



Dejected Nixon (above) and dollars piling up in the Chase Manhattan bank vaults (right).

NIXON SCANDAL SHAKES THE DOLLAR

THE NIXON scandal in the United States may well be endangering the position of the dollar.

Over the past few days there has been a rush to sell dollars for European currencies, particularly marks, which could soon reach panic proportions.

This takes place despite the fact that the US currency has twice been devalued by international agreement in the last 18 months.

There are estimated to be \$100,000 in circulation outside the United States, and the country's short-term financial liabilities are seven times its external reserves.

If the President is driven out of office as a result of the revelations there would be a constitutional vacuum which Vice-President Spiro Agnew would be too discredited to fill.

This could result in a run on the dollar internationally which would reduce the world's money markets to chaos and lead to a stock market crash on Wall Street.

Yesterday the gold price in London climbed to \$93.25 an ounce from the overnight record level set on Wednesday. Since Monday London share prices have fallen by over 20 points.

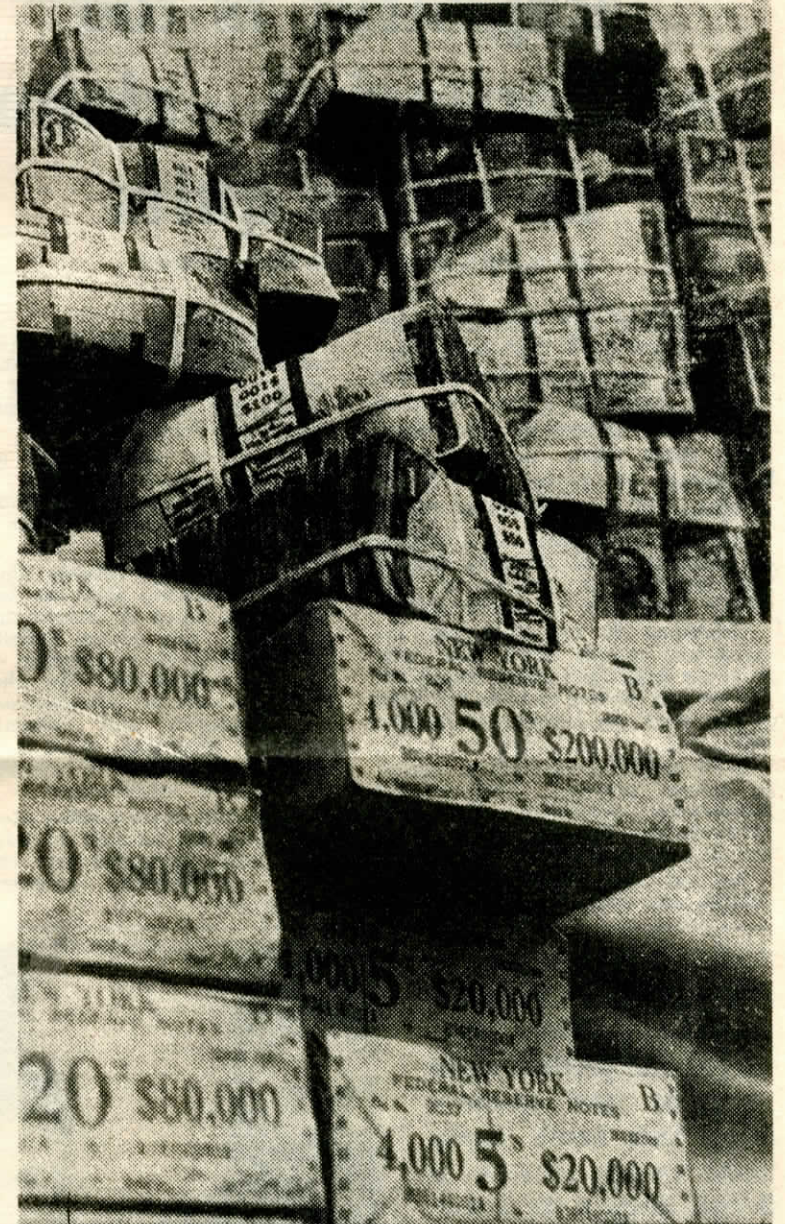
So tense is the situation that

recession could be triggered off even by talking about the possible effects that the Nixon affair could bring about.

There is no certainty, then, that even if Nixon clings to office the international economic consequences can be avoided.

The crisis has produced a deep division in the American ruling class. Behind the 'Washington Post' and the 'New York Times' stand powerful East Coast financial interests who want Nixon out.

Nixon represents the 'new money' of the West Coast, gen-



BY JOHN SPENCER

erated during the inflationary boom and intimately linked to crime and stock market manipulation.

Against him the entrenched barons of East Coast finance capital are pressing for an end to the artificial inflationary boom which is eating into their wealth.

They are demanding far greater economic concessions be extracted from European capitalism than are envisaged in the plan for a new 'Atlantic Charter' put forward recently by Henry Kissinger on Nixon's behalf.

The statement of Treasury Secretary George Schultz that the US will expect to gain more than it gives at the September GATT talks with the Common Market and Japan is not enough to satisfy this lobby.

The big New York banks are already taking action to put an end to the boom by raising their base lending rate—immediately by 1/4 per cent but with more substantial rises planned for the near future.

The West German banks are

displaying a similar desire to see the boom brought to an end. Under their pressure the Brandt government has imposed an 11-per-cent tax on investment and plans budget cuts which will certainly generate widespread unemployment.

Only a few days before these measures were taken the executive manager of the Dresdner Bank, one of the 'big three' German banks, said he would not be opposed to a recession to 'dampen inflation'.

The main trend in the world economy is now 'quite definitely in the direction of deflation and slump. This throws into sharp relief the phoney character of the talk of boom from the Tory government and the CBI.

This talk may help to smooth the way for the trade union leaders to enter into class-collaborationist talk with the Tories, backed, of course, by the Communist Party.

But it certainly does not fool the financiers and investors of the City of London. The talk of boom today is nothing more than a façade behind which the most savage deflation and attacks on workers' standard of living are being prepared.

The Institute of Marxism-Leninism of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1972 issued a compendium of documents, articles, extracts, speeches and resolutions aimed at discrediting Trotskyism and distorting completely the truth about the relations between Lenin and Trotsky. The book is called 'On Trotskyism'.

Workers Press will be serializing an extensive reply to this Stalinist attack. The series will commence next week. Be sure to order your copy now. Telephone circulation 01-622 7029.

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

WE'RE keeping it up. Socialist Labour League branches sent in:

Aberdeen £13.75; Castleford £8.50; Edinburgh £2.50; Glasgow North £5; Glasgow South £1; Oxford £65.16; Leeds £7.50; East London £15; Croydon £1.60; Camden £5; Brixton £5; Dagenham £50; Battersea £4; Chatham £5; Hull £50; Southwark £5; Holloway £6.15.

Our total is now £11,757.72. Post all donations to:

Party Building Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG

Join our readers' discussion

ON October 22 last year, 2,200 delegates at the All Trades Unions Alliance conference in Birmingham voted unanimously to proceed with the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party.

At the beginning of February, Workers Press published the draft political perspectives and programme for the party, submitted by the SLL's Central Committee.

On March 11, the greatest day in the history of British Trotskyism so far, over 10,000 trade unionists and their families

crowded into the Empire Pool, Wembley, to see the Pageant of History which presented the great struggles of the working class in Britain.

This rally was a gathering together of the representatives of the forces that will build the revolutionary party.

Since then we have launched our £100,000 Party Building Fund

And in every area the Socialist Labour League is holding meetings and conferences to discuss, amend and improve the resolution on the party.

The task is becoming more urgent every day. The TUC

leaders, left and right, have capitulated completely to the Tory state pay laws. Behind the backs of their members — and protected by the Communist Party — they hold secret discussions with Heath.

We urge all our readers to join us now in the campaign to form the revolutionary party.

Continuing today, Workers Press will publish the views of workers from all parts of the country and all industries on the draft programme for the revolutionary party.

We urgently ask all our readers to study the resolution and to participate in this discussion.

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY MAY 11, 1973 ● No 1069 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE



Dejected Nixon (above) and dollars piling up in the Chase Manhattan bank vaults (right).

NIXON SCANDAL SHAKES THE DOLLAR

THE NIXON scandal in the United States may well be endangering the position of the dollar.

Over the past few days there has been a rush to sell dollars for European currencies, particularly marks, which could soon reach panic proportions.

This takes place despite the fact that the US currency has twice been devalued by international agreement in the last 18 months.

There are estimated to be \$100,000 in circulation outside the United States, and the country's short-term financial liabilities are seven times its external reserves.

If the President is driven out of office as a result of the revelations there would be a constitutional vacuum which Vice-President Spiro Agnew would be too discredited to fill.

This could result in a run on the dollar internationally which would reduce the world's money markets to chaos and lead to a stock market crash on Wall Street.

Yesterday the gold price in London climbed to \$93.25 an ounce from the overnight record level set on Wednesday. Since Monday London share prices have fallen by over 20 points.

So tense is the situation that

recession could be triggered off even by talking about the possible effects that the Nixon affair could bring about.

There is no certainty, then, that even if Nixon clings to office the international economic consequences can be avoided.

The crisis has produced a deep division in the American ruling class. Behind the 'Washington Post' and the 'New York Times' stand powerful East Coast financial interests who want Nixon out.

Nixon represents the 'new money' of the West Coast, gen-



BY JOHN SPENCER

erated during the inflationary boom and intimately linked to crime and stock market manipulation.

Against him the entrenched barons of East Coast finance capital are pressing for an end to the artificial inflationary boom which is eating into their wealth.

They are demanding far greater economic concessions be extracted from European capitalism than are envisaged in the plan for a new 'Atlantic Charter' put forward recently by Henry Kissinger on Nixon's behalf.

The statement of Treasury Secretary George Schultz that the US will expect to gain more than it gives at the September GATT talks with the Common Market and Japan is not enough to satisfy this lobby.

The big New York banks are already taking action to put an end to the boom by raising their base lending rate immediately by 1 per cent but with more substantial rises planned for the near future.

The West German banks are

displaying a similar desire to see the boom brought to an end. Under their pressure the Brandt government has imposed an 11-per-cent tax on investment and plans budget cuts which will certainly generate widespread unemployment.

Only a few days before these measures were taken the executive manager of the Dresdner Bank, one of the 'big three' German banks, said he would not be opposed to a recession to 'dampen inflation'.

The main trend in the world economy is now quite definitely in the direction of deflation and slump. This throws into sharp relief the phoney character of the talk of boom from the Tory government and the CBI.

This talk may help to smooth the way for the trade union leaders to enter into class-collaborationist talk with the Tories, backed, of course, by the Communist Party.

But it certainly does not fool the financiers and investors of the City of London. The talk of boom today is nothing more than a façade behind which the most savage deflation and attacks on workers' standard of living are being prepared.

The Institute of Marxism-Leninism of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1972 issued a compendium of documents, articles, extracts, speeches and resolutions aimed at discrediting Trotskyism and distorting completely the truth about the relations between Lenin and Trotsky. The book is called 'On Trotskyism'.

Workers Press will be serializing an extensive reply to this Stalinist attack. The series will commence next week. Be sure to order your copy now. Telephone circulation 01-622 7029.

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

WE'RE keeping it up. Socialist Labour League branches sent in:

Aberdeen £13.75; Castleford £8.50; Edinburgh £2.50; Glasgow North £5; Glasgow South £1; Oxford £65.16; Leeds £7.50; East London £15; Croydon £1.60; Camden £5; Brixton £5; Dagenham £50; Battersea £4; Chatham £5; Hull £50; Southwark £5; Holloway £6.15.

Our total is now £11,757.72. Post all donations to:

Party Building Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG

Join our readers' discussion

ON October 22 last year, 2,200 delegates at the All Trades Unions Alliance conference in Birmingham voted unanimously to proceed with the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party.

At the beginning of February, Workers Press published the draft political perspectives and programme for the party, submitted by the SLL's Central Committee.

On March 11, the greatest day in the history of British Trotskyism so far, over 10,000 trade unionists and their families

crowded into the Empire Pool, Wembley, to see the Pageant of History which presented the great struggles of the working class in Britain.

This rally was a gathering together of the representatives of the forces that will build the revolutionary party.

Since then we have launched our £100,000 Party Building Fund

And in every area the Socialist Labour League is holding meetings and conferences to discuss, amend and improve the resolution on the party.

The task is becoming more urgent every day. The TUC

leaders, left and right, have capitulated completely to the Tory state pay laws. Behind the backs of their members — and protected by the Communist Party — they hold secret discussions with Heath.

We urge all our readers to join us now in the campaign to form the revolutionary party.

Continuing today, Workers Press will publish the views of workers from all parts of the country and all industries on the draft programme for the revolutionary party.

We urgently ask all our readers to study the resolution and to participate in this discussion.

Union claims victory at cycle factory

THE NATIONAL Society of Metal Mechanics is claiming a victory in the row over three workers at Raleigh's Nottingham cycle factory who worked during the May 1 strike.

Two of them—Mrs Dorothy Harrison and Mrs Betty Holborne—had refused either to take a day off work or to pay the £5 they earned on May Day to charity.

Jack Hallam, Nottingham district secretary of the union told Workers Press yesterday:

'As far as we are concerned at the moment the matter of the three who worked on May 1 has been resolved.

The Raleigh management have agreed to move the three to a non-controversial area of the factory and that must be outside the gates because no one in the factory is willing to work with them.

'The feeling is very high. I think Raleigh will phase the three out of the factory because they put their profits before lost production.

'Obviously the management were behind the three concerned. In the section where the two women work the rest of the women would not work with them and wanted them outside the factory.

'All three have been sent to Coventry. No one in the factory is speaking to them at all.'

Registrar is too authoritarian—claim as union quits

BY WORKERS PRESS REPORTERS

LEADERS of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, who last year persuaded the union's annual conference to register under the Industrial Relations Act, have now accused the Registrar of trying to force adoption of 'authoritarian' rules.

The accusation comes in a briefing document sent out to union officials and delegates in advance of next week's conference in Scarborough.

Contained in the document are comments on the IPCS rule book from the Registrar's office, setting out the changes needed to bring the rules in line with the Industrial Relations Act.

Some of these—particularly relating to union property, finances and membership admissions—the IPCS executive says it would have no problem in complying with.

But on the authority of union officials and committees the position

is very different.

'In effect,' the IPCS executive says, 'what the Act requires is that the authority of each unit of the organization and of each officer must be precisely defined.

'Thus, for example, the national executive committee could require branches to follow its instructions and could take disciplinary action if they refused to do so.'

The executive believes that this would completely alter the basis on which the union at present operates.

It says: 'Any precise definition of authorities is likely to create difficulties and inflexibility. The choice is really between an organization based on persuasion and consent—the essential principles of a voluntary body—and what is in substance an authoritarian organization.'

According to the briefing document, the union has secured no advantage from being registered over the past year. It therefore proposes de-registration.

LEBANESE air force jets struck at Palestine guerrilla positions near the Syrian border again yesterday and sporadic firing and bomb explosions took place in Beirut, despite the 'cease-fire'.

Many Lebanese army units have been moved from the frontier with Israel into the area of the Palestinian refugee camps. The complicity with the Zionists in Tel Aviv is becoming increasingly obvious.

Envoys from Arab countries were busy trying to find a formula to cover up the sell-out of the Palestinians while their governments continued to emit angry noises.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister, Abdel Kader Hatem, reviewed what was called 'the grave situation in Lebanon' and reaffirmed Egypt's 'total support for the Palestinian resistance'.

A statement from the Voice of Palestine, put out by Radio Damascus, accused General Iskandar Ghanem, head of the Lebanese army, of aiming at the total liquidation of the guerrilla forces.

A denial that the Palestine resistance had ever threatened the security of Lebanon was issued by the secretary of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Zouhdi Nachchibi, in Damascus. He pointed to the existence of an imperialist-Zionist plot to liquidate the movement in Lebanon.

Damascus radio accused General Ghanem of having been in collusion with the enemy at

the time of the Israeli commando attacks on Beirut airport. After being removed from his post, the broadcast said, he became an assistant to the US military attaché until being made commander-in-chief.

King Hussein of Jordan has sent a battalion of shock troops from his army to support the Lebanese government against the Palestinians, as well as plane-loads of arms, according to reports from Iraq.

Backing for Lebanon has also

WHAT WE THINK

Morning Star

INCORPORATING THE DAILY WORKER

Covers up for the TUC

THURSDAY MAY 10 1973

The Communist Party's 'Morning Star' yesterday came to the rescue of TUC general secretary Victor Feather, who had been given a Press-conference grilling on Wednesday over his secret talks with Tory premier Edward Heath.

In Workers Press we listed 13 questions put to Feather and his replies. The 'Morning Star' omits the first eight of these—because they concentrated on the secret talks.

These eight questions pressed Feather to say why he had gone behind the backs of his members and to say what he had agreed with Heath. The last two questions which the Stalinist paper left out were:

Q: Why was it necessary, at a Press conference two weeks ago, when you were asked if there were to be talks with Heath, for you to keep it a secret about the two sessions of talks that had already taken place?

FEATHER: No reason at all, really. There were no meetings, there were no negotiations. When I give an answer, I give an honest answer.

Q: Was it a kind of reception, then?

FEATHER: It was a kind of a reception, a kind of

a discussion, a kind of an entertainment. My job is know what is being said and what is being thought.

Yet even now, the Stalinists seek to pretend that the secret talks may not have taken place! According to the 'Star', the TUC leaders are only 'said to have taken part in secret talks with Heath at Chequers.'

One of Feather's answers which the 'Star' left out was an admission that secret talks had been held both at Chequers and at Downing Street. But the cover-up goes further than that.

The 'Star' reports, without comment:

'Mr Feather made clear yesterday the TUC's acceptance of the invitation to talks with Heath was for the purpose of covering "the problems of the economy and to explore whether a basis exists for continuing discussion".'

The Stalinists still seek to deceive their followers into believing that a total sell-out on the Tory state

pay laws is not taking place.

By contrast, Workers Press analysis was:

'At talks in Downing Street on Britain's economic problems, every last gain of the working class will be betrayed by men who only know how to serve the capitalist system.'

We call on the trade union movement—as we have done ever since the talks began—to demand that they be broken off.

The Stalinists make no such call and continue their cover-up for Feather, Scanlon, Jones and company, which has intensified since CP delegates joined the vote at last September's TUC to permit talks with the Tories to continue.

As the Tory attack on workers standards and democratic rights is speeded up, the Stalinists proceed hand in glove with the opportunist trade union leaders in class-collaboration with Heath.

These are the counter-revolutionary theories of 'parliamentary roads to socialism' and 'peaceful co-existence' in practice. The struggle for a revolutionary leadership in the unions can only be taken forward through an intransigent fight against Stalinism.



Arab and Palestinian leaders recently met in Beirut to attempt to bring about a settlement between Palestinian guerrillas and the Lebanese authorities. Left to right: Zuhair Mohsen, a Salka leader; the Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr Kaddam; the Lebanese Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Ghanem; Mr Hafez, the Lebanese Prime Minister who has resigned; Mr Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian guerrilla leader; the Egyptian representative, Mr Kholi; and the Fatah military commander in Lebanon, Atalla Atalla.

Arab leaders plot to sell out Palestinian guerrillas

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

come from the reactionary ruler of Morocco, King Hassan II.

Tacit backing for the Lebanese government has come from the Soviet bureaucracy in a message transmitted through its ambassador in Beirut, Sarvar Azimov, to President Suleiman Franjeh.

It affirmed the interest of the Soviet Union in 'the future of this region' and hoped that there would be a speedy solution of the crisis.

Lebanon's neighbour, Syria,

though profuse in expression of sympathy for the Palestinians, has made no move to assist them. Officials have denied that troops and tanks were massing on the border or that artillery had shelled Lebanese positions.

Arab bourgeois governments, like the imperialists and the Zionists, want to see the Palestine liberation movement completely wiped out to remove the threat of revolution in the Middle East.

The counter-revolutionary

role of the Soviet bureaucracy is equally plain.

The betrayal carried out in Vietnam at the expense of the Vietnamese workers and peasants is now being repeated.

It hopes to cement an accord with the imperialists with the blood of the thousands of Palestine guerrillas slaughtered in Jordan and Lebanon.

● See centre pages. Interview on present situation among Israelis and Arabs.

Toolroom strike hardening

OVER 200 GEC toolmakers in Coventry meet today at the end of their sixth week of strike action. There has been a noticeable hardening of the strikers' attitude in face of the company's refusal to budge on their demands.

The toolmakers are insisting that a £2.88-a-week offer made by the company be paid to them in monthly instalments, starting with a 48p-a-week rise. This would give them a £5.76-a-week increase at the end of a year.

Present toolmakers' pay is £47.20 a week, which—even if the £2.88 increase was accepted—would leave GEC toolmakers with rates below those paid by other Coventry companies.

This disparity is a direct result of the lack of leadership in the area. The right-wing dominated engineering union district committee has abandoned the fight to retain the Coventry District Toolroom Agreement (TRA).

It was in February 1971 that the Coventry employers' federation, after meetings with the Tory government and Department of Employment and Productivity officials, gave three months' notice to the AUEW that it was scrapping the 30-year-old agreement.

This guaranteed that all toolmakers and related workers would have their wages adjusted each month to the average earnings of skilled production workers in the district.

In this way all toolmakers had the same basic rate, no

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

matter which firm they worked for.

Coventry district committee called on all 8,000 toolroom rated workers to start an overtime ban in June 1971. This was followed by one-day strikes and by a total strike in November, 1971.

The district committee abandoned this strike after only three days. The present GEC strikers moved for a total strike at the beginning in June 1971.

With the scrapping of the TRA, each toolroom had to negotiate wages individually. Toolmakers who had skilled pieceworkers in the establishment related their earnings to their wages by virtue of the national toolroom agreement of 1940.

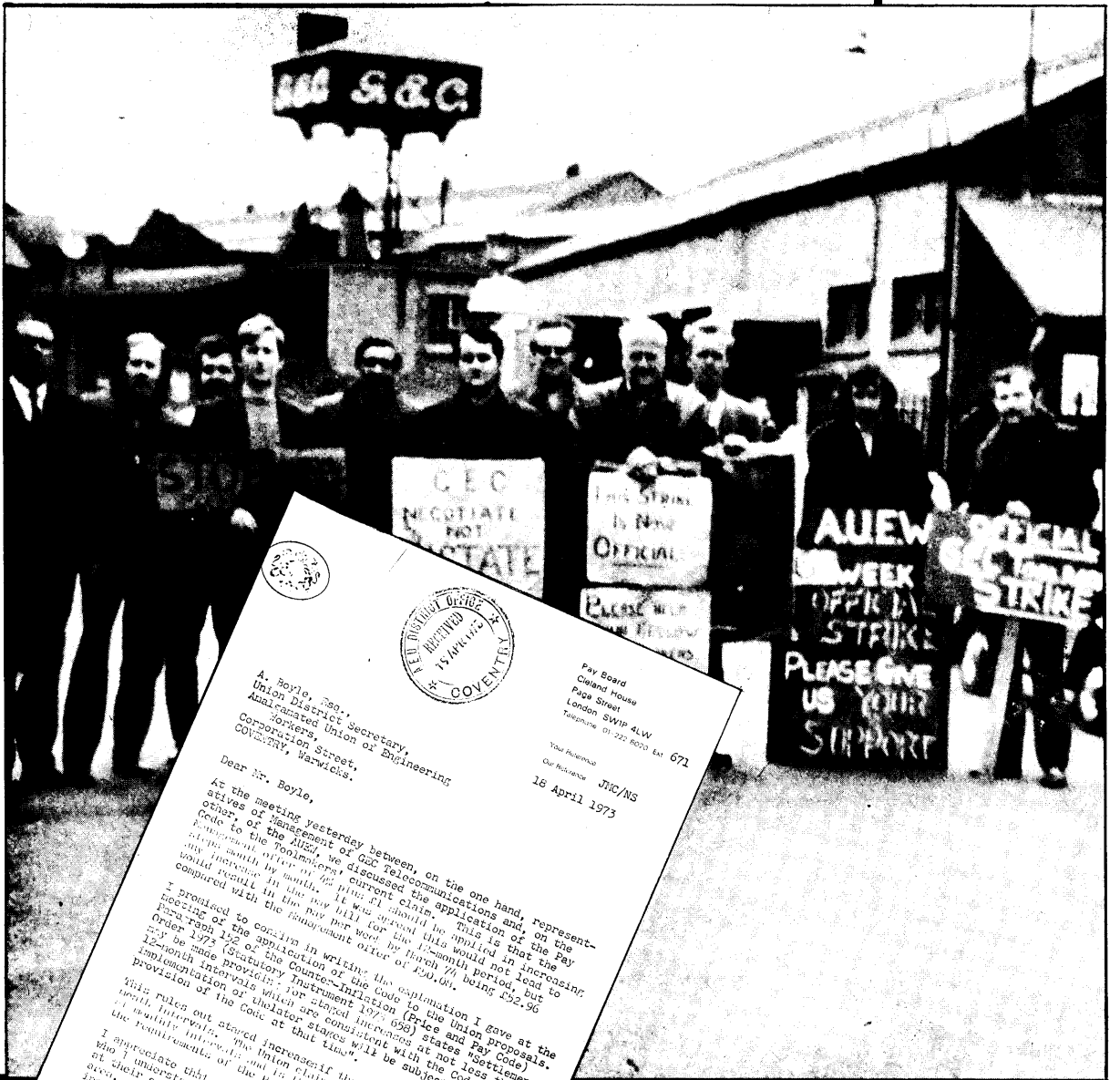
But firms like GEC at Coventry which has no skilled production workers has no yardstick and since February 1972 workers have fallen behind in wages.

This is the background to the present strike.

Shortly after the strike started the company quoted DEP officials as saying that payment in monthly increments was outside Phase Two. Strikers' shop stewards saw the same official and claimed he said it was legal.

Shop steward Bill Napp told Workers Press: 'The lads are stronger in their fight because of the firm's absolutely inflexible attitude.'

Another picket, Graham Bliss, said: 'In fact this firm's attitude has always been like this. They have never given us any meaningful negotiations.'



Pickets outside the GEC Telecommunications factory in Coventry, where the toolroom workers have been on strike for six weeks. Left: The Pay Board letter from Mrs J. M. Collingridge explaining the rejection of the union's pay claim.

'Softening-up' before BSA take-over

WORKERS at the BSA-Triumph factory, Meriden, Coventry claim that the firm has embarked on a 'softening-up' process in preparation for the official takeover by Manganese-Bronze.

Shop stewards have been given time off, on full pay, to hear pep talks by top management. On one occasion, it is understood, they were given a meal and drinks in a hotel outside the works.

'The essence of the talks,' said one steward, 'was to get us, and through us, the workers, to accept whole changes in timing, to stop piecework earnings rising any higher and to give up other hard-won conditions.'

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

'The management told us that they have to introduce these measures to prevent the firm folding up. Even if they do get the measures through, there is still no guarantee that they will keep going.'

Some workers are critical of local full time union officials—Frank Chater, divisional organizer of the AUEW, and Norman Evans, T&GWU organizer.

When the news of BSA-Triumph's difficulties were announced, the officials addressed a mass meeting at the works in front of the management offices.

Workers who attended the

meeting claim that Chater told them that if they wanted to keep their jobs they must not 'rock the boat'.

They were told they must not strike for at least 12 months and they should accept immediately a reduction in waiting-time payments.

BSA-Triumph had been paying pieceworkers, who have the highest earnings in the Coventry district, £1.25 an hour for waiting time. This was reduced to £1 after the meeting, and further attacks are being prepared.

A shop steward alleges that one union official told the workers in the presence of the management that in any other company they would not even be paid waiting time but would be sent down the road.

Barrow dockers plan fight for job-security

BARROW DOCKERS plan a hard fight to keep their job-security even though their employer, the British Transport Docks Board, aims to close down in the port at the end of the year.

The dockers—all 20 of whom are registered under the Dock Labour Scheme—are entitled to continued employment even if there is no work for them.

Since there is no other employer of registered labour in the north Lancashire port, and no other scheme port within daily travelling distance, the men could theoretically count on drawing weekly fall-back pay of £23 a week for the rest of their working lives.

The men's average age is 44. Even assuming no increase in the fall-back rate for the next 20 years, this could cost the National Dock Labour Board up to £500,000.

It would certainly be far cheaper (£46,000) if the NDLB could persuade the men to take

voluntary severance under the existing scheme, which entitles them only to £2,300.

But Martin Hogan, branch secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Barrow docks, says: 'None of us would be willing to leave the register under the ordinary severance pay scheme.'

Something like the recently-concluded special severance scheme, recommended by the Jones-Aldington report, would be necessary to get them to give up their registration. This would cost the NDLB around £80,000 and give each man in the region of £4,000.

The British Transport Docks Board, which will review its closure decision in October only if sufficient traffic materializes to keep the port open, makes out to be blithely unconcerned

by the knotty problem it has thrown up.

'That's a matter for the National Dock Labour Board', was yesterday's official comment.

But BTDB chiefs—one of whom, chairman Sir Humphrey Browne, sat on the Jones-Aldington committee—have long been hostile to provisions of the Dock Labour Scheme.

And it is likely that the situation the BTDB has created at Barrow will be used to bolster a new propaganda drive for at least a review of the working of the scheme.

This could pave the way for a major attack on the statutory job guarantee contained in the scheme, which is already under fire from private port employers and shipowners. Such a development might not be unwelcome to Browne and his friends.

GET YOUR BOOKS, PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS FROM THE

paperbacks centre

PAPERBACKS CENTRE

28 charlotte st london w1

NOW OPEN Monday to Thursday 9 a.m.—6 p.m.
Fridays (late night opening) 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

TRANSFORMING THE SOC INTO A REVOLUTIONARY

Extract from the policy resolution adopted unanimously by 2,200 delegates and visitors at the All Trades Unions Alliance conference, Birmingham, on October 22, 1972.

Fellow trade unionists, comrades and friends we address you with this urgent call to action:

In its place must be elected a Labour government which is pledged by the mass action of the working class to implement socialist policies.

We say 'pledged' to socialist policies knowing that the present leaders of the Labour movement have no intention of introducing such policies. Indeed, in the last analysis some of them will be prepared to join a coalition government with the Tories to head off the working class.

But if the working class is strong enough to force the Tories out, it is strong enough to deal with the traitors in its own midst. This can only be achieved by exposing them in the fight for an alternative socialist policy.

The Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League calls upon the working class to support the following policies to unite the working class against the Tories and the present Wilson-Feather leadership of the labour movement:

Here is the policy which the next Labour government must be forced to carry out.

1) A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act, Housing Finance Act, Immigration Acts, Fair Trading Act and all wage control. After the repeal of all Tory anti-working class measures, there must be legislation to implement the Charter of Basic Rights, along the following lines.

2) The right to work! Capitalism demands mass unemployment. The right to a job must be guaranteed. This can only be done by breaking the grip of capitalist ownership on the economy. Employed and unemployed must unite to insist on a Labour government nationalizing the main industries and banks, under workers' control and without compensation.

THE TORY government is relentlessly pursuing its plan for a confrontation with the working class. Each day new sections of workers are forced to become criminals — under Tory law — to defend their standard of living against government-inspired soaring cost of living.

Large sections of these workers openly acknowledge that the only answer to their fight to maintain a decent standard of living is a General Strike. That is, the creation of the industrial and political conditions which will force the government to resign.

3) The democratic right to strike and to organize in trade unions. Only the organized working class can lead mankind out of the historical crisis. Every right and every gain won by the working class, every democratic right in Britain, has been won because of the organized strength of the unions and the strike weapon.

A Labour government must immediately repeal the Industrial Relations Act. This fight must begin now by forcing the TUC to break off all relations with the government and mobilize the working class to destroy state control of wages.

4) The right to defend rights won in the past and change the system. All the changes in legal procedures made by the Tory government must be repealed. All secret police and MI5 organizations must be disbanded and fully exposed. The secrets of the Tory administration in this sphere must be published. All rights to assembly, free speech and the Press must be guaranteed.

The struggle must begin now. No closures, no sackings, must be the policy of the trade unions. Occupation of factories threatened with closure,

as part of the fight to bring down the Tories.

5) The right to a higher standard of living. It is not the living standards of trade unionists, but the profit system, which causes the crisis. The first step must be to expropriate all the great fortunes of the rich, close down the Stock Exchange, place a state control over all movements of capital in and out of the country.

Nationalization of the basic industries and of all large companies, banks, building and insurance societies will provide the resources for a unified plan to improve the living standards of the whole people. Workers' control of these, as well as the present nationalized industries, will run them in the interests of the workers and consumers.

Again, the fight must begin now. State control of wages must be answered by the most widespread fight for wage increases to meet price rises and improve standards. This means a fight to remove the Tory government and change the union leadership.

6) The right to health and welfare benefits. Every Tory gov-

ernment cut in welfare benefits, in the health service and in all public spending must be revoked. On the basis of nationalization, a crash programme of expansion of services to the unemployed, the low-paid, the sick and the aged must be undertaken as an absolute priority. The working class and the Labour government must take immediate and absolute responsibility for these victims of the capitalist system.

7) The right to decent housing. Decent housing is not a luxury; it is a necessity. People have the basic right to decent accommodation at rents they can afford. Nationalization of the handful of building monopolies and building societies will provide the basis for a massive programme of new house building. The disgraceful problem of the homeless in the cities must be immediately solved by census and taking-over of all unoccupied property.

8) The international responsibilities of the working class. The working class is international. We fight for the unrestricted right of any worker of any nationality to move freely through the world.

Withdraw the troops from Ireland. Unite the Irish and British working class to throw out the Lynch and Heath governments.

Unite in the struggle for the Socialist United States of Europe, the only alternative to the Common Market plans for dictatorship.

Withdraw all British troops from abroad and disband the present standing army.

Sign treaties with all ex-colonial countries for programmes of equal trade and mutual assistance.

Break from NATO and all imperialist alliances.

For the carrying out of such policies the SLL fights for the setting up of Councils of Action to lead the struggle against the Tory government in every area. These Councils unite trade unionists, tenants, unemployed, all political parties and tendencies of the working class (Labour Party, Communist Party, SLL, IS, IMG, etc.) to fight against the main enemy, the Tory government.

The SLL calls upon every socialist and class-conscious worker to consider this programme and manifesto very carefully, and to decide now to take up their inescapable responsibilities. The building of the revolutionary party is the burning question now, not in some remote future. The SLL is determined to carry through its transformation into a revolutionary party.

JOIN the Socialist Labour League and help transform it into a revolutionary party.
Central Committee
Socialist Labour League

THE DISCUSSION GOES ON

'The time is right to build a party'

Catherine Canham was feeding her 16-month-old baby when we arrived to talk to her about transforming the League into the revolutionary party.

'Even little tiny babies' shoes cost £2.50,' she told me. 'It's ridiculous. With one child you don't get any help from the government, but with today's prices how people with two or three children manage I don't know.'

At 36 Mrs Canham left her job as a dress machinist and started a family. Suddenly, the cost of living and the housing shortage became key issues in her life.

Mrs Canham said: 'Now we've got a baby we want a bigger flat. The council offered us a bigger one for £11.50 a week. But my husband is a Post Office worker and that is half his income. At that price they don't expect you to put money in the gas meter or

buy food. Holidays are obviously a luxury.

'It is inflation that is at the root of the problem. That is why we can't get wage rises and the Tories are taking away our basic rights.

'But it's not wages, it's profits that cause inflation. Marks and Spencer made £70m last year. Surely the Tories could take some money off these to stop inflation!

'The Industrial Relations Act affects my husband. It stopped some of his rises this year.

'We would have liked to move to the larger flat at Kidbrook, but we just couldn't afford to go at that rent. Even our rent here went up last October and it's going up again next October. We had to pay the increase in Tower Hamlets like everyone else. Being a Labour borough, I was very disappointed there was no one to help us.'

It was not only inflation that pitched Mrs Canham into politics.

'My father, being a pensioner, made me revolt a bit. After 40 years working for

the country he thought he'd get a supplementary pension, but they told him my mother could keep him. That riled me up.

'I've always been interested in politics. I was brought up with them. My father always supported Labour but he's 70 now and he's disillusioned with them. The Socialist Labour League has given us both new hope. He thought all politicians were the same.

'Most people call the trade union and labour leaders traitors. I think they are scared. I should think anyone who's been left and turned right overnight must have a substantial reason. I think they are scared of bringing true issues out into the open. They are holding back the revolution.

'What can be done about it? That's the building of the revolutionary party, for the workers to take power. People are complacent. But to me building the party is very urgent.

'My father's told me about Germany where you had to take a sack of marks to buy a loaf of bread. We don't want to let it get like that.

'The more wrong the Tories do, the easier it will be for the party. The time is just right to build a party, because everybody seems to talk politics more than they did.'



Catherine Canham on the revolutionary party: 'People are complacent. But to me building the party is very urgent.'

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE TORY PARTY



'Build the Councils of Action'

Hugh Gormley (22) is an engineering worker at Singer sewing machine, Clydebank. He lives in Faifley, an area which strongly resisted the Tory rent Act.

I was unemployed the first time I started thinking seriously about politics. As far as I was concerned the whole world was a flop. I couldn't even get a living wage.

Eventually I got a job and I looked around at the working conditions and the pay. I thought how could a union have tolerated such a situation for so long—something has to be done about it.

I was in the building workers' strike. This was important to me. There was a time when the union would not make it official so we went to the office and demanded a change of heart. They did change. It showed me what we could do if the working class was united.

But the working class is still kept back by bad leadership. Look at Singer. We get 45p an hour—and this was after the eight-week strike last year.

Between the period I first

contacted the Socialist Labour League and the time I decided to help build the revolutionary party, I had a long time to think. A League member contacted me first and told me about the movement. He didn't see me for some time, but when he did he asked me to join, and I said OK—I had decided something had to be done.

I did think of the Communist Party, but it seemed to me that the CP had people in the trade union movement but they were not putting any socialist programme forward. They were mainly concentrating on extending their influence in the trade unions. There was no attempt to bring any political aspects of the working-class fight.

As I said, the general condition of the working class pushed me on to do something about the situation. I remember when I first got married, we lived down in Glasgow in a single end. There was not even any water in the room. The kid ended up in hospital out of it.

Now we're in a council flat. But there are thousands still living like that in Glasgow. Something is wrong and there comes a point when you have to do something or just go on living as a slave.

The time is more ripe than it's ever been. If the miners, for example, had stayed out

on strike, they would have brought the government down. At the very least the Tories would have had to declare their hand and use the troops and the police.

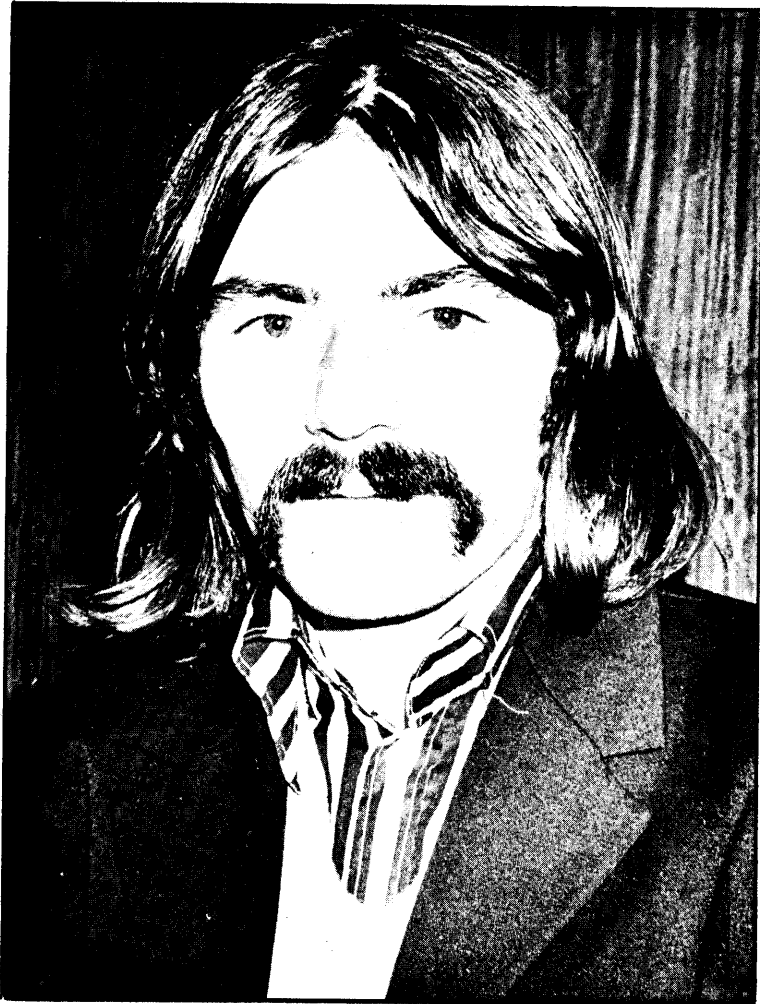
Now they are ready to turn on the working class. The preparations are there. In Glasgow the police go round ten in a van—they call them the 'untouchables'. They are supposed to be there to break up gangs, but I think they have something more serious on their minds.

An important job of the revolutionary party is to work out what the Tories are doing next and warn the working class. Now the Tories I think are waiting for the trade union leaders to take the working class into another trap. Then they will attack.

In Clydebank we have had big rents struggles. We have had big struggles for jobs and the housewives are struggling every day against prices and to feed and clothe our kids.

All these issues are separated off by the Labour Party and the Communist Party—you have a fight on rents, a fight on jobs and so on. But they never organize the whole working class together.

This is where the revolutionary party's idea of Councils of Action come in. I think the first thing should be to build a very powerful council in Clydebank.



Hugh Gormley: 'The working class is still kept back by bad leadership. Above: The building workers' strike of 1972.'



In this article Workers Press interviews a leading member of the Israeli Trotskyist organization Vanguard who answers questions about the crisis in the Middle East and the fight to unite Arab and Jewish workers to fight against the common enemy.

FOR THE UNITY OF ARAB AND ISRAELI WORKERS

Could you explain the background to the fighting in the Lebanon? What was the role of the Israeli government? What is the position of the Lebanese working class?

September 1970 was the first step in the realization of the Rogers Plan in the Middle East. It was the plan for political and social annihilation of the Palestinian people.

This was organized by the Zionist state in concert with King Hussein. Hussein was able to do it because the treacherous policy of the Palestinian leadership opened the way for him.

The leaders of Al Fatah, notably Yassir Arafat, always declared they were not fighting against their 'Brother' Hussein, but only against the Zionist state.

Thus the leadership of Fatah did everything to hold back

the Palestinian masses and to prevent the unity of the Palestinian and Jordanian masses, because if such a unity had been put into effect, it could only have been directed against Hussein.

In the massacre of September 1970, 18,000 people were killed. Throughout this slaughter Israeli troops were standing by ready to intervene on the border in case Hussein found it too difficult.

These events showed the complete association between Hussein and Meir-Dayan. Their problem is that the Palestinian people are the factor which prevents the Rogers Plan being put into effect.

The plan denies any rights to the Palestinians. It does not recognize the rights of the Palestinian refugees to come back. Nor does the plan mention the Palestinian lands

which were usurped by the Zionists.

The plan completely ignores and refuses to recognize the 2 million Palestinian people. This plan was accepted by all the Middle East governments when it was proposed in July 1970—by Nasser, Hussein and the Israelis.

September 1970 was the beginning of the annihilation of the Palestinian people. After one month of struggle, Hussein and Arafat made 'peace' and kissed one another in front of Nasser.

That was the end of the fighting, but in fact it was only the formal end because Arafat forced the Palestinian troops to give back their arms to the Jordanian forces and over the next 12 months Hussein ended the bloody work he had begun in September 1970.

From September 1971 the main centre of the Palestinian struggle moved from Jordan to the Lebanon. The Lebanese government would like to emulate Hussein, but they have a problem; the Lebanon is not Jordan.

In the first place the working class in Lebanon is organized in trade unions. These unions are led by Kamal Jumblatt of the Progressive Socialist Party, who is a strong supporter of the Palestinians.

The regime in Lebanon is very weak and so President Franiyeh could not do directly what Hussein had done. For that Franiyeh needed the Israelis. This is why the Israelis invaded the Lebanon last month.

The assassination of the three Palestinian Liberation Organization leaders was only the beginning of their work.

Their aim was to prepare the ground for Franiyeh to continue the attacks against the Palestinians.

Their attack in Beirut opened the way for a new massacre of the Palestinians. When the Israeli commandos entered Beirut there was a sudden power cut to assist them.

The police and troops knew they were coming, but they didn't move at all. Four policemen that didn't know what was going on went to investigate and they were killed. The Israeli forces could act in Beirut as if they were at home in Tel Aviv.

But despite the close collaboration between Israel and Lebanon, there is not such a widespread massacre as in Jordan because of the strength of the Lebanese workers.

The day the assassinated Palestinians were buried, the





Lebanese masses went into the streets together with the Palestinian masses. So the scale of the Lebanese government attack is far more limited, even if the Lebanese government has the same perspective as Hussein.

The fact that Kamal Jumblatt was the man who brought about the first ceasefire between the commandos and the Lebanese troops is very important. It shows the importance of the working-class movement in the Lebanon.

At every stage the Lebanese government has to deal with its own working class.

How do you see the situation within the Palestinian liberation movement? How can the crisis of leadership in this movement be resolved?

There were two main crises in the Palestinian movement after September 1970. The first was inside Fatah itself, the second inside the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led by Nayef Hawatmeh.

In Fatah the crisis began during the September 1970 events. A leader of the Fatah in Amman whose name was Abu Ali Ayad denounced the policy of the Fatah leadership—the policy of refusing to fight against Hussein.

He organized an armed militia in Amman with the Palestinian commandos of all the organizations (Fatah, PFLP, PDFLP, Saiqa etc.) in a single organization with workers and poor middle class of the town to defend themselves against Hussein.

In fact he brought together the Palestinian movement and the Jordanian masses. Then Arafat did all he could to destroy this militia. He even threatened to cut off Abu Ayad's water supply in order to arrive at an agreement with Hussein.

Hussein's troops had to leave the town and they came back only at the end of September after the massacre of the soviet in the northern town of Irbid. Only then could they destroy the militia of Abu Ali Ayad.

Abu Ayad himself was captured by the regime and died after suffering frightful tortures. It was on the basis of his criticisms of the Arafat leadership that the Black September group originally came into being.

Afterwards, however, Black September completely forgot what Abu Ali Ayad had taught them and as we know they completely degenerated in individual terrorism.

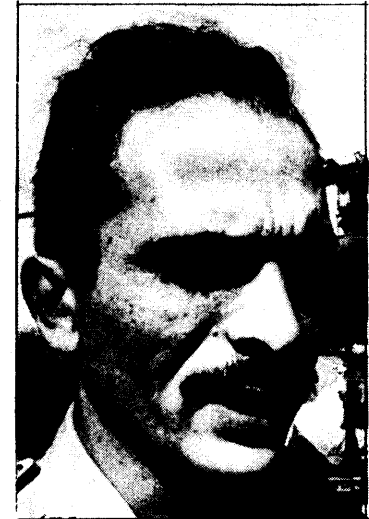
The other crisis in the Palestinian movement was inside Hawatmeh's organization. After the massacre some of his supporters asked for a political reckoning on the question: what made the massacre possible?

Hawatmeh's political position just before September 1970 was a Menshevik one in the sense that he said there must

be two stages in the Middle East: first the national stage and afterwards a socialist one.

At a Press conference given by Arafat in August 1970, he said: 'I have differences with my brother Arafat. I am a socialist, he is not. But at this stage differences are completely minor because we are in the nationalist stage.'

Hawatmeh became a left cover for Arafat. He undertook a self-criticism after September 1970, but it did not go very deep: the only point he accepted was that there were illusions about Hussein. He did not make a proper analysis of his own theory and method.



King Hussein of Jordan: He agreed to the Rogers plan which denies two million Palestinian people all rights.

What is the significance of the recent wave of so-called spy trials in Israel? What do these trials mean for the Israeli workers' movement?

The trials raise two main political questions: first the attitude of the Zionist bourgeoisie to the workers' organizations in Israel and their attitude towards the working class itself.

Forty people are standing trial in these cases which are a police frame-up. The police have made use of some facts to create an illusion of guilt.

What is important is not whether or not some of the accused went to Syria. The important thing is that they are accused of having wanted to destroy the Zionist state.

This is a political accusation. At these trials there are no witnesses at all. Like Stalin's trials in the 1930s they are completely based on the declarations of the accused people and we know that most of them have been obtained under pressure or torture.

Some of the defendants are accused officially of wanting to fight for a proletarian dictatorship or of wanting to fight against Zionism or wanting to organize a Marxist-Leninist party in Israel.

The aim of these trials is to identify Marxism with individual terrorism. They are accused of having been members of sabotage networks. It is not considered important that there has never been any sabotage on their part: they are accused of **intending** to commit sabotage.

In the eyes of the state, to want the dictatorship of the proletariat becomes the same thing as sabotage. The objective is to outlaw Marxism and to set a precedent for an attack on the entire working class.

Now the Israeli government must try to stop the movement the working class is developing, the movement which began with the dockers' strike of 1969 at Ashdod.

In Israel there is a growing mobilization of the working class because of the attack of the bourgeoisie against the workers' standard of living.

Over the last two and a half years the cost of living has gone up by 40 per cent. Nevertheless 18 months ago the Israeli parliament voted for an anti-worker law very similar to that of the Heath government.

In the same period that the first six accused in the trials

received between ten and 17 years jail, a 'labour court' in Haifa decided that a strike of a metal-working factory was illegal.

The court decided that the workers' committee (a sort of Israeli shop stewards' movement) was not representative of the workers. Only the Histadrut (TUC) represented the workers, the court decided.

The Histadrut had already refused, of course, to recognize the strike. We can see here the link between the trials and the attacks on workers' organizations, including the Stalinists. **What is the policy of Vanguard towards the class struggle in Israel? What is the way forward for the workers' movement?**

Our intervention inside the working class is based on the appeal for a General Strike to achieve four principal demands:

- £200 across the board cost-of-living increase.
- £700 minimum wage.
- Sliding scale of wages with the level refixed every three months by the workers' committees.
- Repeal of the anti-working-class laws.

We say that the General Strike must be prepared by a national conference of the workers' committees. In fact such a conference could not avoid raising the question of an independent union in Israel against the Histadrut.

This was already clear in 1962 when the first national conference of workers' committees was betrayed by the 'socialist'-Zionist Mapam and the Stalinists. Their slogan was 'Outside of Histadrut nothing can be done'.

But today the Israeli working class is more and more consciously fighting against the government and also understanding the essence of the Histadrut as a corporatist semi-state organization.

A national conference of workers' committees will represent an enormous step towards the liberation of the working class from the grip of the Histadrut. For us the unity of the Jewish and Arab workers is the essential point.

In fact this question is raised in every struggle and it is raised more and more since the last war in 1967. Today in addition to the old 'Israeli' Arabs living within pre-1967 boundaries, there are 60,000 Arabs from the occupied territories working every day in Israeli factories.

In this situation every class action inevitably poses the question of unity between Arab and Jewish workers. Among the Jewish workers this question is conceived at a very low level of consciousness because of the Zionist pressure.

On the other hand, the Jewish workers are more and more confronted with the divisive role of Zionism.

For example, in an engineering factory I spoke with a worker who told me: 'Every time we want to strike they always send planes over Syria then tell us there is a security problem and you have to stop the strike.'

The argument of security has increasingly lost its impact. Among the Palestinian masses, on the other hand, the problem is conceived as a single national problem.

The question of the national fight, of returning the land to the refugees which has been taken from them by the Zionist bourgeoisie, will find a real solution only by the means of socialist revolution.

But we can't tell the masses 'Wait for the socialist revolution'. We have to propose to them democratic national means.

That is the reason we put forward the slogan of a Constituent Assembly of Palestine to resolve the national-democratic problems as the means to make it possible for the workers to pass from democratic consciousness to revolutionary consciousness.



Arab guerrillas on patrol. Top left: Dayan of Israel. Top right: Yasser Arafat, one of the leaders of Al Fatah. He always declared they were not fighting against their 'Brother' Hussein, but only against the Zionist state.

SHOPWORKERS TAKE ACTION

A series by Bernard Franks
Part Ten

The development of huge stores, chains of shop branches which rationalized the exploitation of shop labour in the second half of the 19th century also provided a basis for the rapid rise of class consciousness among shop assistants.

Herded together in large numbers for working and living, all aspirations towards eventual shop ownership destroyed, the shop employees began to discuss and organize against degrading conditions and wages.

Many of the Early-Closing Associations in existence from the 1840s were not trade unions but societies backed by employers with a policy of allowing 'voluntary' or 'permissive' early closing, leaving the question to the employers to decide. Employers often deducted payment from wages towards such associations without the workers' consent.

However, a growing number of shop employees were demanding compulsory early closing by law and the shop workers' union arose largely for the promotion of this cause.

The National Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks was formed in 1891 at a meeting of delegates from 11 shop assistants' associations and unions.

P. C. Hoffman's book mentioned yesterday gives some examples of early shop organizing, of recruiting meetings held in shop basements, in packed living-in quarters and in one case—for girls in a costume department—at a table in the shop 'well hidden by costumes and mantles'.

Outside shop hours

Union branch meetings had to be held outside shop hours, which often meant meeting from 10 p.m. until midnight.

Action by shopworkers was not always peaceful. In 1890 three shop assistant unionists had been sent to prison for conspiracy after action at a grocer's shop in Harrow Road, London, when mounted police were used against pickets demanding 4 p.m. Thursday closing.

Mass meetings, demonstrations and strikes continued into the new century against living-in and for higher wages and legislation to control shop hours.

The best the government could do in 1891 about early closing, was to bring in a Bill limiting 'the hours of work of women and children in shops to 74 hours a week'.

In 1909, a Bill was introduced which would have fixed a maximum 60-hour week, exclusive of meal times. Mass agitation everywhere by shop workers demanded that the word 'exclusive' be replaced by 'inclusive'.

In October 1909 a huge demonstration, with bands and banners marched from the Thames Embankment to Hyde

Park where 10,000 workers were assembled to listen to speakers.

The Bill still had not been passed by 1911 and it was Winston Churchill who effectively killed it by moving the deletion of the 60-hour maximum working-week clause.

More success was obtained against living-in. Shop after shop retreated before the strikes and picketing throughout the country.

Hoffman calls this chapter 'How Living-in Died Out', although it is patently obvious that it was actively driven out by workers' action.

In Wales, lightning strikes took place. A meeting at Merthyr Tydfil in 1911 drew 2,500 workers.

There was strong opposition from the 'paternalistic' employers like William Whiteley 'The Universal Provider', whose large departmental store in Bayswater, London, claimed to be able to obtain virtually anything for his well-to-do customers.

A great believer in discipline, this despot would exhibit a 'Late list' each day in a glass case. Next to the name of each offender would be his excuse for being late and alongside this would be Whiteley's fatuous comments: 'Unwell, "No he is not, lazy fellow"', 'Illness at Home, "Clear him out"', 'Lost the train "Yes, and will lose his head too if not careful".'

William Whiteley was one of the employers who defended 'living-in' as a system for protecting the morals of shopworkers.

When Hoffman once told William Whiteley that a union objective was the abolition of living-in, he replied:

'Young man, do you realize the grave moral responsibility that rests upon your shoulders in regard to that matter?'

Hoffman adds: 'In retrospect I feel that comment hardly came well from a man who a few months later was shot dead in the dress department by an illegitimate son...'

The 1914-1918 war saw a massive increase in shop workers' agitation for pay, union recognition and collective bargaining rights. For example, one day, on returning to the London headquarters, Hoffman found a queue of workers from Sainsburys and Civil Service Supply. They were on strike for more pay and had come to join the union.

By 1920 both the Shop Assistants' Union and the Co-op Workers' Union had risen to a membership of 100,000 from around 7,000 each in 1900.

This was a period of great advance for all sections of the labour movement; a time when conditions and rights were won which had been savagely repressed for years by the employers and the state. War-time shortage of employees contributed to this strength.

Workers did not just put in wage claims, but entire charters of demands on pay, holidays, hours, overtime, conditions of work and collective bargaining, union recognition and the rights of shop stewards.

For example, in 1915 workers at a tobacco chain demanding a cost-of-living bonus struck work closing 42 shops.



Churchill in 1912. He effectively killed the Bill which gave workers a maximum 60 hour week. Above: The Strand, a centre of trade and commerce in 1902.

They won their bonus and also union recognition, the closed-shop and wages paid in full for the duration of the stoppage.

The employees in the wholesale trades were not to be outdone by those in retail.

At Ryland's, the major wholesale drapery house in London at that time, the staff won a 15-per-cent increase in wages and shorter hours, with time-and-a-half for overtime in 1918.

In Glasgow, workers at Arthur & Co, Scotland's largest

drapery wholesalers, demanded and got three months' wages as a cost-of-living increase.

In 1919, agreement was reached to cover 30,000 workers in wholesale textiles.

The movement among wholesale drug workers in London had begun in 1913 and agreements with major companies were won. In March 1916, the union concluded a closed-shop agreement at Boots' Nottingham warehouses.

Many workers' actions are described by Hoffman, includ-

ing the powerful movement among unionized company hairdressers (both men's and women's) for improved pay.

The West End salons of 43 London companies were picketed during a seven-week strike in 1919.

In 1918 the West End hairdressers had already won the struggle for shop stewards in every union shop and now the firms were out to break this movement.

However, the strike of 270 workers was solid. Blacklegs arriving for work received a hot, sometimes violent, reception at railway stations and were visited at home to discourage scabbing. The workers won their demands and recognition for the stewards. Other hairdressers' strikes occurred in Belfast, Greenock, Glasgow, and Manchester.

Largest ever stoppage

Hoffman describes the 1919 strike at the Army & Navy Stores, of Victoria, London, as the largest stoppage in the retail trade the country has ever witnessed.

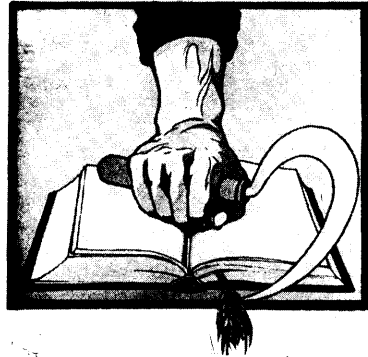
The 4,000 employees struck work for higher pay on December 3 and with much popular support stayed solid for a month, returning with an increase of 35 per cent for workers over 21 years of age and 20 per cent for those under.

The award was announced at a mass meeting of 7,000 shop workers which was held in the Albert Hall.

In February 1920, a meeting of drapery employees at the Queen's Hall elected House Committees for every such firm in the West End of London.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

BOOK REVIEW



BY JACK GALE

'Russian Rebels. 1600-1800.' By Paul Avrich. Allen Lane The Penguin Press. £4.50. 309 pages.

The four great rebellions which shook Russia in the 17th and 18th centuries were those led by Bolotnikov (1606-1607), Razin (1670-1671), Bulavin (1707-1708) and Pugachev (1773-1774).

Each time the revolts spread like wildfire as tens of thousands of peasants and townsfolk, were joined by native tribesmen from the Volga and the Urals only to be ruthlessly crushed by government forces as they approached the centres of state power.

Bolotnikov was able to command a force of 12,000 men which marched on Moscow as two armies.

Early in his campaign Stenka Razin could muster a force of 7,000 fighters — and when a government army of 2,600 men was sent to intercept him, it arrested its commander and agreed to join Razin 'to kill the masters, officials and other ranks of noblemen'.

At the peak of the movement there were hundreds of thousands of insurgents behind Razin, who was to become a folk-hero.

Kondrati Bulavin could lead an army of over 7,000 against the troops of Peter the Great and Emelian Pugachev threw a similar force against Catherine.

These revolts were never aimed against the Tsar but against the nobility. (True, Pugachev claimed that he was the rightful Tsar and he sought to overthrow Catherine, but the institution of Tsarism was not challenged.)

Thus Razin, who claimed to fight 'only the boyars and wealthy lords', put forward the slogan 'For God and the Prophet, for the Sovereign and the Cossack host'.

But Razin's claim that he was 'come by order of the Great Tsar to put to death all the boyars, nobles, senators and other great ones' did not save him, after his defeat, from being tortured by the Tsar Alexis in person and executed 'for betraying the great Sovereign Tsar'.

Bulavin's manifesto of 1708 read: 'We have no quarrel

PEASANT REBELS OF RUSSIA



Pugachev who led a peasant rebellion in 1773-1774. 'I know that the common people will greet me with joy once they hear of my coming'.

with the common people. Our quarrel is only with the boyars and those who do injustice. You barebacks and poor folk, come all of you, come out of your towns, on horse or on foot, naked and bare foot. Come, have no fear.

'There will be horses and guns, clothing and money for you. We have stood for the old faith and the house of the Blessed Virgin, and for you, for all the common people.'

Nearly 70 years later Pugachev declared: 'I know that the common people will greet me with joy once they hear of my coming.'

In the path of his army, Pugachev issued a flood of proclamations releasing the serfs from their masters and announcing free distribution of salt and exemption from taxes and recruitment.

Pugachev's rebellion, being the latest, was also the one to get closest to a developed social programme.

Pugachev awarded his 'subjects': '... the villages, the old cross and prayers, heads and beards, liberty and freedom, always to be Cossacks, without recruiting levies, soul tax or other money taxes, with possession of the land, the woods, the hay meadows,

the fishing grounds, the salt lakes, without payment or rent, and we free all those peasants and other folk hitherto oppressed by the malefactor gentry and the bribe-takers and judges in the towns from the dues and burdens placed upon them.'

His proclamation concluded: 'Those who hitherto were gentry in their lands and estates, those opponents of our rule and disturbers of the empire and ruiners of the peasants—seize them, punish them, hang them, treat them in the same way as they, having no Christian feeling, oppressed you, the peasants.'

Paul Avrich's book is valuable and informative. However, for a deeper analysis of these mainly peasant risings, one must turn to the first chapter of Trotsky's 'History of the Russian Revolution'.

Here Trotsky has this to say of the Pugachev Rebellion: 'Fifty years before the great French revolution there developed in Russia a movement of the Cossacks, peasants and worker-serfs of the Urals, known as the Pugachev Rebellion.'

'What was lacking to this menacing popular uprising in order to convert it into a revolution? A Third Estate. Without the industrial democracy of the cities a peasant war could not develop into a revolution, just as the peasant sects could not rise to the height of a Reformation.'

'The result of the Pugachev Rebellion was just the opposite — a strengthening of bureaucratic absolutism as the guardian of the interests of the nobility, a guardian which had again justified itself in the hour of danger.'

The slow development of Russia meant that the peasants in Russia could not play the role which the Third Estates had played in France. In fact, it was their implacable enemies, the nobility, which, from the time of Peter on, sought to 'Europeanize' Russia.

The Dekabrist rising of 1825 was an attempt of the aristocratic intelligentsia to limit the power of the Tsarist autocracy by a military conspiracy.

But this intelligentsia could not turn to the peasants for mass support because their own privileges depended on the continued domination of the peasants.

It was a later generation of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois intellectuals who sought to 'go to the peasants'.

Lenin had to fight to go beyond this towards the working class. In his monumental 'Development of Capitalism in Russia', Lenin showed that it was the working class which was the only class that could lead a revolution.

It was only behind the working class, led by the Bolshevik Party, that the peasant masses of Russia could throw off the yoke of oppression.

Avrich's book deals with an essential part of Russian history, but one which could only find its culmination with the development of the modern proletariat and the scientific theory of socialism — Marxism — which forges the class into the instrument to end Tsarism in Russia and capitalism throughout the world.

POLITICAL PROFILES

By LEON TROTSKY
Paperback. £1.00 Illustrated

Sharp pen-portraits of leading figures of the Second International in Russia and Europe, for the first time published in an English edition. The translations were first commissioned by the Young Socialists' paper 'Keep Left'. Their enormous success has led to the completion of the translation of the whole book, which is the first part of Volume 8 of Leon Trotsky's 'Works' published in the Soviet Union in 1926. It provides the most vivid picture available of the historic figures of the Second International, their strengths and weaknesses, written by an observer who was also a participant in the daily struggle of the European and Russian working class.

Now available from New Park Publications
186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG

WORKERS NOTEBOOK
MAY STRIKERS

The Tory seaside town of Morecambe is not exactly a thriving industrial centre. So the local 'Morecambe Guardian' probably felt safe in proclaiming, in a front page headline on May 1 'Strike-Free May Day Forecast'.

The paper's industrious industrial department had spent a busy afternoon phoning up local firms and getting a welcome 'All Clear' report from each one.

But it missed what is probably the area's biggest single employer — the Heysham Nuclear Power Station site! Over 850 building workers there, mainly employed by Taylor Woodrow, did come out.

Support for the strike came from electricians on the site and some 60 lecturers and technicians at Lancaster University, who are ASTMS members. It was the first time that the two sections had taken joint action in the university.

HEALTHY HEATH

Has 'nature-boy' Edward Heath, well-known yachtsman and organ-player, now started making it on the 'macrobiotic foods' scene, fashionable with 'co-freaks' and trendy weekend-hippies?

Mystified readers now read on: It seems that a publication called 'SEEDS' (the journal of organic living) has been taken to task by one of its keen readers for sullyng its pages with a cartoon strip in which a character held up the slogan 'Heath Out'.

Mr Charles Glover, who makes the complaint, says: 'I met and talked to Mr



Heath briefly in St Malo last year, and you may be surprised to know that he is very much in favour of most of SEED's aims, and is starting to eat more and more health foods.'

Has Heath found his own way to beat the beef prices then? Hardly, since the price of raisins and other foods has also been shooting up.

Still, we are sure that his guests, including the TUC leaders, will be looking forward to the nuts and fruit juice next time they take lunch at Downing Street.

BBC 1

9.38-11.20 Schools. 12.25 Holi hynt. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Chigley. 1.45 Look, stranger. 2.05 International lawn tennis. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Coal hole club. 5.15 You are there. 5.40 Hector's house. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 DISNEY CARNIVAL. Lambert the Sheepish Lion.

6.50 TOP OF THE POPS.

7.25 STAR TREK. Day of the Dove.

8.15 GOOD OLD DAYS. Charlie Williams, Anita Harris, Rod Hull and Emu, Sheila Mathews, Wil Sterling, Los Platas.

9.00 NEWS. Weather.

9.25 SCOTCH ON THE ROCKS. New thriller in five parts. With Bill Simpson, Maria Aitken, John Cairney, Iain Cuthbertson, Clinton Greyn, Cyril Luckham, Leonard Maguire, Maurice Reeves.

10.05 TALK-IN TO DAY. Robin Day talks to Ellen Peck, author of 'The Baby Trap'.

10.50 NEWS. Weather.

10.55 FILM: 'Salome, Where She Danced'. Yvonne De Carlo, Rod Cameron, David Bruce, Albert Dekker. 12.20 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 12.00 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Happy house. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Cuckoo in the nest. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.50 Racing from Lingfield. The Royal Windsor Horse Show. 4.20 Lassie. 4.50 Lift off with Ayshea. 5.20 I dream of Jeannie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.

7.30 THE FBI. The Catalyst.

8.30 WHO DO YOU DO?

9.00 BETWEEN THE WARS. Now Lies She There. The first of six plays. With Sarah Badel, David Neville, Stuart Wilson.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 SUN TELEVISION AWARDS 1973. Introduced by Pete Murray. With Freddie Starr and Gladys Knight and The Pips.

11.30 POLICE FIVE.

11.40 FILM: '1984'. Michael Redgrave, Edmond O'Brien, Jan Sterling. Film version of George Orwell's novel.

TODAY'S TV

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

7.05 MISTRESS OF HARDWICK. The Shrewsbury Scandal.

7.30 NEWS. Weather.

7.35 GARDENERS' WORLD.

8.00 MONEY AT WORK. Where have all the workers gone?

9.00 FILM: 'Four in the Morning'. Anthony Simmons' film about two Thames-side couples. With Ann Lynn, Brian Phelan, Judi Dench, Norman Rodway, Joe Melia.

10.30 FILM NIGHT.

11.00 NEWS. Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Report. 6.35 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 11.33 Film: 'Shock'. 12.45 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.00 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.58 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sport. 11.30 News. 12.45 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women only. 2.50 London. 4.20 Weekend. 4.25 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 4.50 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.35 Love thy neighbour. 7.05 Sky's the limit. 7.35 Colombo. 9.00 London. 11.30 Weekend. 11.35 Avengers. 12.25 News. 12.25 Weather. Epilogue.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 2.50 London. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.50 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Doctor in charge. 7.05 Film: 'Among Vultures'. 9.00 London. 11.30 Profile. 12.00 Our kid. 12.30 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.25-4.50 Stesion cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 11.30-12.00 Outlook.

HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 4.25 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.30 Comedians. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.30 Film: 'The Stranglers of Bombay'. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 2.55 London. 4.25 News. 4.27 Rainbow country. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.30 Longstreet. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 11.30 Spectrum. 12.00 Partners.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Me and the chimp. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 7.30 Who do you do? 8.00 Cade's county. 9.00 London. 11.30 Film: 'The Patient Vanishes'. 12.50 Weather.



No it's not Ulster. It's a Scottish nationalist attempt at an armed breakaway from England in BBC 1's new series with the rather facetious title 'Scotch on the Rocks'. Left: Sarah Badel and Stuart Wilson are in a new 'Between the Wars' series for Independent channels.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Songs. 12.05 London. 4.25 Joe 90. 4.50 London. 5.15 Dick Van Dyke. 5.50 London. 6.00 Sky's the limit. 6.50 Film: 'Victim Five'. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 11.30 Kick off. 11.55 Film: 'Lonelyhearts'.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Yours faithfully. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Yoga. 2.50 London. 4.25 Woobinda. 4.50 London. 5.20 Pebbles and Bamm Bamm. 5.45 Cartoon. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.30 Who do you do? 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.30 In search of Dracula. 12.25 News. 12.30 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 2.50 London. 4.25 Nanny and the professor. 4.50 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Who do you do? 7.00 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 10.30 Conservative report. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'The Comedy Man'.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Protectors. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'The Diamond Wizard'. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 10.30 Conference report. 11.00 Job look. 11.10 Film: 'Hysteria'.

Subscribe now!



Do you get **WORKERS PRESS** regularly? If not, why not take out a subscription now?

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)
£10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)
£5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:

£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)
 £6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below **NOW** and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required (Please tick)	MONDAY	THURSDAY
	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) formonths.

Name

Address

Amount enclosed £

I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.

Name

Address

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

MEETINGS

PORTSMOUTH: Friday May 11, 8 p.m. Foresters Hall, Fratton Road, Portsmouth. 'General strike to force the Tories to resign'.

CRAWLEY: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Council for Social Service Hall, Station Road. 'Stalinism and the Struggle to defend democratic rights'.

EAST LONDON: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, E3.

WANDSWORTH: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Kings Arms, High Street, SW18.

WATFORD: Monday May 14, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall, near Watford Junction Station. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights'.

CAMDEN: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Force the TUC to break off talks with the Tories'.

PADDINGTON: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. Prince of Wales, cnr Harrow Road/Great Western Road. 'The trades unions and the Tory government'.

TOOTING: Tuesday May 15, 8 p.m. Tooting Baths, Tooting Broadway, SW17. 'Build the Revolutionary Party.'

SLOUGH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

SOUTHALL: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. 'The Crooked Billet', North Circular Road. 'Force the Tories to resign.'

WEMBLEY: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. Copland School, High Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

WOOLWICH: Wednesday May 16, 8 p.m. The Castle, Powis Street, SE18. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

SWANSEA: Thursday May 17, 7.30 p.m. YMCA. 'Defend workers' basic rights. General Strike to Force the Tories to resign.'

BASILDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Barnstaple Community Centre. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

CROYDON: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, Croydon. 'Forward to the Revolutionary Party.'

FELTHAM: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes', Feltham High Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

ACTON: Monday May 21, 8 p.m. 'Six Bells', High Street, W3. 'Force the TUC to break off talks with the Tories.'

LEWISHAM: Monday May 21, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers Club, New Cross Road. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

BATTERSEA: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. 'Nags Head', cnr Wandsworth Road/North Street. 'The economic crisis and the rising cost of living.'

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'The inflationary crisis and the rising cost of living.'

TOTTENHAM: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', High Road, nr White Hart Lane.

HACKNEY: Wednesday May 23, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, Mare Street. 'Build the Revolutionary Party.'

LUTON: Tuesday May 24, 8 p.m. Recreation centre, Old Bedford Road. 'Force the TUC to break off talks with the Tories.'

ABINGDON: Tuesday May 22, 8 p.m. Above New Top Taxis, Ock Street. 'Stalinism and the struggle to defend democratic rights.'

COMMENT on list of betrayals

Ten points of Stalinist treachery at UCS

BY JACK GALE

THE FRAUD perpetrated by the Communist Party - dominated shop stewards' co-ordinating committee at the four Upper Clyde Shipbuilders' yards is being exposed more and more clearly.

The repeated warnings in Workers Press that the Stalinist tactic of working for the liquidator rather than fighting to safeguard jobs by mobilizing the working class to bring down the Tory government, have now been proved correct.

The Stalinists and the union leaders have tied the former UCS men to working conditions in which basic trade union rights have been jeopardized.

This is the picture facing these men today:

1 4,000 former UCS workers will get no redundancy pay.

Right: Stalinist Sam Barr, who has introduced time-and-motion methods into the Scotstoun yard. Below: Some of the shipyard men during the infamous 'work-in'.



2 Of 2,500 hourly-paid workers at Clydebank, only 1,300 have been taken on at Marathon oil rigs.

3 The 350 workers finishing off ships for the liquidator have no guarantee of further employment unless they are permitted to retrain as boilermakers.

4 This retraining, if allowed, plus the four-year no-strike contract at Marathon will be used to undermine the position of existing boilermen and to

accelerate the drive for more productivity.

5 Productivity at the Govan shipyard is to be driven up 120 per cent by the introduction of speed-up and new working practices.

6 At the Govan and Linthouse divisions of the newly-formed Govan Shipbuilders, time-and-motion studies are almost completed.

7 At the remaining division, Scotstoun, Stalinist steward Sam Barr has organized time-and-

motion study on behalf of the management which involves workers timing other workers.

8 Wage rises, or alternatively bonus rises, which workers thought were promised in the original agreement and were due in April, have been refused.

9 Management is demanding co-operation in further productivity deals.

10 No pay claim can be lodged before September and there is no guarantee that anything will be forthcoming then.

Belfast shipyard strikers meet today

STEELWORKERS sacked from the Belfast shipyard of Harland and Wolff will stage a protest demonstration outside the company offices this morning before holding a mass meeting on their lengthy bonus dispute.

Officials of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions will meet management to review the progress of a joint working party, set up to consider ways of avoiding lay-offs among the 10,000 other workers in the yards.

Harland's agreement to set up the working party indicates the deep anxiety with which the dispute is now viewed both by the company and the Tory government.

'The Times', expressing some of their fears, commented yesterday that 'to put several thousand men out of a job and onto the streets must itself present an added security risk'.

The paper's worry is that the Tories' state pay control laws, which sparked off the steelworkers' struggle, may forge a link between the class action of these predominantly Protestant, loyalist workers and the national struggle for withdrawal of troops and self-determination.

The dispute began when the giant yard's 2,300 steelworkers, members of the Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers, banned overtime and imposed other work sanctions in protest against the blocking of bonus payments under Phase Two of the pay laws.

Shipyard earnings in Belfast are already between £6 and £8 lower than those on the Tyne and the upper Clyde, and since the bonus deal in fact dates from 1971, the steelworkers were understandably angry.

Harland's eventually retaliated by sacking all the men, after unsuccessful attempts by ASB president Danny McGarvey to force them back to normal working.

It has since offered new wage negotiations.

But the men are sticking fast to their demand that the old claim is settled before any talks on a fresh deal take place.

Bhutto reveals Shah's aid

IRAN BACKED Pakistan with valuable assistance during the wars with India in 1965 and 1971, revealed President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto on the eve of his state visit to the Shah.

Essential supplies such as oil reached Pakistan through Iran when the port of Karachi was blockaded. The Iranian air force assisted with air reconnaissance at sea. The civil air fleet took shelter on Iranian airfields and flew in supplies from other friendly countries.

Bhutto has chosen this moment to reveal the extent of Iranian aid to still criticisms of his visit following remarks made by the Shah in an interview with the 'New York Times'. He told the paper that he would take 'protective reaction' measures in Baluchistan in the event of a break-up of Pakistan.

Opposition leaders demanded that Bhutto should cancel his visit and one of them, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, demanded that the National Assembly should be summoned to discuss what he termed an intervention in Pakistan's internal affairs.

In the statement by Information Minister Kausar Niazi, giving

THE EDINBURGH general branch of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs has unanimously endorsed the following motion:

It has now been put forward as an emergency motion to the Fifth Annual Conference of ASTMS this weekend.

This conference severely censures the National Executive Council with regard to the weak and hesitant leadership it has

consistently displayed on a number of major issues affecting the membership since the Tory government came to power.

In particular, the position adopted by the NEC in relation to the question of legislation under the Industrial Relations Act; support for the industrial action taken against the act in March 1971, and more recently the decision on the May Day strike against the Tory government in no way constituted a firm and decisive lead being given to the membership on these occasions.

This conference therefore demands that in future the NEC exercises its proper function, which is that of providing the leadership required by members of this trade union in the struggles which undoubtedly lie ahead.

Hitherto the Pakistan government has evidently felt that revaluation of the full extent of the aid received from the reactionary regime of the Shah would be grist to the mill of its opponents at home and abroad.

Emergency motion is critical of ASTMS leaders

leaders

All Trades Unions Alliance

DOCKERS' MEETING

LIVERPOOL

No supplementary registers.
Defend the dock labour scheme!
Force the Tories to resign!

A Labour government must nationalize the docks and transport industries under workers' control

SUNDAY MAY 13, 7.30 p.m.
Mona Hotel
James Street
(near tube station)

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE LECTURES

Merthyr Tydfil

Given by Gerry Healy, National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League

Wednesday May 16

Dialectical Materialism—a Marxist theory of knowledge

Wednesday May 23

Theory and Practice of Marxism

Wednesday May 30

Role of the revolutionary party at

St David's Church Hall, Church Street, Merthyr 7.30 p.m.

Jarrow

Given by Cliff Slaughter

SLL Central

Committee member

Civic Hall, Jarrow

7.30 p.m.

Mondays May 14 and 21

The Socialist Revolution in Britain:

2. The roots of capitalist crisis: Marxism and the contradictions of capitalism. Britain and the world crisis.

3. The state and revolution. Reformism and revolution in Britain. The fight for democratic rights today means preparing for working-class power.

Basic reading: Perspectives for transforming the SLL into a revolutionary party. Marxist Analysis of the Crisis. Problems of the British Revolution (Trotsky).

Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International, Communist Manifesto.

All Trades Unions

Alliance meetings

TEACHERS' MEETING

The way forward after the NUT conference

Thursday, May 24, 7.30 p.m.

Conway Small Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn (admission 10p)

HOSPITAL WORKERS' MEETING

Hospital workers and the fight against the Tory government

Tuesday May 29, 7.30 p.m.

Norfolk Room, Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, London SW1 (admission 10p)

BUILDING WORKERS' MEETING

TUC must break off talks with Tories! Build revolutionary party!

Wednesday, May 30, 7.30 p.m.

Tudor Room, Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, London SW1 (admission 10p)

POSTAL WORKERS' MEETING

Break off secret talks with the Tories! Force the Tories to resign!

Sunday, June 3, 10.30 a.m.

Conway Small Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn (admission 10p)

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Newsdesk: 01-720 2000. Circulation: 01-622 7029.



Above: The Pentagon Papers defendants Daniel Ellsberg (1) and Anthony Russo. Right: John Dean whose papers are in a bank vault. Nixon is seen manoeuvring in both cases.

DEAN PAPERS PANIC NIXON



PRESIDENT NIXON and his aides are doing their utmost to sweep the Watergate affair under the carpet with the aid of a section of the media and the remains of his administration.

But each time he strikes out against his tormentors, he sinks a little deeper into the morass of scandal. Two developments in the scandal over

the past 48 hours demonstrate the way this is happening.

Nixon has ordered the Justice Department to exert every effort to regain the nine compromising documents deposited in a bank safe by the sacked White House counsel John Dean.

Not only does the undignified attempt to regain the papers imply Nixon's guilt, but in the epoch of the Xerox machine it is inconceivable that only one copy of the incriminating documents should be at large.

Dean himself has already revealed some of the pressures put upon him at the White House

to take the burden of the scandal on his own shoulders by signing a letter of resignation taking all the blame. He has said he goes in fear of his life.

The other revelation directly implicating Nixon is said to have appalled his own supporters, Elliot Richardson, the attorney-general designate, and Henry Peterson, the official in charge of prosecution in the Pentagon Papers and Watergate cases.

They have revealed that while Nixon was broadcasting his lying television speech to the nation ten days ago, he was still trying to suppress the information that

White House aides had burgled the offices of the psychiatrist to chief Pentagon Papers defendant Daniel Ellsberg.

The trial judge was due to rule yesterday on a defence motion for the charges to be quashed. In view of the wholesale malpractice and political interference he has little option but to free the two defendants.

This will be a severe blow to Nixon, for his tattered prestige has become deeply involved in the case and if it is thrown out it will be tantamount to accusing the president of rigging the trial.

**MAY FUND
NOW STANDS
AT £296.48
STEP UP
FIGHT TODAY**

IT IS slowly moving forward. I am sure if we make a big effort now, we could give our Fund a boost and get us nearer to reaching our £1,750 target.

We must do everything to keep Workers Press out in front. As the crisis of the capitalist system gets worse, a major political situation faces us. Today the price of gold remains at an all-time high. The Watergate affair can only lead to an even greater loss of confidence in the dollar. In this situation we must prepare for even harsher attacks to be launched against the working class.

Only Workers Press warns of the dangers ahead. So don't sit back in any way. Help us raise all you can for our May Fund. Give an extra amount where possible. Post all your donations immediately to:

Workers Press
May Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London, SW4 7UG

Lace men defend steward

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

OVER 40 workers at the twin lace factories—E. Jaffe and Malmic Lace—in New Basford, Nottingham, have been on strike since last Friday over the sacking of a union member who took part in the May Day stoppage against the Tory government's pay laws.

They walked out when Mr Mohammed Sawar (32), a member of the Transport and General Workers' Union and a shift leader, was told he had got the sack.

Said Mr Sawar: 'I was sacked because I went on strike on May Day. I was asked not to strike, but I am a union man and if anyone is going on strike then I should do as well.'

Two stewards—Mr Sulifiqua Ali and Mr Mustarq Hussian—representing the mainly Pakistani work force, warned the management that the men will not return until Mr Sawar is reinstated.

Said Mr Hussian: 'We have been exploited long enough. We will not return until we have a recognized union to back us.'

Ford unions pass the pay buck

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

TRADE UNION leaders passed the buck on the Ford pay dispute yesterday when both the T&GWU and the G&MWU decided to hold conferences of men's representatives next week to reach a final decision about whether to strike or whether to accept the Phase Two offer of £2.40 a week.

Jack Jones said the Finance and General Purposes Committee had been unanimous in deciding not to act on the Ford negotiators' call for official strike

action and instead to call a meeting of workers' representatives, shop stewards etc., next Tuesday.

'The feeling was that we should allow the men's representatives to express themselves. We want what is decided to have the good will of the membership. We are asking our representatives to test the feelings of Ford workers as quickly as possible.'

The G&MWU will hold a delegate conference at Dagenham on Wednesday.

Miners' executive to discuss NCB losses

BY ROYSTON BULL

THE MINERS' union is to call a special executive meeting to discuss the implications of a £69m loss which the National Coal Board expects to make this financial year.

'We fear we may be faced with the same type of heavy closure programme that faced us in the middle 1960s,' said Joe Gormley, NUM president.

The EC turned down a York-

shire area request that the Board's decision to close Gomersal pit should be appealed. A Yorkshire motion for strike action to prevent the closure of the St John's pit, Normanton, was withdrawn by the area without discussion.

● In Newcastle upon Tyne, James Sim, a miner who was dismissed by the NCB after his mates refused to work with him, was declared unfairly dismissed by an industrial tribunal and awarded £120 compensation.

Feather cynically steps into pensions row

BY DAVID MAUDE OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

VICTOR FEATHER, TUC general secretary, yesterday stepped into the row over whether civil servants will withhold pension and Social Security increases due October 1 in order to press their own pay claim.

He told the Civil and Public Services Association conference: 'Find some other way to express your anger and frustration.'

Feather said the decision to withhold the increases, taken by a narrow, 17-vote majority at the conference on Monday, was 'out of character with you as individuals, out of character with the unions and out of character with the trade union movement'.

But it was Feather and his cronies on the TUC General Council who are responsible for any frustration over pay in the CPSA's ranks.

When the union asked for 'co-ordinated action' in support of its fight against the Tory pay laws, as promised by the March 5 special Congress, the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee refused on the phoney grounds the civil service trade unions were not themselves united.

Hence last Monday's decision, which was taken because, in the words of mover Bill Calland: 'We have nothing else left to fight with.'

Mr Calland said before Feather's speech yesterday that 'after much heart-searching' he had decided to recommend to his branch that the terms of its emergency motion should not be implemented.



Victor Feather

And Bill Kendall, CPSA general secretary, said the union executive would be meeting next Thursday to reconsider the motion. 'I am confident that, whatever happens, the pensioners will not suffer at all', he said.

MERSEYSIDE'S 7,500 dockers will be asked on Sunday to accept recruitment to a 'casual' supplementary register.

The recommendation to accept will come from the port shop stewards' committee, which took this decision under threat that shortage of labour could lead to big trade loss.

Tory Ministers are firmly committed to stopping any recruitment to the permanent register of dockers—cut from 41,000 to 34,000 by the Jones-Aldington scheme introduced last September.

All Trades Unions Alliance Meeting

What next after the miners' ballot?

The fight against the Tory government

CASTLEFORD

Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Sagar Street Rooms

Speaker: G. Healy (SLI national secretary)

Young Socialists Students Society

CONFERENCE

Supplementary cash grants now!
Fight rising prices!
Defend the right to higher education!
Forward to the revolutionary party!

SATURDAY MAY 12, 2 p.m.—10 p.m.
Lecture Theatre A, ground floor
Mechanical Engineering Department
IMPERIAL COLLEGE, LONDON