those comrades in the Workers Revolutionary Party and those supporters who are trying to come to grips with the non-communist relations between party members fostered by G. Healy and his apparatus while he ran the party, it will be an eye-opener.

For some it will reveal the enormous gap between real Bolshevik, socialist practice and what was, for years, an excuse for it, whether reluctantly or enthusiastically given, in the WRP.

'The question of the Party regime,' says the declaration, 'should become the subject of the greatest attention in the building of new parties and of a new International.

'Workers' democracy is not an organisational, but a social problem. In the last analysis, the stifling of workers' democracy is the result of the pressure of class enemies through the medium of the workers' bureaucracy.

'This historic law is confirmed equally by the history of reformism in capitalist countries and by the experience of the bureaucratisation of the Soviet Union.'

The declaration explains how social democracy shackled the voice of the rank and file, while freeing 'its ministers, parliamentary deputies, journalists and trade union bureaucrats from submitting to discipline with regard to the party.'

The Stalinist bureaucracy, on the other hand, used the state apparatus to liquidate the party, Soviet and trade union democracy to its will. Under that bureaucracy, 'the party masses have only one right: to keep silent and obey. Repressions, baiting, bribery are the usual methods for keeping order in the party.'

The declaration explains how important the internal party set-up is for developing working-class leaders: 'A revolutionist is brought up only in the atmosphere of criticism of all that exists, including also his own organisation.'

'A firm discipline can be attained only by conscious trust in the leadership. This trust can be gained not only by a correct policy but also by an honest attitude to one's mistakes.'

Regime

'The importance of the internal regime thus acquires for us an extraordinary importance.'

'The advanced workers must be given the possibility of conscious and independent participation in the building of the party and the direction of its whole policy. Young workers must be given the possibility to think, criticise, make mistakes and correct themselves.'

It is only this internal party democracy in a party basing itself on Marxist principles which can develop leaders in the working class and combat the influences of opportunism, centrism and adventurism predominating in the trade unions and reformist parties.

A further declaration, the Declaration of Four, was the 'first open step in the direction of the building of a new International (the Fourth International, founded in 1938) on the principled foundations of Marx and Lenin'.

It was signed by the International Left Opposition (Bolshevik-Leninist), the

Socialist Workers Party of Germany, the Independent Socialist Party of Holland and the Revolutionary Socialist Party of Holland.

The declaration itself was brief, laying down 11 points on the necessity and principles of a new International.

Like the ILO declaration, the Declaration of Four made a clear statement on Party Democracy which 'is a necessary prerequisite for the healthy development of revolutionary proletarian parties on the national as well as an international scale.'

'Without freedom of criticism, without the election of functionaries from top to bottom, without the control of the apparatus by the rank and file, no truly revolutionary party is possible.'

'The need for secrecy under conditions of illegality changes completely the forms of the internal life of a revolutionary party and makes wide discussions and elections difficult, if not altogether impossible.'

'But even under the most difficult conditions and circumstances, the basic demands of healthy party regime retain their full force: honest information about the party, freedom of criticism and a real inner unity between the leadership and the party majority.'

'Having suppressed and crushed the will of the revolutionary workers, the reformist bureaucracy turned the social democracy and the trade unions into impotent bodies despite their membership numbering in the millions.'

'Having stifled inner democracy, the Stalinist bureaucracy also stifled the Comintern (the Third International founded by Lenin in 1919). The new international, as well as the parties adhering thereto, must build their entire inner life on the basis of democratic centralism.'

Extracts are taken from 'Writings of Leon Trotsky (1933-34), Pathfinder Press, 1972.

Nottingham's Labour contrasts

ON DECEMBER 6, 1985, the Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM) was granted legal status as a bona fide trade union. It widened, if that were possible, the bitter division in the Nottinghamshire coalfield between scabs and striking miners.

UDM leaders Lynk and Prendergast had already negotiated with the NCB a wage increase based on conditions fiercely resisted by miners in the National Union of Mineworkers.

In his book, Wyncoll points out that following the General Strike of 1926, George Spencer MP negotiated with the coal owners a return to work of Notts miners and received the sum of £12,500 from the employers towards a pension fund for members of his Notts & District Miners Industrial Union.

Wyncoll has carefully researched and traced the developments and contradictions in the Notts coalfield and the other major industries of Nottingham and district — lace, hosiery and later bicycles, tobacco and pharmaceutical products — which are the background of the marked division of the working class in this area.

Contrast

He notes the contrast between Nottingham in the Chartist period and Nottingham from 1880 onwards.

The town gave the name 'Luddite' to the early labour movement.

- 1831 — Nottingham Castle set on fire during the Reform Bill riots.
- 1847 — Fergus O'Connor elected Chartist MP for the city.

- 1872 — Thomas Smith, secretary of the Nottingham Branch of the First International, published a pamphlet 'Letters on the Commune: The Law of Revolution: or the Logical Development of Human Society'.

- 1873 — Nottingham known as the 'Banner Town'.

But by 1918, Notting-

The Nottingham Labour Movement 1880-1939 by Peter Wyncoll. Lawrence & Wishart. £4.95.

ham had become the 'despair of politicians'.

Liberal politics which dominated the labour and trade union movement in the 1880s continued to hold sway, in spite of energetic and determined efforts by more militant and socialist-orientated workers to steer the Labour Party and trades council in a leftward direction.

The basis of Liberalism in the workers' movement in and around Nottingham lay in the influence of 'enlightened' paternalistic manufacturing employers such as Mundella and Morley and the existence of comparatively small, highly-skilled sections of craft workers in the lace, hosiery and printing industries organised in the new model trade unions, which dominated the trades council in the late 19th century and the beginnings of the early Labour Party.

Conditions

A highly-productive coalfield, able to supply the needs of the newly-developing growth industries, bicycles, pharmaceuticals and tobacco, providing conditions for collaboration between the moderate Notts Mining Association leaders and the coal owners.

The privileged strata of skilled workers in lace and hosiery maintained strict intake quotas; the operation in the Notts coalfield of the butty contract system brought its own privileges and favours.



The Trades Council executive in 1913-1914. Left to right (back row): A.V. Guy, E. Bradley, W. Hargood (inset), T. Crippwell, G.M. Sadler, (middle row): Miss K. Akins, G. Thundercliffe (secretary), A. Hayday (president), G. Allcroft (Treasurer), W. Askew (vice-president), (front row): C. Wardle, G. Butler

The gradual decline of the lace industry, with competition from Europe and simple operating techniques requiring less skill and an increase in women employees, heightened the complex situation of unorganised labour on the one hand, coupled with exclusive craft organisation on the other.

In the pits, struggles for the eight-hour day and against wage-cutting resulted in some victories for the miners, some for the employers, but more often ended in compromise.

In 1895 many coal-owners conceded the eight-hour day in their own interests — production increasing as a result — and won the continued political allegiance of the NMA leaders as well as many miners.

Meanwhile the Socialist Democratic Federation, Socialist League and later the Independent Labour Party were all active, holding meetings in the Market Square up to 4,000 strong with visiting speakers such as John Burns, William Morris, Edward Aveling and Annie Besant.

They played an important pioneering role in developing the local labour movement and in breaking resistance to politics in the trades council. But the politics pursued by the leaders of the trades council remained Liberal politics.

A ballot on affiliation to the Labour Party held in 1906 by the NMA resulted in only 1,806 votes in

favour with 9,492 against and over 12,000 abstentions.

However, ten years later in the Mansfield Division, a poll resulted in 3,405 majority in favour of nominating a Labour candidate to stand for parliament.

In the same year, George Spencer made an attempt to lead a break-away of the NMA from the Miners Federation of Great Britain, which was defeated in a ballot.

By 1918 the author records a marked change to the 'left' by Notts miners and quotes from a speech of miners' leader, Bob Smillie:

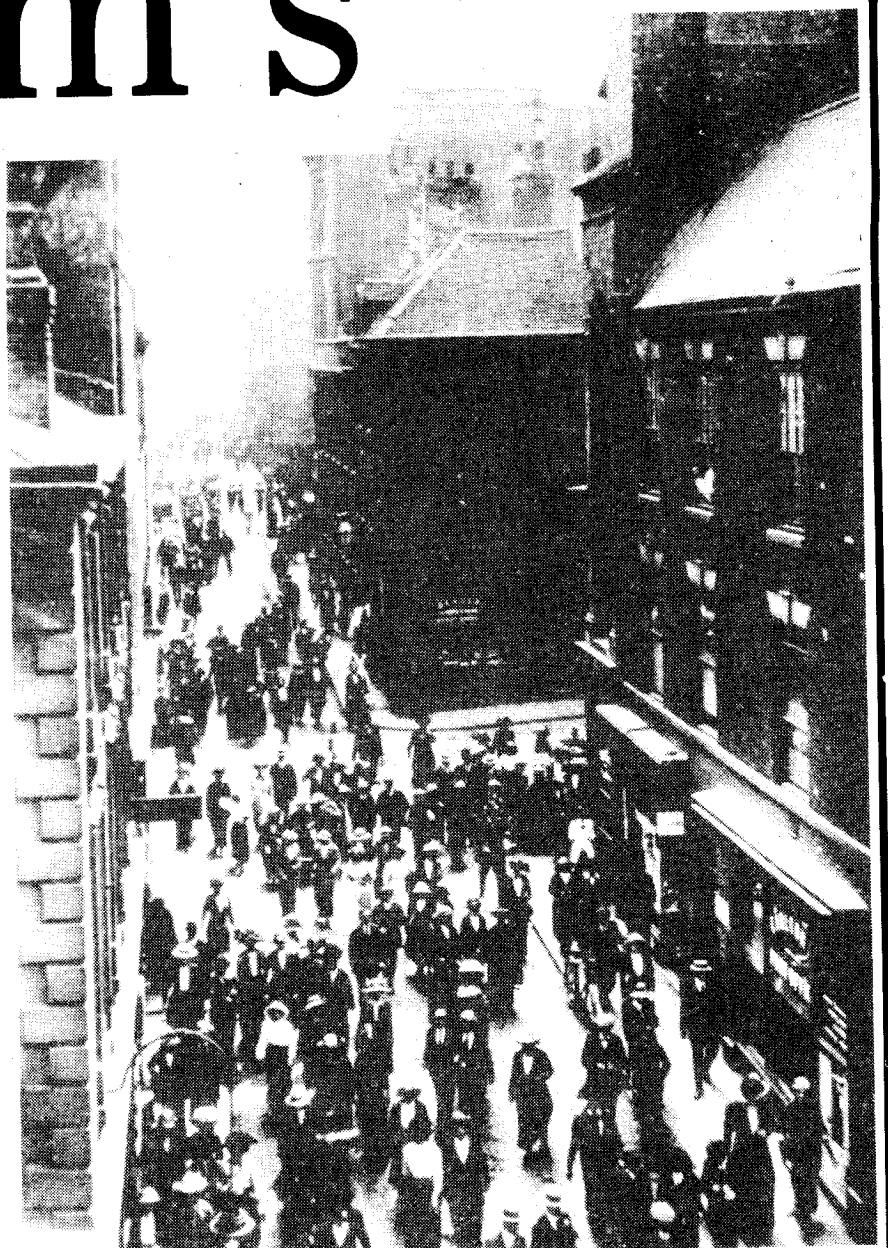
'This mining country of Nottingham may be taken as one of the most backward in Great Britain. From the advanced labour and political points of view, it has always been considered reactionary and the home of Liberal-Labourism as opposed to independence. It is now showing a wonderful movement of a revolutionary character.'

Council

At the end of the First World War, the trades council declared in favour of the establishment of Boards of Councils with the employers. Three years later, it protested by 73 votes to one that Communist Party members were being barred from Labour Party activity.

After the General Strike, the trades council nominee for the local council elections was a CP member and therefore refused by the Labour Party.

As the trades council shifted to the left, the



Lace workers near Goose Gate in the heart of the Lace Market in 1914.

Labour Party continued to be dominated by the right-wing Labour and trade union bureaucracy.

Wyncoll states that after 1926 'the movement was demoralised and divided by the General Strike', but does not explain the real nature of the betrayal by the General Council TUC, the Labour Party leaders and the Communist Party.

Although Spencer's resignation was called for in July 1926, it was blocked by the right wing until the end of that year. An alternative candidate was then selected, but Spencer did not resign his parliamentary seat until 1929!

The NMA was reduced from 27,000 to 13,000 members in 12 months. The struggle for the NMA was concentrated at the Harworth colliery to the point where a national strike threat in support of the Harworth miners forced recognition of the NMA, into which the Spencerites gradually became absorbed. Spencer, however, did not retire until 1945.

Wyncoll's book does not go beyond 1939 and the author draws no firm con-

clusions for the contemporary struggle.

He states: 'It is a just criticism that the militants failed to develop, at either national or local level, a theory of socialism with which to oppose the right wing.'

Wyncoll himself appears to favour in general the politics of left reformism; in the period under review, of the ILP and popular frontism with sympathy for Communist Party militants.

Although the book was

only published in October 1985, Peter Wyncoll completed it in 1981. He died in 1982, aged only 43. He was therefore denied the opportunity of comparing the Nottingham area of 1880-1939 with the turbulent events of 1984-1985, culminating in the break-away UDM.

A study of Wyncoll's work, however, is of great importance in making an assessment of the local Notts labour and trade movement today.

MS

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BOOKS

YOUR TV GUIDE



Michael J. Fox and, as his mother, Meredith Baxter Birney in 'Family Ties' on channel 4 at 6pm on Saturday



A new series of 'Alice in Wonderland' starts on BBC1 at 5.10 Sunday, with Kate Dorning as Alice and Jonathan Cecil as the White Rabbit

SATURDAY'S GUIDE

BBC1

8.30 Willo the Wisp. 8.35 Hunter's Gold. 9.00 Saturday Superstore.

12.15 GRANDSTAND: Introduced by Desmond Lynam (including 1.00 News Summary; Weather News); 12.20 Football Focus; Ski Jumping (12.40 1.25); Racing from Haydock (1.10 1.40 2.10); Ice Hockey (1.55 3.00); 2.25 Sports Round-up; Basketball; 3.50 Half Times; 3.55 Basketball; 4.40 Final Score

5.05 NEWS Weather News

5.15 SPORT (Regional variations)

5.20 THE KRANKIES ELEKTRONIK KOMIK with guest Alvin Stardust

5.55 THE NOEL EDMONDS LATE LATE BREAKFAST SHOW With Mike Smith

6.45 LES AND DUSTIN'S LAUGHTER SHOW With guests Black Onyx and Made in England

7.20 STRIKE IT RICH New Series

8.10 THE TWO RONNIES With guests Barbara Dickson and Susannah York

9.00 NEWS AND SPORT Weather News

9.15 FILM: The Swarm (1978) Michael Caine as an entomologist trying to halt the advance of killer bees

11.10 FILM: THE HORROR MOVIE Tales That Witness Madness (1973) With Jack Hawkins and Donald Pleasence

12.40 Weather; Closedown

BBC2

9.00 Pages from Ceefax.

CINEMA DOUBLE BILL:

2.00 A GIRL IN EVERY PORT (1951) Comedy with Groucho Marx and William Bendix as two sailors who buy a duff racehorse

3.25 A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM (1966) Zero Mostel, Phil Silvers and Buster Keaton in a comedy set in 1st century Rome

5.00 WORLD DARTS First round of the Embassy World Professional title from the Lakeside Country Club

6.10 THE SILVER ROAD TO GUANAJUATO Christie Davies follows the journey of his 19-century forebear Dafydd Williams an 'iron founder of Swansea' — to the richest silver mines of the Spanish Main

7.00 NEWSVIEW

7.40 LIVING WITH CF A film about the life of a Warwickshire family of four with one child suffering from the killer disease cystic fibrosis

8.10 ROSSINI AT VERSAILLES Claudio Abbado conducts the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the Radio France Chorus in a programme of Rossini's music

9.55 WORLD DARTS

10.25 FILM INTERNATIONAL Pauline at the Beach (1983) Eric Rohmer's sex comedy with Amanda Langlet and Arielle Dombasle

12.00 WORLD DARTS

12.30 Closedown

CHANNEL 4

12.50 CHANNEL 4 RACING from Sandown (1.00, 1.30, 2.00, 2.30)

2.45 FILM: Sweethearts (1938) A musical comedy about two Broadway acts whose six-year marriage comes under strain when an agent tries to lure them from Broadway

4.50 LA PINCE A ONGLES This short film tells the story of an over-meticulous couple staying at an hotel.

5.05 BROOKSIDE OMNIBUS

6.00 FAMILY TIES French Lessons Mallory's shy French tutor finally musters up the nerve to ask her out. With Michael J Fox and Justine Bateman

6.30 NEWS SUMMARY Weather; followed by

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT PART 2

8.50 VIDEO ALICE Bryan Izzard's programme about the work of composer David Del Tredici whose recent compositions have all been inspired by Lewis Carroll's Alice books. With the Philharmonia Orchestra, Oliver Knussen and Claire Bloom

10.20 HILL STREET BLUES Pesto-Lozzi's Revenge With Daniel J Travanti as Captain Furillo

11.15 FILM: Lady in the Lake (1946) Robert Montgomery as private detective Philip Marlowe who becomes embroiled in mystery and intrigue when he tries to trace a missing woman

1.10 Close

LWT

6.55 Good Morning Britain. 9.25 Film: *Hatari*. 12.00 News from ITN. 12.05 Saint & Greavsie.

12.30 WRESTLING from the Northgate Arena, Chester

1.20 AIRWOLF Inn at the End of the Road

2.15 BENSON Benson's New Home with Robert Gillaume as Benson

2.15 SNOOKER Mercantile Credit Classic

4.45 RESULTS SERVICE

5.00 ITN NEWS

5.05 BLOCKBUSTERS

5.35 THE A-TEAM

6.30 COPY CATS

7.00 BLIND DATE Introduced and hosted by Cilla Black

7.45 FILM: In Like Flynn (1985) Jenny Seagrove in the lead role as author Terri McLane

9.30 ITN NEWS; followed by sport

9.45 THE BEST OF SATURDAY LIVE Lenny Henry, Chriss Barrie, Robbie Coltrane, Rick Mayall, Slade, Mel Smith and The Style Council are just a few celebrities appearing

10.45 SNOOKER The Mercantile Credit Classic

12.15 LWT NEWS HEADLINES followed by:

ELVIS — THE ECHO WILL NEVER DIE A documentary film which looks at Elvis's life

1.05 NIGHT THOUGHTS; followed by Closedown

GRANADA

6.15 Good Morning Britain. 9.25 Cartoon. 9.30 Indiana Jones. 10.20 Greatest American Hero. 12.00 News. 12.05 Saint & Greavsie.

12.30 WRESTLING

1.20 AIRWOLF Inn at the end of the Road

2.15 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

2.45 SNOOKER Mercantile Credit Classic from the Spectrum Arena, Warrington

4.45 RESULTS SERVICE

5.00 ITN NEWS

5.05 BLOCKBUSTERS

5.35 THE A-TEAM Another adventure with the A-Team

6.30 COPY CATS With Bobby D'Arcy, Gary Wilmot, Allan Stewart, Johnny More

7.00 BLIND DATE

7.45 MOVIE PREMIERE In Like Flynn (1985) Unknown to her boss a searcher with a New York publishing house is also a best-selling author

9.30 ITN NEWS AND SPORT

9.45 THE BEST OF SATURDAY LIVE A reminder from last year of entertainment show now about to burst on to Channel 4

10.45 SNOOKER

12.15 FILM Fright A babysitter alone in an eerie house is threatened by a mysterious intruder who seems to think she is his ex-wife. Honor Blackman and Susan George

1.40 Closedown

SUNDAY'S GUIDE

BBC1

8.55 Play School. 9.15 Morning Worship. 10.00 Asian Magazine. 10.30 The Interview Game. 10.55 Deutsch Direkt. 11.20 Tele-Journal. 11.45 Blizard's Wizard Woodwork. 12.10 See Hear! 12.35 Farming. 12.58 Weather News for Farmers. 1.00 News Headlines. 1.05 Bonanza. 1.50 Cartoon. 2.00 Eastenders. 3.00 Cartoon. 3.05 Film Matinee *Night and Day* (1946) With Cary Grant, Alexis Smith and Mary Martin.

5.10 ALICE IN WONDERLAND

5.40 THE LIVING ISLES

6.20 YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

6.30 NEWS weather

6.40 SONGS OF PRAISE

7.15 HI-DE-HI Yvonne and Barry despair of Mr Partridge's drunken antics in this weeks episode

7.45 FILM: North by Northwest Alfred Hitchcock's thriller of mistaken identity. With Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint and James Mason

9.55 NEWS; Weather News

10.10 EVERYMAN To Seem the Stranger

10.50 YOU CAN'T SEE THE WOOD The Wildwood is this week's subject in David Bellamy's series about trees

11.15 THE SKY AT NIGHT

11.35-11.40 Weather; Close

BBC WALES: 12.35-12.58 Farming in Wales. 2.00-3.00 Weekend Rugby Union Newbridge v Llanelli. 11.35-11.40 News of Wales Headlines and Weather; Close.

BBC SCOTLAND: 12.35-12.58 Landward. 3.00-3.30 Tomorrow's World. 3.30-4.25 Sunday Sport-scene. 4.25-5.10 Under the Blackpool Tower. 11.35-11.40 Scottish News Headlines and Weather; Close.

BBC2

9.00 Pages from Ceefax. 11.45 Champion The Wonder Horse. 12.10 Windmill. 1.10 States of Mind. 2.00 Rugby Special: Highlights. 2.30 World Darts. 3.35 Film Matinee *The Four Feathers* (1938) With Ralph Richardson.

5.25 MUSIC BY HAYDEN

5.50 SKI SUNDAY introduced by David Vine and Ron Pickering

6.30 WORLD DARTS

7.15 THE NATURAL WORLD Shortgrass Country Tonights film looks, at the landscape of southern Saskatchewan, Canada

8.05 COMRADES Tonights programme looks at the life of Tatyana Naumova, 33-year-old town council secretary of Nakhodka, a port on the Soviet Pacific coast, 6,000 miles and seven time zones away from Moscow

8.45 INTERNATIONAL TENNIS The Young World Masters With Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg and Mats Wilander

9.55 THE BOAT This series from West Germany recreates the squalid routine of submarine patrol, the struggle against the elements and the terrifying encounter with the enemy, after which young boys return as old men, aged by fear and horror

11.25 WORLD DARTS From the Embassy World Professional championships: John Low v Robert McKenzie, Willie Logie v Kari Saukonen and Bod Anderson v Bobby George

12.30 Close

CHANNEL 4

1.05 IRISH ANGLE Hands

1.30 ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

2.20 FILM: The Christmas Messenger With Richard Chamberlain

2.50 FELLER BY THE NAME OF... A Cinematic farce by Nick Gifford. With Fulton MacKay

3.30 THE LORD OF THE RINGS (1978) With the voices of Christopher Gaud, John Hurt, William Squire and Peter Woodthorpe

6.00 AMERICAN FOOTBALL Tonight, the first pair of divisional play-offs and the first quarter finals for January's Super Bowl

7.15 NEWS SUMMARY and weather followed by

ASTONISHING DUOS PART 11 Pinchas Zukerman and Itzhak Perlman Concert from London's Royal College of Music. Tonight works by Leclair and Mozart

8.15 BERT A Personal Memoir A tribute by film-maker Barrie Gavin to the late A L Lloyd the folk singer

9.30 THE MYSTERIES Doomsday A National Theatre production in the third and final play in this series

11.40 THE TWILIGHT ZONE Two more stories from American playwright Rod Sterling of the supernatural *A Thing About Machines* Richard Haydn as a writer who is convinced that the machines in his home are conspiring against him *Mr Dingle, The Strong Burgess* Meredith as a timid little man who is suddenly endowed with superhuman strength

12.40 Close

LWT

6.55 Good Morning Britain. 9.25 Cartoon Time. 9.35 Woody and Friends. 9.45 Snooper and Blabber. 10.00 Morning Worship. 11.00 Link. 11.30 A Heritage from Stone. 12.00 American Documentary. 1.00 The Smurfs. 1.30 LWT News Headlines; followed by Joanie Loves Chachi. 2.00 Lindisfarne *The Cradle Island*. 2.30 Snooker. 4.30 Golden Pennies. 5.00 Hart to Hart.

6.00 BULLSEYE

6.30 NEWS FROM ITN

6.40 HIGHWAY

7.15 MURDER, MYSTERY SUSPENSE City Killer With Gerald McRaney, Heather Locklear and Terence Knox. The story of a psychopath who shows his strange obsessive love for a girl by blowing up an office block and killing everyone inside. Panic sets in when he threatens to do it again

9.00 NEWS FROM ITN

9.15 THE PLAYGROUND The story of a man who is haunted by childhood memories, which come to a head whilst defending his son in a playground

9.45 SPITTING IMAGE The return of the ugly puppets, portraying famous people

10.15 SNOOKER The Mercantile Credit Classic, from the Spectrum Arena, Warrington

12.15 LWT NEWS HEADLINES followed by

THE NEW SQUADRONAIRES Big band style is played by the New Squadronaires dance orchestra

12.40 Night Thoughts; Closedown

GRANADA

9.15 Max the 2000 Year Old Man. 9.30 British Achievement. 10.00 Morning Worship. 11.00 A Heritage from Stone. 11.25 Aap Kaa Hak. 11.30 is your Right. 12.00 Above Newland. 1.00 The Fall Guy. 2.00 Liar's Game.

2.30 SNOOKER Mercantile Credit Classic, from the Spectrum Arena, Warrington

4.30 GOLDEN PENNIES Final episode of this series set in Australia

5.00 WISH YOU WERE HERE Re-run of the programme show Monday, December 30th

5.30 BULLSEYE

6.00 CANDID CAMERA Unsuspecting members of the public are the stars of this series

6.30 NEWS

6.40 HIGHWAY from Dartmoor

7.15 MURDER, MYSTERY, SUSPENSE: City Killer A thriller which a young man's charm turns to murderous intent. Heather Locklear and Gerald McRaney

9.00 NEWS FROM ITN

9.15 THE PLAYGROUND With Shatner in a Ray Bradbury play about a man haunted by memories of a childhood of bullying

9.45 SPITTING IMAGE

10.15 SNOOKER The Mercantile Credit Classic, from the Spectrum Arena, Warrington

12.00 THE PROTECTORS For the rest of your natural life

12.30 Closedown

Sports News

MARK'S MISSION

WHEN Mark Lawrenson, Liverpool's gifted defender, applied for the job as manager of the Republic of Ireland team last week it was seen as possibly the biggest Irish joke of 1985.

Indeed many of Lawrenson's closest friends thought it was some elaborate hoax when they heard the news. But the Preston-born defender was deadly serious.

'I believe I can do a job for the Republic,' he told Workers Press exclusively this week. 'My application is no joke. I seriously want the job. It's as simple as that,' Lawrenson stressed.

Just over a fortnight ago the Irish international discussed the idea with Kenny Dalglish, his manager at Liverpool, and the club secretary Peter Robinson. 'They gave me their full support and said that if I was really interested in the job then I should apply. They wouldn't stand in my way.'

Success

Back in 1977, as an 18-year-old, Lawrenson made his international debut for the Republic against Poland in Dublin. The game ended in a goalless draw and the gangly youngster from Preston North End was an instant success.

But since then — and despite a squad of players that's the envy of many European nations — the Irish have failed to qualify for two World Cup finals and European Championships.

'I have played alongside such names as Johnny Giles, Kevin Sheedy, Dave O'Leary, Frank Stapleton and Liam Brady and we have still failed to qualify for any

EXCLUSIVE BY MATTHEW NUGENT



LIAM BRADY . . . One of the world class players Ireland can call upon

renson somewhat ditterly.

'I am not criticising those who have managed the Irish team. That is all in the past. We must now look forward to the qualifying rounds for the 1988 European Championship.

then we can make it through to the finals in Germany.'

But what has Lawrenson got to offer? 'I know the players,' he says. 'I think that my knowledge and experience of playing alongside of them — and

He's deadly serious about Republic job

against them in the Football League — would be to my advantage.

'It would be a difficult job, a real challenge. But I'm not afraid of hard work and I think the players would respond if they were handled properly.'

Already several well-known names — Brian Clough, Jack Charlton, Terry Neill, Billy McNeill and Johnny Giles — have been passed over or turned down the job. In such illustrious company, Lawrenson's credentials would appear to be minute for the vacancy.

'Some people have been cruel enough to suggest that I want the job for the money, but that could not be further from the truth,' he says forcibly. 'The money is only secondary. What I want to do more than anything now is to get the Republic to the final stages of a major competition.'

Never

'That has never happened before, but I believe that if we did get there, then we would acquit ourselves very well.'

Dalglish fully supports his players' application. 'Mark is one of the best central defenders in the world, but he has also played for Liverpool and the Republic of Ireland as a full back and midfielder.'

'He is well versed in the game and has a great tactical brain. I think he

could do a very good job for them,' says the Anfield manager.

Now Lawrenson must wait to see what happens when the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) meet next week. 'All I ask for at this stage is a fair hearing,' he added. 'If I get that, then I will just put forward my proposals and see what they think.'

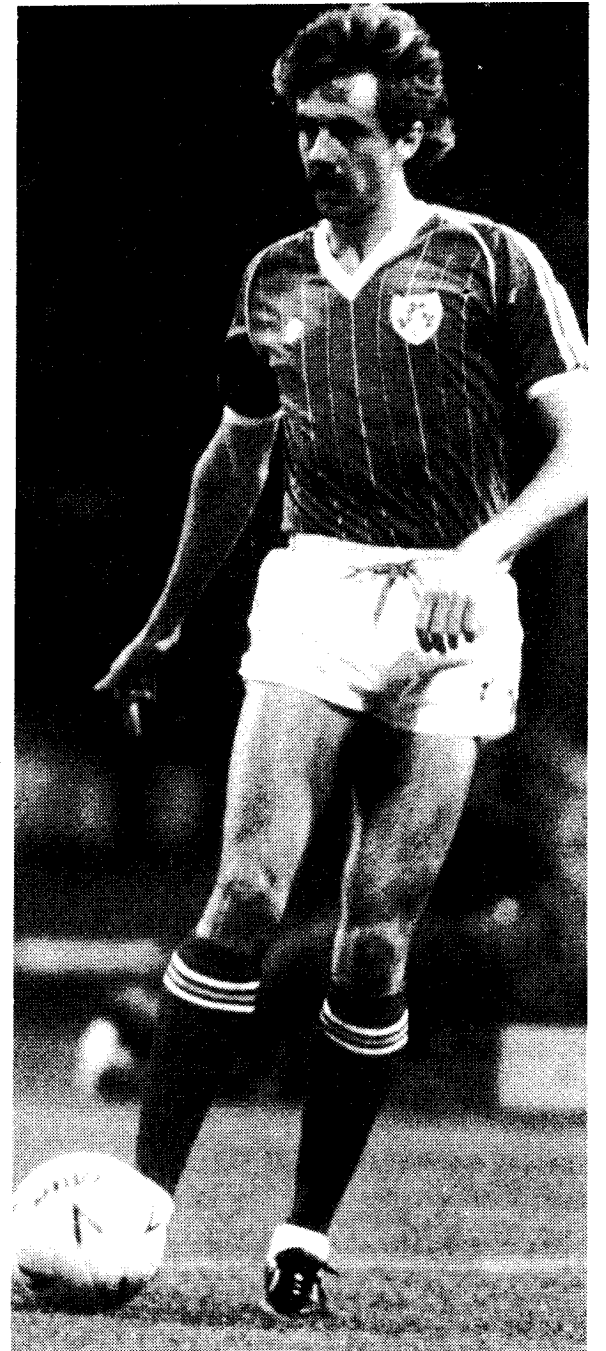
Form

A 'well-known and experienced head' will help Lawrenson if he does get the job. 'It's nobody from Anfield but he is well known. He would look at players, assess their form and look at players who might be available for the Republic,' was all Lawrenson would say on the mystery man.

'At the moment I would rather keep his identity secret until I meet the FAI.'

Getting the Republic to West Germany in 1988 will be a big challenge for whoever is appointed by the FAI. It will be harder still for Lawrenson, in the prime of his career with Liverpool right now.

'I have never shirked from a challenge before and I don't intend to start now,' he added defiantly. 'There is nothing I would rather do now than to take Ireland to West Germany in the summer of 1988. That would be a dream come true — and I might even get a game myself there!'



MARK LAWRENSON . . . 'I believe I can do a job for the Republic'

Gavilan: Back in vogue

KID GAVILAN, the former world welterweight champion, who boxed twice in London in the 1950s, is back in the news — not for anything he has done but because of circumstances surrounding a fight he once took part in.

Law

Gavilan's points decision over American Billy Graham at Madison Square Garden on August 29, 1951, has just been the subject of an investigation by the New York State Athletic Commission, no less than 34 years after the event — a clear case of the law grind-

ing small, but exceeding slow.

Allegations that the fight was 'fixed' were not upheld by the investigators and, indeed, the evidence does not look very convincing.

The case, apparently, rested on the deathbed confession by one of the three ringside judges which became somewhat suspect after the judge's son volunteered the information that his father had, in fact, died suddenly after collapsing on a railway platform. Thus, a deathbed could have hardly come into the reckoning.

Gavilan, an outstanding world champion who eventually fell on hard times, was no stranger to controversy for he was also involved in a famous case in this country.

Indirectly, he became the

BOXING

cause of a ruling that all British referees should retire at 65. The ruling means that Harry Gibbs has to leave the scene this year despite having many years of good refereeing left in him.

The 'Gavilan Case' is better remembered as the 'Ben Green Case', acted out at the Boxing Board of Control and in the courts between 1956 and 1958.

Referee

Ben Green was a 71-year-old star class referee from Leeds who was in charge of a ten-round welterweight fight in April 1956 between ex-champion Gavilan, and the youthful, unbeaten Pe-

ter Waterman, at Haringay.

To say that his points decision in Waterman's favour was controversial would be putting it mildly. There were demands that the board of control should reverse it, but that would have been against their own rule that a referee's decision is final and is the only one that counts.

What they did do, however, after a long inquiry was to declare that Green's judgement, though honest and conscientious, was at fault, and take away his licence. In view of his age, they decided it was undesirable for him to continue and the retirement age was set for all referees.

Two months later, the Board of Control's appeal stewards, including Derek Curtis-Bennett QC, Basil Herbert QC and David Kar-

mel QC, backed up the decision after a three-and-a-half hour hearing to sack Green.

In 1958, Green took his case to the High Court which dismissed his action, and there it ended.

Controversy

Gavilan had the last laugh with Waterman. Two months after their first meeting, Jack Solomons capitalised on the controversy and matched them again.

Gavilan raised his game and gave Waterman a good old-fashioned hiding.

Neither the referee nor anyone else was in the slightest doubt this time and Waterman, previously unbeaten, never quite looked as good again.



DAVE O'LEARY . . . Lawrenson's regular partner at the heart of the Republic of Ireland defence



POOLS CHECK

FA CUP

- 1 Birmingham v Altrincham.....
 - Bristol R v Leicester.....
 - Bury v Barnsley.....
 - 2 Carlisle v QPR.....
 - 3 Coventry v Watford.....
 - C Palace v Luton.....
 - 4 Frickley v Rotherham.....
 - Gillingham v Derby.....
 - 5 Grimsby v Arsenal.....
 - 6 Huddersfield v Reading.....
 - 7 Hull v Plymouth.....
 - 8 Ipswich v Bradford C.....
 - Liverpool v Norwich.....
 - Man Utd v Rochdale.....
 - 9 Middlesbrough v Southampton.....
 - 10 Millwall v Wimbledon.....
 - 11 Newcastle v Brighton.....
 - 12 Nottm F v Blackburn.....
 - Oldham v Orient.....
 - 13 Oxford v Tottenham.....
 - 14 Peterbro' v Leeds.....
 - 15 Portsmouth v A Villa.....
 - Sheff Utd v Fulham.....
 - Sheff Wed v West Brom.....
 - 16 Shrewsbury v Chelsea.....
 - Sunderland v Newport.....
 - Walsall v Man City.....
 - Wigan v Bournemouth.....
 - 17 York v Wycombe.....
- DIVISION III**
- 18 Blackpool v Lincoln.....
 - 19 Cardiff v Brentford.....
- DIVISION IV**
- 20 Halifax v Crewe.....
 - Port Vale v Preston.....
 - Scunth'pe v North'mpton.....
 - Tranmere v Swindon.....
- GOLA LEAGUE**
- 21 Bath v Maidstone.....
 - 22 Chelt'm v Northwich.....
 - 23 Dartford v Barnet.....
 - 24 Enfield v Stafford.....
 - 25 Kettering v Scarborough.....
 - 26 Nuneaton v Barrow.....
 - 27 Weym'th v Kid'minster.....
- MULTIPART LEAGUE**
- 28 Bangor v Worksop.....
 - 29 Burton v Workington.....
 - 30 Chorley v Burton.....
 - 31 Gateshead v Caernarfon.....
 - 32 Marine v Horwich.....
 - 33 Morecambe v Matlock.....
 - 34 Mossley v Sth Liverpool.....
 - 35 Rhyl v Macclesfield.....
 - 36 Southport v Goole.....
 - 37 Witten v Hyde.....
- SOUTHERN PREMIER**
- 38 Corby v Alvechurch.....
 - 39 Dudley v Crawley.....
 - 40 Fisher v Welling.....
- SCOTTISH PREMIER**
- 41 Aberdeen v St Mirren.....
 - 42 Dundee U v Celtic.....
 - 43 Hibs v Clydebank.....
 - 44 Motherwell v Hearts.....
 - 45 Rangers v Dundee.....
- SCOTTISH DIVISION I**
- 46 Airdrie v Alloa.....
 - 47 Brechin v Hamilton.....
 - 48 Clyde v East Fife.....
 - 49 Falkirk v Ayr.....
 - 50 Kilmarnock v Forfar.....
 - 51 Montrose v Morton.....
 - 52 Partick v Dumbarton.....
- SCOTTISH CUP (2nd r'nd)**
- 53 Fort William v Stirling.....
 - Hawick v St Johnstone.....
 - Hawick v St Johnstone.....
 - Nairn v Meadowbank.....
 - 54 Peterhead v Arbroath.....
 - 55 Queens Pk v Albion.....
 - Sten'muir v Whiteh'l Wel.....
 - Stranraer v Berwick.....
 - Threave v Dunfermline.....

ARSENAL are gunning for FA Cup glory this season. That was the clear message from Highbury this week as London's big four — Tottenham, West Ham, Chelsea and the Gunners — prepared for 'awaydays' in the competition.

'We have put some good results together recently and we are bubbling a little right now,' striker Paul Mariner told Workers Press this week.

'Arsenal are well equipped, if we get the right breaks, to go all the way. But if we don't, then I think that a club from the capital can, at least, reach the final next May.'

Mariner, sidelined since August 31 with a serious ankle injury, has still been involved with the club in their preparations to take on Second Division Grimsby at Boothferry Road on Saturday.

'It's very important to keep players involved even though they may be injured,' manager Don Howe said this week. 'So we sent Paul to watch Grimsby and his report and dossier has been vital to us as we prepare for our tie.'

With victories over Liverpool and Manchester United in recent weeks, Arsenal are confident that they can continue their impressive run.

Weekend

'We have a good mix in the team now, with several players, particularly Charlie Nicholas, showing the kind of form that we know they can produce,' added Mariner. 'I only wish I was in the team to face Grimsby at the weekend.'

Arsenal's north London arch-rivals, Tottenham, are also on the road this weekend, making the short trip up the M4 to face Division One strugglers Oxford United.

However, despite their opponent's inconsistent form, Tottenham won't be taking anything for granted against Oxford. 'On the afternoon we defeated them 5-1 at our place we drew them in the third round of the FA Cup,' Chris Hughton recalled this week.

'But this is the Cup. Anything can happen in it and Oxford, having played us in that League match will be a little more wary of us this time.' Earlier this season the clubs draw 1-1 at the Manor Ground in a League match.

Chelsea travel to Shrewsbury well aware that the Shropshire team, despite struggling somewhat in Division Two right now, have a very good Cup record in recent years.

'In recent years we have beaten Ipswich twice and also Manches-

Gunners aim for Cup glory

CUP SHOOT OUT

BY SEAN PHILLIPS



PAUL MARINER... Spying on Grimsby



JOHN HOLLINS... Nothing for granted at Shrewsbury

ter City,' recalled manager Chic Bates as he prepared his team to do battle with a club currently second in Division One.

Chelsea boss John Hollins knows the dangers of being over-confident going into this game.

'The lads have been magnificent over the past few weeks and are itching to go after missing out on a game on News Year's day,' he said.

'But the third round of the FA Cup is the most dangerous in many ways. We must go out and do the job on the day. Any ideas that it will be easy against Shrewsbury could lead to disaster.'

West Ham have to wait until Sunday before their FA Cup campaign commences.

Then they make the trip to Charlton in what could very well prove to be the toughest tie for all the London First Division clubs.

Against all the odds Charlton are still up there among the Division Two front runners. They have a well-balanced team and are capable of causing the Hammers a few problems.



JOHN DEEHAN... Confident of toppling Liverpool

Charlton play their football at Selhurst Park these days — and with Crystal Palace entertaining Luton on Saturday the pitch could be extremely heavy for its second Cup action in 24 hours in front of the TV cameras.

'If the pitch cuts up then it could very well prove to be a real leveler,' said West Ham boss John Lyall. 'We will have to be careful that we are no caught unawares on it. A couple of seasons ago Palace almost caught us out.'

Then a late equaliser from Trevor Brooking saved West Ham and they may very well settle for another draw this time around.

Liverpool, Manchester United and Everton, the three favourites to reach Wembley next May, all have home ties.

Liverpool would appear to have the hardest task when Second Division leaders Norwich visit Anfield. 'We are not afraid of them,' said striker John Deehan this week. 'We have a First Division team at Carrow Road right now and I think we could surprise a

few people at the weekend.'

Cup holders United entertain Fourth Division Rochdale at Old Trafford while Everton, last year's beaten finalists, host another club from the lower division, Exeter, at Goodison Park. Anything less than comprehensive wins would be something of a surprise.

There are three non-League clubs left in this year's competition and all have fairly tough ties this weekend.

Surprise

Frickley Athletic, knocked out by a late goal at Darlington last season in the Third Round, face nearby Rotherham at home while Wycombe Wanderers make the arduous journey to York.

Altrincham, the best of the non-League clubs left in the Cup, travel to Birmingham and this is where the day's biggest surprise could be for the Northern club are very capable of drawing at St Andrews.

Another Midlands club who could find themselves in trouble are Aston Villa. They travel to the south coast to take on high-flying Portsmouth, who are well equipped to beat them.

Ipswich (at home to Bradford City) and Manchester City (at Walsall) could well be satisfied with draws.

Nottingham Forest have hit form recently — Neil Webb hit a hat-trick on New Year's Day — and should prove too strong for Blackburn at the City Ground while Newcastle, with home advantage, should overcome Brighton.

Leicester won't have it all their own way at Eastville where they meet Bristol Rovers while Southampton, with indifferent results of late,



RICKY HILL... Hoping to help Luton at Crystal Palace

may settle for a draw at Middlesbrough.

Sheffield Wednesday take on West Brom while Watford travel up the M1 to meet Coventry in the third round's only all-First Division clashes.

Wednesday should be too good for West Brom who have not won away from home this season while Watford should at least snatch a draw at Highfield Road.

London's other First

Division outfit, Queen's Park Rangers, have the longest trip of all, travelling to Cumbria to take on Carlisle. They too may settle for a replay next week.

Outside of the top teams Reading, currently walking away with the Third Division, should get a favourable result at Huddersfield while Millwall versus Wimbledon at the Den has all the makings of a real derby cup tie.

Rebels ruin tour

SPORTING ties with South Africa have thrown the whole England 'B' team's winter cricket tour into jeopardy.

On Thursday night the Bangladesh government decided that they would not grant entry visas to four of the tourists because they had links with the racist state.

Zimbabwe, which is due to host the final leg of the tour, may still decide to cancel their invitation if the four rebels — Bill Athey, Martyn Moxon, Kim Barnett and Chris Smith — are still included in the England touring party.

The Bangladesh government left their decision until the last possible moment. The party were about to fly out from Heathrow when the news arrived, throwing the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) into utter confusion.

Shortly after the news broke the TCCB issued a statement saying: 'Despite efforts to change this (the Bangladesh) decision during the day the TCCB has been unsuccessful and in accordance with the principle of selection without

outside interference as agreed by the International Cricket Conference it had no option but to cancel that part of the tour.'

The four English rebels who have played in racist South Africa were told by the TCCB not to make any comment for the moment.

As expected Tory sports minister Dick Tracey condemned the Bangladesh decision as 'very unreasonable', adding: 'I'm surprised they have left it this late.'

But the late withdrawal of visa facilities for those who have played in the apartheid state made sure that the whole event would bring the maximum publicity to British sporting links with South Africa.

The Zimbabwean government made it quite clear in late December that they were not happy that these four cricketers had been included in the England party and they are still discussing whether to allow them entry. They will make a final decision next week.