

What we think

Once again: Why vote Labour? REVISIONISTS ANSWERED

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Another group, no less dangerous for its eclecticism and theoretical impudence, is represented by Pat Jordan of IMG. This man condescendingly informed his readers in 'The Red Mole' thus:

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(Practical proof of this 'tactic' was shown at George Brown's meetings.)

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What these tendencies reveal is their complete remoteness from the real movement of the working class and their total indifference to Marxist theory. So much so that the objective consequences of their actions are quite reactionary and, in fact, indistinguishable from the work of provocateurs.

They found themselves in a *de facto* alliance with young Conservatives breaking up Labour Party meetings in Nottingham and elsewhere. This is the logical end of the protest politics of the Revolutionary Socialist Students' Federation (RSSF) and the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign (VSC).

As we pointed out many

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After election money crisis near?

Nixon sounds the alarm

BY MARTIN ZARROP

PRESIDENT NIXON'S television broadcast on the American economy has one overriding significance—whichever party emerges victorious after yesterday's British General Election, it must face a capitalist economic crisis of serious proportions.

The political leader of world imperialism, speaking only 14 hours before the first votes were cast, tersely listed the symptoms of the crippling disease: 'Unemployment has increased; the price index continues to rise; profits have gone down; the Stock Market has declined; interest rates are too high.'

With these words, Nixon is forced to admit that every measure that his administration has taken to revive the sinking patient has been to no avail.

Roaring inflation and a tight-money policy have brought huge price rises and substantial cutbacks in investment and government spending.

The after-tax profits of US manufacturing corporations dropped by 13 per cent in the first three months of this year compared to the same period in 1969.

Profits

Dominating everything is the falling rate of profit and the virtual collapse of the international system of currency and credit, as exemplified in the death throes of Investors Overseas Services.

US moguls of capital are all turned in one direction in their frenzied search for a way out. As one of their leading journals said last November:

'Nixon's advisors are now preparing to go to the wall if that's what it takes. . . . The main objective is to bring next year's wage increases below this year's.' ('Business News', Our emphasis.)

When Wilson met his master in Washington earlier this year, Nixon made it clear that the burden of the crisis would be shifted to Europe and that, as far as the US ruling class was concerned, its 'allies' would have to sink or swim.

There can be no doubt that, despite the sunny election speeches of the Labour leaders and their insistence that compulsory wage legislation is out, the decision to hold a June poll before the crisis breaks was taken at that time.

Both Nixon and his servants know that the central question is to halt the massive working-class offensive in the US and Europe and to make the working class pay through recession and war.

Not confident

Yet they are by no means confident that they can successfully achieve their aims.

In the United States, section after section of organized workers, faced with a decline in real wages and an unemployment level of 5 per cent, have struck back time and again to wrest increases of 15, 25 and even 90 per cent from the employers.

In Britain, France, Italy to Vietnam the response of the working class to the crisis is to push back the employers and aggravate their crisis.

This is recognized by Nixon. While proposing his National Commission of Productivity, he stated:

'Controls and rationing may seem like an easy way out, but they are really an

easy way in to more trouble, to the explosion that follows when you try to clamp a lid on a rising head of steam without turning down the fire under the pot. Wage and price controls only postpone the day of reckoning. . . .

Such a statement does little to convince the capitalist class in the United States, let alone in Britain, that the 'day of reckoning' can be postponed.

It is little wonder that the state of Wall St was reported as unmoved by Nixon's statement.

The crisis is there and it is growing. It means that the next government in Britain will be a government of crisis, which must attempt once again to attack the trade unions and workers' living standards with renewed vigour.

Having registered an anti-Tory vote at the polls, the British working class must say: 'Never again the 1930s.'

Jobless total highest since 1940

'ANOTHER bit of encouraging news for the British people', was Mrs Barbara Castle's poll-tinted description of yesterday's unemployment figures.

With the Department of Employment and Productivity admitting that 546,681 workers—the highest June figure since 1940—are out of a job, it is not difficult to see which section of the population she was referring to.

Although the figures, compiled on June 8, show a drop of 31,124—one-tenth of one per cent—from those released in May, allowance for the normal summer increase in the number of jobs reveals that the unemployment trend is still rising.

Seasonally adjusted, there was a 1,600 rise in the number out of work.

Such a rise, of course, is

US TROOPS IN LAOS

Paris, Thursday—N Vietnam claimed yesterday that President Nixon had ordered American and S Vietnamese troops into Laos to launch attacks against communist positions.

Hanoi delegate Nguyen Minh Vy told the latest session of the Vietnam peace talks here that 'tens of thousands of US advisers an military personnel have been stealthily introduced into Laos.'

Union chiefs refuse decent wage—claim strikers



PICKETS WERE again manning all entrances to the Amalgamated Engineers' and Foundryworkers' Peckham headquarters yesterday in support of the ten-day-old pay strike of non-salaried staff there.

They are determined to continue the strike until their demands are met.

Society of Graphical and Allied Trades chapel father Bill Jones, a member of the unofficial strike committee, told the Workers Press:

'Our fight is not against AEF members—quite the contrary, we're trade unionists, we want to see the union strong—but against its executive council, who are refusing to give us a decent wage.'

Digging in

Rebutting charges that the strikers were 'out to smash the AEF', he said that the executive were 'digging their heels in' and 'using the words all bad management's use, refusing to "negotiate under duress".'

In answer to a report in yesterday's 'Morning Star' that 'the strike is holding up the normal functioning of the

union . . . engineers are not receiving union benefits, including strike pay', Bill Jones said:

'The executive is now seeing the effects of a strike on any management that behaves in this way. Are they going to say they want people to "blackleg" on the strike to get the post through?'

'If they want to get strike pay out, why don't they settle?'

Claim

The 250 strikers—comprising members of the Clerical and Administrative Workers and Transport and General Workers as well as SOGAT—are demanding an interim pay increase of £5 a week pending negotiations on a job-evaluation exercise carried out by management consultants.

Strike leaders estimate that many of those in dispute were taking home only £14 or so before the strike.

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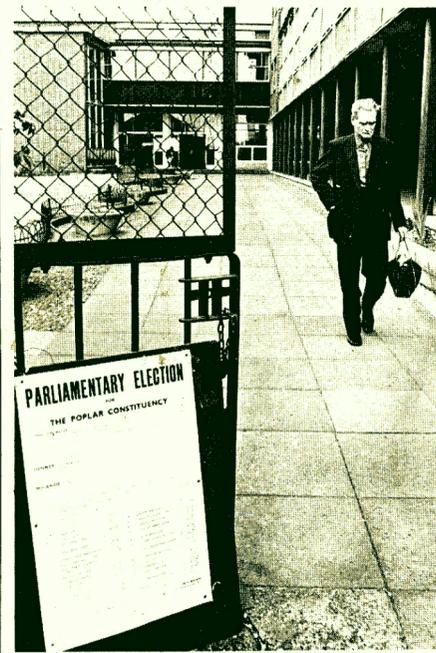
Negro mayor

IN THE election for mayor of Newark, New Jersey, the victor was Kenneth Gibson. A Negro, Gibson defeated the present mayor, Hugh Addonizio, who is on trial on corruption charges.

Gibson won 43 per cent of the poll on the first ballot last month, but still had to get an absolute majority to win. At the run-off on Wednesday, he won by 11,543 votes.

This meant that he must have received a substantial number of votes from white workers, despite the open racialism of his opponent's campaign.

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Dock men escort Ulster voters

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This had been arranged by Gerry Fitt, the Republican Party candidate, after Catholic workers expressed their fear over crossing the so-called 'peace line'—the barbed wire barricade that divides Belfast—in order to go to the polling booths to support him.

In Mid-Ulster, the electoral chances of Bernadette Devlin were increased with the last-minute withdrawal from the campaign of one of her opponents Mr Phelim O'Neill, the National Socialist candidate, who said that he was now supporting her.

Joseph's profits up

THE Grand Metropolitan Hotels combine, controlled by Maxwell Joseph, may well make £9 million profit by the end of its financial year.

With trading profits at the halfway stage up by over £4 million, the group reported that its pre-tax profit figures had soared from £1,427,000 to £3,365,000.

Yesterday's figures mean that profits have more than doubled during the six months to the end of March. This includes a sizable first-time contribution from the Express Dairy Company. Last month, the combine announced a £15 million takeover deal for Berrit Inns.

The note—a formal one—

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ANOTHER SPLENDID day for the fund. Thank you readers for the magnificent post of £80 15s 5d.

This brings our total to £459 11s 4d leaving us with £540 8s 8d to raise by the end of the month.

It certainly seems that we will be over the half-way mark by the weekend. This will be terrific. Keep it up. Keep sending the donations to:

Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186A Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

Kremlin prepares Indo-China betrayal

BY A FOREIGN REPORTER

WITH LIBERATION forces reported to be closing in on Phnom Penh from all sides, the three-nation Cambodian 'peace' mission which arrived in Moscow on Wednesday continued its talks with Soviet leaders yesterday.

The mission is composed of representatives from three openly anti-communist regimes, two of which—Indonesia and Malaysia—are at this very moment fighting bloody wars of extermination against communist-led guerrilla movements.

The third government—that of imperialist Japan—is supplying economic and military aid to the pro-US Lon Nol regime in Cambodia.

The discussions have already revealed that the Soviet bureaucracy has re-

verted to its old line of favouring the recall of the 1954 Geneva conference on Indo-China.

For the first few weeks after the Nixon invasion of Cambodia, the Kremlin made a 'left' turn, opposing a new Geneva meeting.

FAVoured

Indonesian Foreign Minister Adam Malik stated after his first talk with his Soviet opposite number Andrei Gromyko that he favoured the re-activation of the International Control Commission (consisting of India, Canada and Poland) set up by the Geneva conference.

This mission has been joined in Moscow by the UN Secretary General U Thant, who, apart from discussing Middle-East affairs with Soviet leaders, is expected to take part in the Indo-China talks.

What makes these moves all the more ominous is the appeal sent by the pro-US Lon Nol regime in Phnom Penh to the Soviet government asking it to 'use all its influence' in persuading the NLF to withdraw its forces from Cambodia.

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Guerrilla clashes a 'U.S. plot' -Hussein

BY A WORKERS PRESS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

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The clashes between the Jordanian army and Palestine liberation guerrillas was, he said, part of a plot 'against the Jordanian army, the honourable Palestinian resistance and the Jordanian people'.

This statement was in line with the strenuous efforts of Al-Fatah, the guerrilla organization backed by Nasser, to come to terms with Hussein's regime.

Having persuaded Hussein to sack the Commander-in-Chief, Al-Fatah head Arafat has avoided any clash with the King.

The sacked generals were said to be the chief US agents in the regime, but while Al-Fatah urged that they be put on trial, Hussein went out of his way to praise them.

Reports of visits paid to army units over the last two months by Hussein and the dismissed C-in-C, in which special bonus payments were made to the soldiers, indicate that the battles with the guerrillas were prepared for by the King.

But even the most radical of the guerrilla groups, the Popular Democratic Front, has denied wishing to see Hussein's downfall.

There are also reports of clashes between guerrillas and the Lebanese army earlier this week.

The Arab rulers, whose dependence on imperialism differs only in degree, are frightened of support for the guerrillas among the Arab masses in their struggle against Zionism as the agency of the imperialists.

Reports that Hussein is preparing for a visit to Cairo soon, underline the threat to the struggle against Zionism posed in the policies of Nasser and his Soviet allies.

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London shares indecisive

SHARE prices fluctuated indecisively in London Stock Markets yesterday morning as voting for the next government got under way.

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1,800 more lay-offs at Corby steel works

A FURTHER 1,800 production men were laid off yesterday at the British Steel Corporation's Corby works as the strike of over 2,000 engineers and electricians entered its fourth day.

The workers, members of the AEF and ETU, started a work-to-rule and over-

time ban ten days ago in support of their demand that present bonuses should be brought up to a flat rate of £6 10s.

Strike action was taken a week later and over 3,000 men have now been laid off while talks between local union officials and corporation managers continue.

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textile and clothing industry to a wider market.

The Spanish partners in the undertaking are headed by the 'Inter Textil' company.

News of this new deal between the Stalinist bureaucracy and Spanish fascism was given over Hungarian Radio on June 16.

It follows the visit to Madrid last week by Bela

Szalai, Hungarian Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade who called on Franco's Minister of Commerce, Enrique Fontana Codina.

According to Madrid Radio, Spanish exports to Hungary reached 10,100,000 dollars in 1969, while Hungarian exports to Spain amounted to 6,800,000 dollars.

Peaceful co-existence is flourishing.

'THE FLAG hoisted at Wolverhampton is beginning to look like the one that fluttered over Dachau and Belsen', said Anthony Wedgwood Benn, speaking about Powellism—and of course he was right.

Of course Mr Wedgwood Benn's language was a bit too strong for the Party leaders.

Mr Heath did not like it at all and said it would 'increase tensions'.

Mr Wilson commented, 'The words Mr Benn used must be his own choice. Now I think the matter can be left where it is'. It is not the 'done' thing for parliamentarians to call things by their right names, or to tell the truth about the 'Right Honourable' gentlemen opposite.

But it is vitally important that the labour movement in this country realize the danger about the Tories and about racialism. The Tories are the Party of the ruling class. Racialism is a political weapon which a discredited class uses to preserve its position by splitting the working class and using a racial minority as scapegoats who can be blamed for everything.

It was on a programme of racialism, combined with calls for 'law and order' that Adolf Hitler built his movement and, with the backing of big business, went on to smash the labour movement in Germany and enslave the working class.

Hitler began by proposing 'repatriation of foreigners' and his racialism reached its logical conclusion with Dachau and Belsen.

METHODS

The Tories are not Nazis or fascists. As a matter of fact, despite their imperialist record, British ruling-class hypocrisy being what it is, they would probably resent being called racists. However, these Tory gentlemen have never been noted for being gentlemanly or all that 'particular' about the methods they use in their propaganda.

'Red' scares, witch-hunting hysteria about 'foreign agitators', religious bigotry and racialism—they have all been used before and so long as the Tory Party continues in existence they will be used again.

Especially in this period, racialism.

The more they can get people thinking in 'race' terms and forgetting the class divisions which are the real ones in this country, the easier it will be for the bosses to bring in the anti-working-class measure which is what Tory policy is really about.

So Powell, who is getting increasing support from powerful Tory businessmen, makes one of his 'outspeak', controversial 'shock' speeches, copies of which are usually received by courtesy of Enoch Powell a few days before he is due to speak.

Where Powell stops his supporters in organizations like the National Front carry on. In a number of local areas now the ex-Mosleyites and the 'K' in the Front have got quite friendly connections with members of the Tory Party.

As well as recruiting some 'skinhead' youth whom it employs as stewards, the National Front is known to have a number of supporters among the young gentlemen and ladies in the Young Conservatives.

RESPONSIBLE

In S London there are Powellite Tory councillors with National Front connections. It is believed that some Tory councillors in Yorkshire are also sympathetic to the Front.

Of course we cannot blame Mr Heath or Mr Powell if they get support from disreputable sources.

They would not like to be thought of as racists. Mr Powell does not advocate violence.

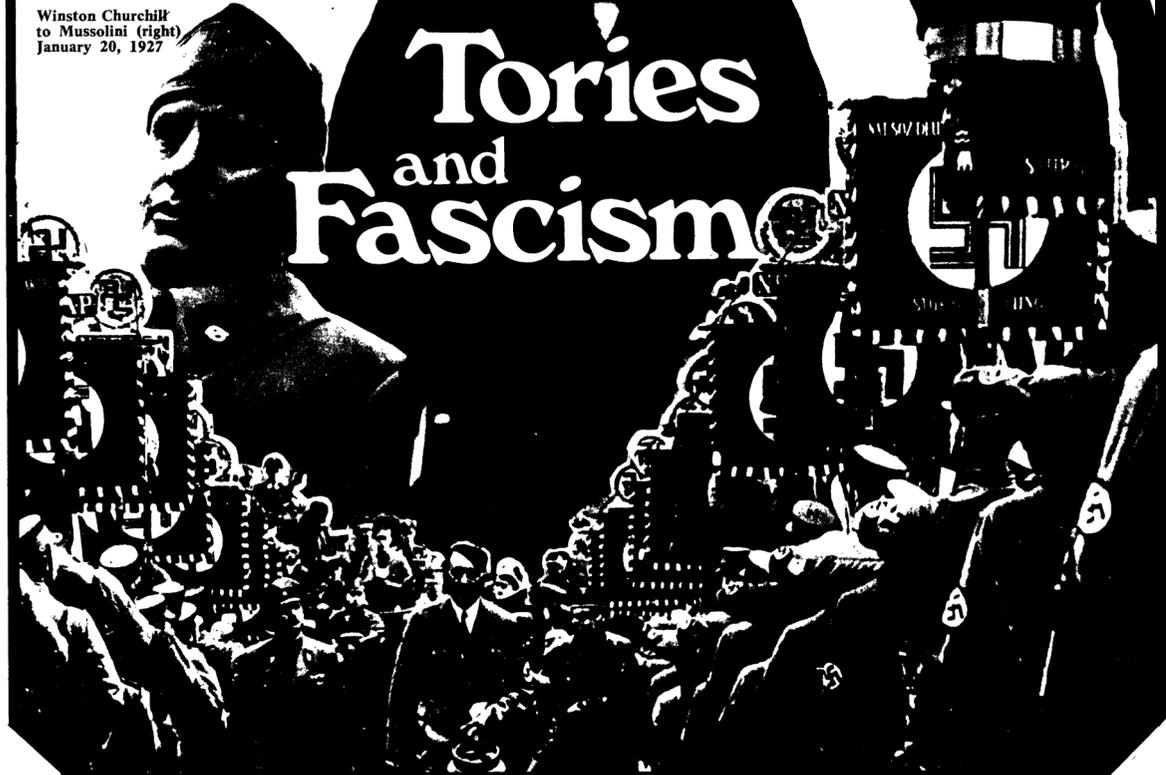
If some of his less subtle supporters get over enthusiastic after his speeches, if they put the boot in to a left-wing student, or go out and beat up an immigrant worker, that is not Mr Powell's fault.

Mr Powell is not a fascist. On the contrary, he evidently wishes to be thought of as an opponent of fascism. Only the other day, speaking in his Wolverhampton constituency, Mr Powell made a disparaging reference to fascism in passing.

I ask you to recognize in its early stages the beginnings of something which could threaten all that we love and desire to keep as surely as they were threatened by fascism in the 1930s', said the man who has been most responsible for introducing racialism into British politics in recent years.

'If I had been an Italian I am sure that I should have been whole-heartedly with you from the start to the finish in your triumphant struggle against the bestial appetites and passions of Leninism'

Winston Churchill to Mussolini (right) January 20, 1927



The historical record by Charles Parkins

And, believe it or not, he was actually speaking about some of his opponents, instead of, as might be more appropriate, some of his supporters! Which is a bit rich (like Mr Powell himself). However it is all part of the myth, which has been fostered for some time now, that 'the British people', Tories included, were all opposed to fascism in the 1930s.

It is a myth which must be dispelled if we are to understand the true nature of the Tories and the class they represent.

Like company director Powell,

from the Tory 'Daily Mail'. On April 25, 1934, for example, the 'Mail' carried an article entitled 'The Blackshirts have what the Conservatives need'. Its author, Sir Thomas Moore, Tory MP, wrote of a fascist meeting he had attended in the Albert Hall. He said: 'What is there in a black shirt which gives apparent dignity and intelligence to its wearer. All seemingly filled with the same emotions, pride of race, love of country, loyalty, hope... As I listened to the vibrant tones of Sir Oswald Mosley...

in line with the editorial policy of the 'Daily Mail' at this time. He was not the only Tory to have expressed admiration for fascism. A few years earlier a Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer had been quite favourably impressed by a visit to fascist Italy. On January 20, 1927—three years after the murder of the socialist deputy, Matteotti, and the herding of thousands of Italian socialists and communists into prison camps—this prominent Tory proudly told the fascist press in Rome: 'If I had been an Italian I am sure that I should have been whole-heartedly with you from the start to finish in your triumphant struggle against the bestial appetites and passions of Leninism.'

The man who said this, the prominent Tory who declared that were he an Italian he would have been whole-heartedly with none other than the great man himself—WINSTON CHURCHILL! Having only the previous year been responsible for dealing with the British working class during the General Strike, Churchill could cast an appreciative professional eye over Mussolini's work and evidently he liked it.

The great parliamentarian went on to make it clear that he did not just regard fascism as good for Italy. He thought it could have useful applications elsewhere too: 'I will, however say a word on an international aspect of fascism. Externally your movement has rendered a service to the whole world... Italy has shown that there is a way of fighting the subversive forces which can rally the masses of the people, properly led, to value and wish to defend the honour and stability of civilized society.'

She has provided the necessary antidote to the Russian poison. 'Hereafter, no great nation will be unprovided with an ultimate means of protection against the cancerous growth of Bolshevism.'

ADMIRATION Churchill's frank admiration of what the fascists were doing fairly typified an attitude that was prevalent in the British ruling class at this time. Their admiration extended to Hitler and Franco as well as to Mussolini.

Sir Alfred Mond, visiting Italy a year after Churchill, was quoted as saying: 'I admire fascism because it is successful in bringing about social peace... Fascism is tending towards the realization of my political ideals, namely to make all classes collaborate loyally.'

The chairman of a Sheffield steel company praised Hitler's contribution to economic recovery in Europe. A leading Nottinghamshire mineowner declared during the 1937 miners' strike that the government ought to adopt 'the German plan' to deal with the workers.

At a meeting in London in March 1938 Victor Gollancz described Franco as 'the leader of our cause today'. For the most part the British ruling class eventually decided during the 1930s that it would be necessary for them to introduce fascism in this country.

This does not mean that they ruled out its use for all time. As Churchill said, it was the 'ultimate means of protection'. That the ruling class in this country did not reject fascism altogether, that like their counterparts on the continent, they were prepared to support it when they considered it served their purpose, can be shown by their attitude to the fascists and Nazis in Europe. A large and influential section of the Tory Party and of big business in this country regarded Nazi Germany as a valuable 'bulwark against communism', if not a model that might have to be followed here.

So far as these Tories were concerned, Hitler was doing a grand job!

"NAMES"

They were quite prepared to express their admiration openly. Following Hitler's accession to power in Germany in 1933, an organization was established in London known as the Anglo-German Fellowship. The 'fellowship's' Annual Report for 1936-1937 stated:

'Its principal purpose is to promote fellowship between the two peoples, but however much such a purpose is non-political its fulfilment must inevitably have important consequences on policy.'

Just how 'non-political' the Fellowship really was may be judged from the fact that it replaced a previous organization known as the Anglo-German Association which had been dissolved partly because the Nazis did not favour it and partly because some of its member were opposed to Hitler's policies.

Neither of these problems arose for the Anglo-German Fellowship. The fellowship which it promoted was between the Nazi leaders and prominent Tories.

The Anglo-German Fellowship promoted visits to Nazi Germany where its sister society would entertain the English members and assist them to understand the movement which is refashioning life in Germany and to see the reforming forces at work in whatever sphere of public life.

In Britain the Fellowship provided a platform for distinguished guest speakers representing the Third Reich. Ribbentrop was a frequent visitor.

Other guests who spoke for the Fellowship included Freiherr von Haden, SS adjutant to Himmler; HRH the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, who was a keen Nazi supporter; General Tholens, deputy chief of the German Labour Service; the secretary of 'Strength Through Joy' movement; and various leaders of the Hitler youth.

Describing the recruiting policy of the Anglo-German Fellowship, its secretary Mr Elwin Wright, explained to a reporter in 1936: 'It isn't numbers that matter. We want "names", otherwise how can we have any influence with the government or the Foreign Office.'

The Anglo-German Fellowship did not confine itself to formal political activity, lectures, meetings and propaganda. It promoted friendly social ties between top Tories and pro-

minent Nazis. The Marquess of Londonderry, former Tory MP and Secretary of State for Air was a keen Fellowship member. The 'Daily Sketch' reported on September 21, 1937, that the Marquess had 'frequently visited Germany where he had previously been the guest of General Goering and Hitler. Herr von Ribbentrop... has also been the guest of Lord Londonderry at his Irish seat, Mount Stewart, County Down'. Among members of the Fellowship who personally met Hitler were Lord Mount Temple, Admiral Sir Barry Domville,

Lord Brouncker, Lord Stamp, Lord McGowan and Lord Lothian. The Fellowship had certainly succeeded in attracting the kind of 'names' which it wanted! In fact the significant thing about the Anglo-German Fellowship is that this pro-Nazi organization was decidedly an organization of 'top people'. These were not your little middle-class cranks who wanted to feel big in a uniform, your 'declassified' aristocrats, your lumpen. The Anglo-German Fellowship was headed by wealthy and powerful representatives of the British ruling class. About 30 Tory MPs were connected with the Fellowship. Among them was Sir Thomas Moore, whose pro-Mosley views we quoted earlier. There were also about 30 Anglo-German Fellowship members in the House of Lords, all of them prominent figures. Lord Mount Temple, who was one of those who met Hitler, had been a Tory MP, under-Secretary for War and Minister of Transport. Lord Lothian was for a time under-Secretary at the India Office. Lord McGowan was chairman of ICI.

LORDS

Other Lords in the Fellowship included Lord Aberdare, the Marquess of Carisbrooke, Lord Redesdale (of the Guinness family and father-in-law of Mosley), Viscount Massereene and Viscount Nuffield. Lord Halifax, who became Foreign Secretary, was a guest of the society.

Another measure of the significance of the Anglo-German Fellowship is the amount of support it received from big business. Lord Stamp was one of three directors of the Bank of England who were members of the Anglo-German Fellowship. Lord Lothian was governor of the National Bank of Scotland. Lord McGowan was one of three Midland Bank directors who were members.

The British Linen Bank also had three Fellowship members among its directors. Sir Leonard Lyle, of Tate and Lyle, was a member, as were two directors of the Distillers Company, 'Shell' Transport and Trading Company had its managing director, Mr Andrew Agnew, a Fellowship member (Sir Henry Detering, Shell chairman, was a contributor to Nazi Party funds when Hitler was still struggling to take power).

A number of important firms acquired what was known as corporate membership of the Fellowship. This involved, generally, the board of directors' approval, and it meant that the company as a whole was attached to the Fellowship.

Among the firms that were corporate members were the three big merchant bankers in the City of London: Guinness, Mahon and Co, Lazard Brothers and I. Henry Schroder and Co. In the iron and steel industry there was Firth-Vickers Stainless Steels. Two other corporate members that deserve a mention were Dunlop Rubber and Unilevers.

The Anglo-German Fellowship crystallized the feeling of the Tory ruling class in this country that Hitler was doing a good job, that fascism could be a way of safe-guarding their vested interests and that even if it were not necessary as yet to introduce fascism in Britain, it would be useful to have an alliance with fascism in Europe.

They did their best to get an alliance with Hitler. Part of the price for such an alliance was Czechoslovakia. The Tories like to talk about Czechoslovakia today—they do not like to be reminded of the part they played in handing the Czechs over to Hitler. The Czech working class, however, has not forgotten the part played by the British ruling class in this deal. Following the Munich agreement Lord Londonderry, Tory peer, member of the Anglo-German Fellowship, and friend of Goering and Ribbentrop, was able to say on October 3, 1938, in the Lords: 'I welcome particularly the events of the last two weeks by reason of direct contact having been made by our Prime Minister and the government of Germany. I, in a very humble manner, have been endeavouring for four years to do exactly the same thing.'

I can say quite honestly that what has happened has been the fulfilment of the hopes which I have had in my mind. I have seen what I have urged and what I have described... The politicians and the bourgeois historians like to cloud this period in myth. It is up to us to put the record straight.

The Nazi regime represented the power of German big business attempting desperately to solve its crisis. The Tory Party, representing British big business, understood and sympathized with its fellow capitalists in Germany, even though imperialist rivalry might separate them, as it did in the Second World War. It was a clash of interests, not of principles.

The Tories were well disposed towards fascism as the ultimate weapon for dealing with the working class. The Labour leaders might like to pretend that the British ruling class is different, that it is not to be compared with the bosses in other countries who have resorted to fascism. We must get rid of this myth.

Bosses are bosses, they understand each other. A Tory MP, Mr Patrick Donner, speaking sympathetically of the Spanish ruling class support for Franco, said in 1937:

INSTINCTS

'They are not all fascists, though some of them may be. Their underlying motive, the main-spring of their creed, is the desire to ensure restoration of law and order and the unification of Spain. (Our emphasis.)'

It was Hitler himself who said in 1932: 'There are too many students rioting on our streets. What we must have is law and order!'

As Sir Thomas Moore said: '... the instincts are the same...'

We should not be surprised if the Tories turn to racialism as a political weapon at a time when capitalism is in crisis or if elements in the Tory Party flirt with organizations, like the National Front.

As the crisis of capitalism gets worse, the ruling class will move further to the right, as we may well see the flirtation become something stronger.

It is up to us to realize the real nature of the ruling class, to be prepared for such contingencies, and to build in the labour movement a leadership capable of defeating the Tories for good and depriving them once and for all of their power.



'I admire fascism because it is successful in bringing about social peace... Fascism is tending towards the realization of my political ideals, namely to make all classes collaborate loyally'

Sir Alfred Mond of the 'Mond-Turner' talks, chairman of ICI

his fellow Tories have always possessed a lot which they loved and desired to keep. They have always believed, quite correctly, that the threat to it comes from the left.

During the heyday of fascism the Tories did not regard it as a threat, but on the contrary, as a force which they might have to turn to themselves to put down the threat from the left.

They were much less sensitive in those days to any charges of supporting fascism. In the 1930s the main fascist movement in this country was Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists. During this period Mosley's outfit enjoyed a very favourable press coverage

I got my answer. There was little if any of the policy which could not be accepted by the most loyal follower of our present Conservative leaders. The majority of the essentials and many of the details are part and parcel of strict Tory doctrines.

In truth much of this national Blackshirt policy has already been initiated by the National Blackshirts? The answer lies in the one word—Action!

But if my analysis is correct, surely there cannot be any fundamental difference of outlook between the Blackshirts and their parents the Conservatives? For let us make no mistake about that parentage. The briefest study of the movement and the most casual examination of its members satisfy one that it is largely derived from the Conservative Party.

This is perhaps natural, for the instincts are the same. Loyalty to the throne and love of country. 'With these two powerful bonds, surely the relationship can be made closer and more friendly.'

If a socialist were to describe the relationship between Tories and fascists as a parental one, he would probably be criticized for being a bit extreme. However, on this occasion it was a right-wing Conservative MP, and he had no qualms about acknowledging paternity. The Tories were not so sensitive then.

Of course Sir Thomas Moore was an extreme right winger and it might be thought unfair to choose his views on Mosley as an example of Tory thinking. However, Moore's article was

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BBC 1

6.00 a.m. BBC Election 70. Morning round-up and the results throughout the day. 2.25 p.m. Royal Ascot. 4.40 Banana splits. 5.15 BBC Election 70. Results round-up.

5.50 NEWS and weather.

6.00 WORLD CUP GRANDSTAND.

6.30 THE DOCTORS. 6.50 THE VIRGINIAN. 'High Stakes'.

8.00 BBC ELECTION 70. The battle for Downing Street. 8.50 NEWS and weather.

9.10 THE FORSYTE SAGA. 'Afternoon at Ascot'.

10.00 HITCHCOCK AT THE NFT. Hitchcock describes his work.

11.00 'A QUESTION OF HONOUR'. Play by Don Shaw set in the grounds of a French chateau in the early days of the First World War. 11.30 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as BBC 1 except:

Midlands and E Anglia: 11.32 News, weather. Weekend prospects for anglers. Road works report.

North of England, South and West, Scotland: 11.32 News, weather.

Wales: 6.30-6.50 Wales today, weather. 6.50-7.15 Ethelroad. 7.15-7.40 Dyma wall. 7.40-8.00 Week in week out. 11.32 Weather.

N Ireland: 11.00-11.45 Election post-script. 11.45 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL.

7.30 p.m. NEWS and weather.

8.00 WHEELBASE. 'How We Won Le Mans'.

8.25 VILLETTE. 'A Mighty Revelation'.

9.10 THE BEETHOVEN SYMPHONIES. Otto Klemperer conducts Symphony No. 1, in C major and Symphony No. 2 in D major.

10.20 'KYOTO'. Film about Japanese gardes narrated by Sir Michael Redgrave.

10.55 NEWS summary and weather.

11.00 LINE-UP.

ITV

7.00 a.m. Election 70. 4.35 p.m. Zingalong. 4.50 Arthur. 5.15 Tom Grattan's war. 5.45 News.

5.55 WORLD CUP 1970. 6.30 PEYTON PLACE.

7.00 WHEEL OF FORTUNE.

7.30 GUNSMOKE. 'The Victim'.

8.30 DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE. 'May the Best Man...'

9.00 MANHUNT. 'Little Man, What Next?' Part two. 10.00 NEWS.

10.30 TWO SHOT GOLF. Introduced by Sean Connery. Dave Marr (US) v Christie O'Connor (GB).

11.00 THE SCIENTISTS. 11.45 OUT OF TOWN. 12.05 a.m. MAGIC MAN.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 4.35 Captain Scarlet. 5.00 Skippy. 5.30 Houseparty. 5.45 London. 5.55 Report. 6.20 News, weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Dr in the house. 7.30 Movie: 'Bedevilled' with Anne Baxter and Steve Forest. 9.00 London. 10.30 Eddie in August. 11.00 London. 11.40 News, weather.

SOUTHERN: 7.00 London. 4.35 Thunderbirds. 5.20 Houseparty. 5.45 London. 6.30 Day by day. Scene South-East. 7.00 London. 7.30 Weekend. 7.35 Dr in the house. 8.05 Hawaii Five-O. 9.00 London. 10.30 NYPD. 11.00 London. 11.45 News. 11.55 Weather. Action 70.

HARLECH: 7.00 London. 4.35 p.m. Thunderbirds. 5.30 Report. 5.45 London. 6.30 News. 7.00 Film: 'King Richard and

the Crusaders' with Rex Harrison, Laurence Harvey, George Sanders and Virginia Mayo. The Christian nations of Europe are waging the Third Crusade. 11.52, 9.00, 11.45 News. 11.45 Weather.

HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 5.30 Arthur. 5.38-5.45 Gustavus. 5.55-6.35 Scene West.

ANGLIA: 7.00 London. 4.35 Lost in space. 5.25 About Anglia. 5.45 London. 6.25 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 It takes a thief. 8.00 Joker's wild. 8.30 London. 10.30 The scientists. 11.15 Movie: 'The Burglar' with Jayne Mansfield, Dan Duryea, and Martha Vickers. Jayne Mansfield is partner to a burglar. 12.52 Reflection.

ITV MIDLANDS: 7.00 London. 4.35 Thunderbirds. 5.25 Women today. 5.45 London. 6.25 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 London. 8.30 London. 10.30 That girl. 11.00 London. 11.45 Plus, weather.

ULSTER: 7.00 London. 4.35 News. 4.40 Lost in space. 5.30 News. 5.45 London. 5.45 London. 6.30 News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Predict. 7.35 Saint. 8.30 London. 11.45 Living and growing.

YORKSHIRE: 7.00 London. 4.35 Rainbow country. 5.00 Tom Grattan's war. 5.30 Crossroads. 6.30 News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 7.30 Dr in the house. 8.00 It takes a thief. 9.00 London. 10.30 Scientists. 11.15 Movie: 'Shadow of a Doubt' with Anne Morell and Barbara Shelley. 12.40 News.

BORDER: 7.00 London. 4.35 Lost in space. 5.30 News. Lookaround. 5.45 London. 6.30 News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Report. 7.35 Bracken's world. 8.30 Albert and Victoria. 9.00 London. 11.45 News, weather.

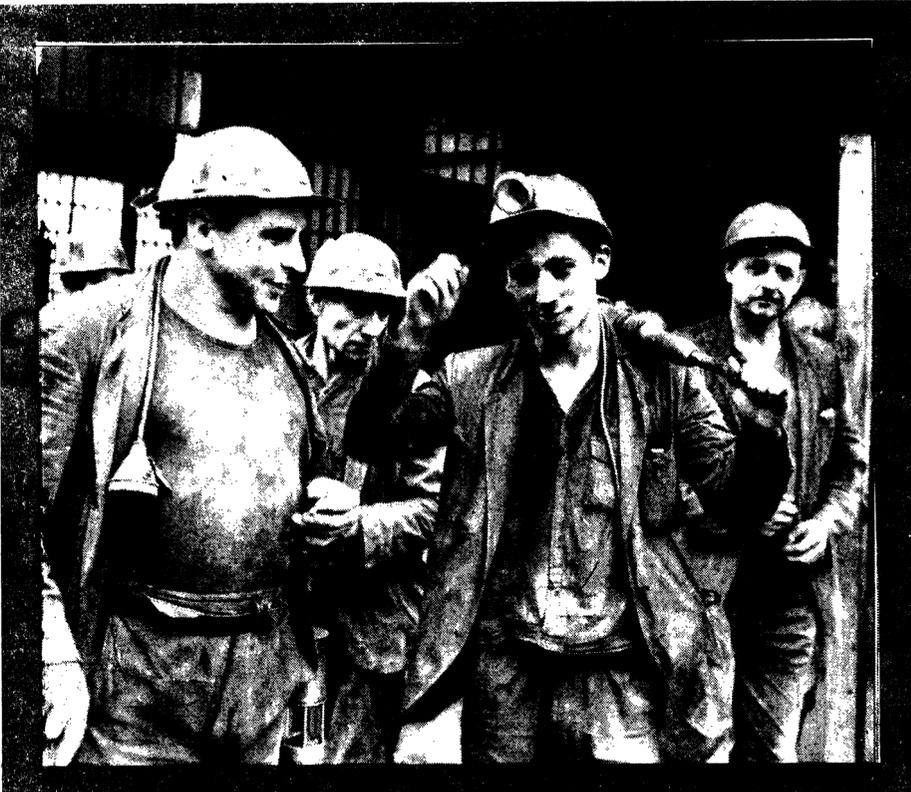
SCOTTISH: 7.00 London. 4.35 Phoenix five. 5.00 Lene ranger. 5.30 Scotland five. 6.30 News. 6.35 Name of the game. 7.00 London. 7.30 Name of the game. 8.30 London. 10.30 In camera. 11.00 London. 11.45 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 7.00 London. 4.35 Land of the giants. 5.30 News. 5.45 London. 6.30 Pop scotch. 7.00 London. 7.30 Preview. 7.35 Name of the game. 8.30 London. 10.30 Finders seekers. 11.00 London.

BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by
PETER BUSH

Asturias— a record of struggle



'EL MOVIMIENTO OBRERO EN ASTURIAS'

By David Ruiz

Amigos de Asturias
S.A. Editorial
175 pesetas

Asturian miners finish their shift.

THE ASTURIAN working class has been one of the most important sources of leadership in the Spanish working class during this century.

In 1934 it set up a Soviet, which was brutally repressed. In 1936, after Franco's insurrection, the Asturian miners quickly defeated the fascists, and became the shock force of the Second Republic.

In 1970, as the Workers Press has reported, their strike action is striking at the heart of Franco's regime, and is exposing the role of Stalinism.

It is the task of miners in Britain and Spain to understand

their defeats at the hands of Social Democracy and Stalinism in the struggle against Stalinism today to build a Trotskyist leadership.

David Ruiz's history of the Asturian working class from the introduction of industrialization to the Second Republic is one of the first books to attempt a detailed analysis of the political experience of this leading section of the Spanish working class.

FACTS

However, his work is that of a labour historian fascinated by the facts of history, not that of a Marxist wishing to draw lessons from the defeats of the Spanish working class in order to construct a revolutionary leadership in the period of absolute decline of imperialism today.

His empiricist method allows him only a fragmented discussion of the impact of the crises of imperialism on the leadership and organization of the Spanish working class.

It is not, as Ruiz puts it, that the working class has always lacked 'the clear monolithic

ideas' it needs in order to 'unite revolutionary Marxism with political opportunism'.

A fight is necessary in the Spanish working class for Marxist organization, based on the lessons of the international working class, and in particular on those of the betrayals of Social Democracy and Stalinism, as analysed by Lenin and Trotsky.

Spanish capitalism was the late weak off-spring of the expanding capitalism of Belgium, France and England.

Thus the Spanish middle class was never able to make its own

Michael Bakunin



bourgeois revolution; repeated attempts at democratic reforms have led to the imposition by capital of autocratic regimes and military dictatorship.

LIMITED

In Spain, as in Russia, it is only the working class which can lead the struggle for democratic reforms and consolidate them in a Socialist Revolution.

As we shall see, the Spanish Socialist Party always limited its programme to one of democratic reforms (the line now followed, of course, by the Spanish Communist Party).

In the Asturias of the 19th century, the small Spanish coal-mining companies were rapidly concentrated into two large companies by foreign capital. The French capitalist Jaquet led one series of mergers, which was completed by the formation of the Duro-Felgueros company in 1900.

In 1844, British capital formed the Asturian mining company, which was taken over by the French capitalists in 1851.

Guilhon, the French financier,

in this project succeeded also in controlling the Langreo railway in Asturias, constructed by a company in which he had capital.

The mining company was finally merged in 1879 into the Fabrica de Mieres. The coal in Asturias was difficult to mine because of the inaccessibility of the coal-seams, and despite the use of foreign techniques, had difficulty in competing with French and British coal on the foreign and domestic markets.

Thus the Asturian working class was involved from its creation in struggle with ruthless employers in a crisis-ridden industry.

In the 1870s three sections of the First International for the conception of a centralized revolutionary party was reflected in the Spanish section.

Paul Lafargue won a leading group, F. Mora, J. Mesa and P. Iglesias, to this conception, away from the anarchism which

dominated the Spanish working class and peasantry.

This group formed the nucleus of the Spanish Socialist Party, but their Marxism was a dogmatic formula, an abstract theory of history. P. Iglesias and Vigil led the campaign for party-building in the Asturias. They continually advised a programme of class-collaboration more or less veiled in Marxist phrases.

It was the same programme which provided the education of the Sindicato Minero, the miners' union, formed by Party militants in Asturias.

The arrogant, bureaucratic attitude of Social Democracy towards the working class is



Paul Lafargue

dominated in Vigil's attack on a group of anarchists:

'In the beginning, the leaders of the working-class movement were relatively educated people, but when the organization expanded to include all workers, a few anarchists were able to enter.'

The period of the First World War, in which Spain was neutral, was a temporary economic boom for the Asturian coal-owners, who were able to take advantage of the involvement of the imperialists' industry in the war effort to take more of the market.

The leaders of the SM and the SNT, the anarchist-led union, were forced by their members to call strikes for improvement in conditions and wages. In 1916 they won a 20 per cent wage increase.

However, the opportunist leaders of the Socialist Party and the SM fostered trade union illusions in the possibility of the reform of capitalism. Like the leaders of the Social Democracy of the Second International, they limited the struggle of the working class to what seemed to be possible.

They did not penetrate below the surface form of the struggle to its real content—the revolutionary struggle of the working class.

In contrast, Lenin correctly saw that the world crisis of imperialism posed before the world working class the task of constructing a Marxist leadership for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of socialism.

This task required an understanding of Marxism and an irreconcilable fight against bourgeois, trade union illusions in the working class, to build the Marxist party.

REPRESSION

A general strike in August 1917, called by the CNT and the UGT (the national union of the Socialist Party) led to the suppression of the Spanish parliament and vicious military repression of the working class.

The end of the war brought crisis back for the Asturian employers. The crisis forced the opportunist leaders of the SM quickly to the right, as they found themselves faced with the threat of wage-cuts and unemployment.

Like Will Paynter, former NUM leader, they answered the crisis of capitalism by becoming more closely tied to the capitalist state.

This was what seemed 'pos-

sible'. This is what all trade union leaders of the left or right reformist variety inevitably do when the working class needs to overthrow capitalism.

CRISIS

In 1921 the SM and the Association of Employers called on the government to make the railways use Spanish coal.

The employers used the opportunist union leaders as a pressure group against the government, by getting them to call a strike which they supported by closing the mines. This was successful in staving off the crisis only temporarily.

The employers had caused the crisis by their expansion during the war years and now expected their workers to pay for their vanished markets.

Llaneza, SM leader, answered his left critics—and Spanish sympathizers of the Bolsheviks in this way:

'If what were happening were only a problem for the bosses and the capitalists we would not only be overjoyed but would provoke the precipitation of the crisis; but in this situation it is the working class which suffers the direct consequences of the disaster, which is faced with a dark future full of worry, and we who move within this reality, to attenuate or avoid this critical situation, agree—because there is nothing else we can do but agree—with the other elements, threatened not with hunger but with the loss of their capital.'

'And our action in defence of our interests is called collaboration by some who wish to discredit the leaders of this organization and others who wish only to hide their own misdeeds.'

However the call of the Communist opposition for strike action gathered strength among the rank and file.

At the end of 1921 the bosses demanded a 50 per cent wage-cut in piecework rates and overtime.

In June 1922 the bosses refused to increase tonnage and maintain present rates, these demands having been forced through the SM by a Communist group in the union.

A regional congress of SM delegates demanded an all-out strike.

The bosses, drawing strength from the softness of the trade



Dolores Ibaruri

union leaders, were becoming more authoritative and demanded civil order from the Governor of Asturias—'because the miners have given proof of their common sense before, but now there are two tendencies operating within them'.

The opportunist Llaneza responded immediately by minimizing the original SM demands and declaring a 20 per cent reduction in rates was necessary.

At a strike meeting Llaneza and the union executive proceeded to make a call against the strike, lost to the Communist minority, but got a vote of confidence to lead the movement.

The strike lasted during June and July.

In this time the employers and the union got together to negotiate a sell-out, finally making a 'compromise' for a return to work of a 5 per cent reduction in wages and a 20 per cent increase in production. The bourgeoisie, faced with militant action by the working

class, turned to a Bonapartist solution, in the form of the dictatorship of Primo de Rivero. This dictatorship rested heavily on the trade union and Social Democratic bureaucracy in the labour movement.

The concessions already made by the latter had prepared them well for greater participation in the state machinery of capitalism.

Llaneza was ready to help Primo to set up his Mussolini-style 'worker-employer councils'.

This collaboration was opposed by the CNT and the Spanish Communist Party. The CP, formed in 1921, by militant sections of the CNT, UGT and Socialist Party, had considerable support among the Asturian working class, yet its role is seen as only that of a ginger group by Ruiz, who does not bother to analyse the level of its theoretical development.

In 1927 the coal-owners ordered the face workers to accept a 12 per cent wage cut and to work one hour extra.

COMPROMISE

This was accepted by Primo and the union agreed to a compromise of a 6 per cent wage-cut and half an hour extra—to avoid men being sacked'.

Delegates from 68 sections of the SM heard Llaneza oppose a strike call.

'The strike would be dangerous because we would be declared rebels against what has been agreed in our country. The struggle would be against our present government, and English coal would enter in sufficient quantities for industrial and domestic consumption, sacking workers and making their families hungry.'

A minority forced a vote to be taken: 4,575 against strike action and 3,786 for it.

Llaneza received his reward—an offer of a place in the dictator's Consultative Assembly. The Asturian working class did not, however, follow the example of their 'leader'.

Within days of voting against strike action they came out on strike, but were soon eventually by their rotten leadership.

The CNT and the Communist Party were ineffectual in preventing this, but again no analysis is given of their role by Ruiz.

By fighting always for what seemed to be possible, the trade union leaders opened the way for massive defeats of their membership. As a result of German and British dumping, in 1928 4,000 miners were sacked. The SM was completely disorganized; membership had fallen from 20,000 in 1921 to 3,000 in 1929.

The working class in the mines sought the way for dictatorship in a series of strike actions, but these were limited to calls for a bourgeois republic by the Social Democratic leaders.

As a Socialist Party statement put it in 1930:

'Although it is not ours [i.e., not our Republic] we must protect it from the extremism of the right and of the left.'

Meanwhile, the CP in its Pamplona Congress had condemned the Maurin group in Catalonia and the Bolsheviks of Nalon, in Asturias, as Trotskyists, and had elected Dolores Ibaruri, 'La Passionaria', to its central committee.

This was the rotten preparation the Asturian and Spanish working class had for their heroic struggles in the Civil War.

The British working class must learn from the degeneration of such leaders as Llaneza the necessary lessons to defeat the similar betrayals which are now being worked out by the TUC, as it moves closer to the employers: not to fight for 'possible reforms' from a capitalist class in crisis, but to construct a Marxist party to overthrow the capitalist system.

NEW YORK'S construction workers hit the headlines last month in their support-the-flag marches and the assaults on peaceful anti-war demonstrators.

The 'hard hat' was projected in the press as a symbol of support for the establishment, Nixon and the Vietnam war.

What is the background to this situation? The US building worker is every day involved in a struggle to defend his craft skills and associated conditions against the contractor seeking to maximise his profits.

The employers constantly try to cut down on the number of craftsmen on their sites and substitute workers with a minimum

US Round-up

Negroes cannot enter certain trades and are largely confined to labouring.

These conditions, and more particularly the relations between the business agents and the building employers, provided the key to the May 20 demonstration in support of Nixon and the Vietnam war and the participation in it of thousands of construction workers.

The union officials simply told the contractors that the men would be off work that day on full pay.

symbol, said the president of the Building Trades Council of Greater New York, Peter Brennan, 'along with our great flag, for freedom and patriotism to our beloved country.'

The purpose of the union leaders' visit was not primarily patriotic, but to build up in a demonstrative way what they regard as political capital for the future.

This is supposedly to be used in behind-the-scenes pressure on Nixon at a later date to strengthen the bureaucracy's own position.

There is some basis for the bureaucracy to proceed in this way.

Recently, for example, Nixon warned Congress leaders that he would veto legislation on reform of the postal service if this included measures against the closed shop.

Not that Nixon is any friend of labour.

He was simply 'swopping favours' with AFL-CIO President George Meany who helped to get the post office strikers back to work last March.

Said Nixon 'When George Meany makes a deal, he keeps his word, and I intend to keep mine'.

The union bureaucracies will not be able to play this game for much longer.

The US economic crisis brings relentlessly nearer major collisions between labour and capital and leaves less and less room for concessions to the unions, whatever the political services their heads may render to Nixon's or any other administration.

It should be remembered that a year after sections of London dockers marched for Powell, they struck solidly against the government's anti-union White Paper 'In Place of Strife'.

It is the deepening economic crisis which drives on the development of the political consciousness in the working class.

This is decisive whatever other forces—like the opportunist of the traditional working class leadership—may intervene temporarily.

Nixon's refusal to don his 'Commander-in-Chief' hard hat may well have been due to an unconscious political premonition.

THE TRAVEL AGENT: Have gun

WHEN Ohio National Guardsmen gunned down four Kent State University students protesting against the extension of Nixon's war in Indo-China, Workers Press warned that their real fire was directed against the working class.

Striking confirmation of this warning came with the news that the Guardsmen involved were fresh from strike-breaking against US Teamsters.

The American working class, of course, is no stranger to violent police repression—combined judiciously with the activities of vigilante strike-breakers and provocateurs.

And the old methods are now coming back.

According to this week's issue of the US news weekly 'Time', when student protesters from the University of California in Santa Barbara took to the streets of Isla Vista against the indictment of 17 students for an alleged attack on a bank the County Board of Supervisors imposed a 7.30 p.m. curfew on the whole community.

The Los Angeles County sheriff's riot squad was called in to enforce the curfew, and, by the time the curfew was lifted at the end of last week, there had been 667 arrests—many of them involving university staff and local residents. Complaints of indiscriminate police brutality mounted.

'Time' also reports on another aspect of US police activity amongst students, which, while again involving students, is another sharp warning to the whole labour movement.

Last month, it appears, two first-year students at New York State's Hobart College, Geneva, were arrested in connection with an alleged fire-bomb attack on the college's officers' training corps headquarters.

Some months previously, a young man claiming to be an organizer for the 'new left' Students for a Democratic Society had appeared at the college—talking left, acting wild and willing to instruct students on the uses of the M1 carbine and on the construction of various types of fire-bomb.

Then on June 5, the young man—who called himself 'Tommy the Traveller'—arrived at the college in Ontario County Sheriff Ray Morrow's car, carrying a hand-gun, accompanied by a deputy sheriff and several Geneva city police, and backed up by two dozen riot police.

It was a marijuana raid and revealed 'Tommy the Traveller'

'Tommy the Traveller'.



will travel

—later identified as Thomas or Singkata Tongyai—as a police agent.

There then emerged a tale of similar exploits—involving either Tongyai or someone very much like him—at colleges throughout the northern part of New York State and stretching back three years.

Whose employee Tongyai really was during this time—Sheriff Morrow's office admits only that he had been working for them for two-and-a-half months—is not clear.

Appearing on CBS Television's 'Evening News' programme, however, Morrow defended his activities as necessary to build up his credibility amongst radical students.

N.B. Readers of the Workers Press will remember that we drew attention earlier this year to reports that one participant in the Whitehall adventure staged by the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign on January 25, when jumped on by six uniformed constables, obtained his release by shouting 'Special Branch! Special Branch!'

We have been warned.

HARD HATS HEMMED IN



Nixon accepts hard hat from building union leaders.

of rudimentary knowledge picked up on the job.

These conditions tie the worker very closely to his craft union.

His union representative becomes the vital means of negotiating a whole range of issues—wages, bonus, the number from each craft employed on every site and so on.

The union representatives, aptly called 'business agents', are in a powerful position and, not surprisingly, corruption is rife.

Often this takes the form of men not possessing full skills repaying the business agents 'favours' by relaying back information from the sites.

Workers who play ball with the agents are assured of jobs on the lucrative sites, especially the big skyscraper blocks, whereas the others face lower-paid work on housing developments and road building.

The construction industry is notorious for its colour bar.

Each worker had to sign for the day's pay and demonstrate or lose his money.

There is no shortage, as already explained, of those having a vested interest in keeping an eye open for anyone who signed on but then slipped away.

The business agents had no altruistic motives in mobilizing support for Nixon.

In turning out the demonstration they were taking their cue from the rapprochement between Nixon and their union leaders over the war.

Wheeling-and-dealing between the politicians and labour leaders is more open in the US than in Britain as these events illustrate.

The chiefs of New York's construction unions, accompanied by their colleagues of the longshoremen's union, visited Nixon just after the May 20 demonstration, presenting the President with a building worker's hard hat inscribed 'Commander in Chief'.

'The hard hat will stand as a

Italian schools, papers, civil service hit by strikes

ALMOST half-a-million Italian schoolteachers are boycotting the end-of-year examinations and marking of papers following the government's refusal to meet their full demands.

They are claiming £13-a-month increase, reform of the school system and improvements in working conditions.

Since all Italian school children must pass their end-of-year exams to be 'promoted' into the next class, the boycott faces the government with administrative chaos.

24-hour strike

No newspapers were published yesterday as printworkers called another 24-hour stoppage in their campaign for a new labour contract.

And top civil servants — heads of departments and equivalent — started an indefinite stoppage yesterday for pay increases.

They are seeking the restoration of differentials and guaranteed protection in any re-organization of the state apparatus.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Christian Democratic Party leadership, ostensibly called to 'digest' the results of the June 7 regional elections, Party secretary Forlani cautiously mooted the Christian-Democratic proposal to make the right to strike 'subject to the law'.

This may be proposed as part of a Bill which would include legally enforceable recognition of the trade unions.

The Italian Communist Party has already denounced any attempt to curtail the right to strike.

Not peaceful

But this cannot be resolved through any peaceful approach to class relations.

The Christian Democrats and virulently anti-communist Social Democrats were careful not to rule out of court the offer by the fascist organization (MSI), made after they had registered important gains in the regional elections, to support any administration which definitely excluded the CP.

Argentina

New regime faces Cordoba strikers

IN ARGENTINA President Levingston, appointed by the military junta which deposed General Onganía, faces a determined general strike in the city of Cordoba, one of S America's main industrial centres.

While national trade union leaders in Buenos Aires prepared to open negotiations with the new president, the Cordoba trade unions called the strike earlier this week in support of workers at the Fiat and Renault car works in the city.

Backdate demands by shopmen

CO-OP shopworkers at Birkenhead fear victimization because of their fight to obtain back-dating of a recent pay deal.

Local leaders of the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers, while accepting their demands 'in principle', have refused to organize strike action 'at this stage'.

They say they are waiting for the directors' decision on a list of demands presented seven days ago.

Rank-and-file members walked out of a union meeting earlier last week when one official suggested a petition and a possible demonstration as an alternative to a strike.

Co-op milkmen, the shopworkers say, have been given backdated pay to March 9 and managerial staff to March 30.

Transport and General Workers' Union members already receive better rates in some sections.

BY A WORKERS PRESS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Union chiefs refuse wage claim

FROM PAGE ONE and-motion study — how a man's going to work faster.' SOGAT members at Peckham have, in fact, already withdrawn from the exercise and there is a possibility that those in the CAWU — the majority union — may follow suit.

CAWU officials, who are clearly embarrassed by the strike, have so far refused to give it official backing.

They say instead that they will call an official dispute the morning after the next negotiations take place if, after hearing the proposals of the consultants and the AEF executive, the staff reject them.

Japanese workers win wage increase

NIXON is not alone in facing the problems of rapidly growing inflation and falling profits.

According to a report just published by the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations, industrial workers have this year won wage increases averaging 17 1/2 per cent on basic monthly rates.

The giant Mitsubishi Bank, which has holdings in most sectors of Japanese industry, claims that wage increases are outpacing possible future gains in productivity of labour.

'The considerable effect this will have on business profits and prices is cause for concern,' said the bank's research department.

Highest

The employers' survey — made on May 18 — showed that the highest wage gains had been won by engineers (20 1/2 per cent) and the lowest, coalminers (10 7/8 per cent).

Another statement — by the Fuji Bank — complains that the low level of unemployment in Japan gives the trade unions a strong bargaining position.

This is a 'major stimulant to the rapid increase in wages'.

Power

Even in the land of the Asian economic miracle, the power of the working class and the falling rate of profit — with all the attendant problems of inflation and markets — are beginning to assert themselves.

Big class battles over wages and productivity are undoubtedly on the way in Japan just as in every other major capitalist country.

Rootes' plants at a standstill

CAR PRODUCTION at Chrysler-Rootes plants in Coventry and Linwood remained at a standstill yesterday because of a manning dispute at the Scottish factory.

The strikers — members of the Transport and General Workers' Union and the National Union of Vehicle Builders — meet today to discuss progress in their fight for jobs on the press and unit machine shops to be filled by men wishing to transfer from the assembly lines.

New labour

So far, Chrysler has insisted that it must recruit new labour from outside in order to meet demand for its new Avenger model. 3,500 men are laid off at the combine's Coventry assembly plant and a further 1,700-800 have already been laid off apart from those on strike — were given similar treatment at Linwood yesterday.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS 'Fight the Tories'

OLLERTON, Saturday, June 20, 1 p.m. Plough Inn.

Censored again

M. CHABAN-DELMAS, Prime Minister in Pompidou's government, managed to take time off last week from entertaining President Ceausescu of Rumania to censor television news.

The film 'The Battle of Algiers' — about the crushing of the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN) by French paratroops — was to have been shown earlier this month in Paris cinemas, but was withdrawn following threats of violence from right-wing organizations.

A section of the news programme 'Panorama' was prepared which included a sequence showing the torture of FLN prisoners by French soldiers, followed by a debate on the issues raised by the Algerian war.

The Prime Minister's office requested the Government Agency which oversees radio and television in France (ORTF) to ban the whole feature, which it judged 'inopportune'.

To demonstrate their 'independence' the ORTF broadcast the debate without the film sequence.

Chaban-Delmas's intervention forced the resignation of Olivier Todd, director of the 'Panorama' programme, who commented:

'Under these conditions I cannot morally and journalistically assume responsibility for "Panorama".'

Soviet E. German rift widens

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

SOVIET and E German reactions to last week-end's state elections in W Germany contrast so sharply it is now evident that a serious policy split is developing between the Ulbricht regime and the Kremlin.

The Stalinist daily 'Neues Deutschland' stated bluntly that the elections in the three states 'had reflected the growing political influence of the right wing and the failure of the Social Democratic leadership to oppose it'.

And in his speech to the Socialist Unity Party 'Politbüro', Albert Norden underlined this grim appraisal of trends in W Germany.

'The exacerbation of the world-wide class confrontation between socialism and imperialism finds its expression in Europe in the fact that W German imperialism, as a result of the change of the line-up of forces in favour of socialism which is in progress, is continuing its revanchist, counter-revolutionary policy against the socialist countries,

especially the GDR, with changed methods.'

NOTED

No doubt the clause 'especially the GDR' has already been noted in Moscow.

For here, the reaction to the same election results was completely different: '... the Landtag election in the three Federal Laender clearly showed that the CDU, despite all its attempts to obstruct the development of Soviet-W German relations, was unable to block this road.'

Significantly, this favourable estimation was made in a broadcast beamed to Germany,

FEARED

The Ulbricht regime has always feared a deal between the Soviet bureaucracy and imperialism at its expense.

The successful progress of talks between Poland and the W German government, as well as the imminent conclusion of a 'non-aggression pact' between Moscow and Bonn, have certainly heightened these fears over recent weeks.

Betrayal

FROM PAGE ONE

Since the Soviet bureaucracy still recognizes the CIA-backed regime as the legal ruler of Cambodia — stated 'Cambodia was in a position to assure the Soviet government that there would be no more foreign troops stationed in Cambodia after the departure of the Vietcong and the withdrawal of the American and S Vietnamese forces of aggression.'

This is probably a reply to the letter sent by the Kremlin Ambassador in Phnom Penh to Lon Nol on May 24, which asked his regime to take measures to ensure the evacuation of American and S Vietnamese troops.

Speaking in North Korea earlier in the week, Sihanouk warned against such a deal concocted with the assistance of the Japanese, Malaysian and Indonesian governments.

'... we deny once again the right to interfere in our internal affairs to the governments of Sato (Japan), Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur and UN Secretary-General U Thant, who are trying to impose an "American peace" upon us instead of genuine peace based on genuine independence...'

THREADS

All the threads of a world-wide conspiracy against the Indo-Chinese people are clearly being drawn together by the imperialists, the Stalinists and their various intermediaries.

Enormous pressure is now being applied on the North Vietnamese government to withdraw its present full support for the Cambodian liberation movement under Sihanouk.

That is the meaning of the mission to Moscow, of the U Thant visit and of the exchange of notes between Moscow and Phnom Penh.

VERGE

And all these developments take place when the liberation forces stand on the verge of decisive military victories throughout Indo-China.

That is the measure of Stalinist treachery today.

Once again: Why vote Labour?

FROM PAGE ONE

months ago, the political content of the protest movement was middle-class reformism and classism and was therefore aimed against the working class and the struggles to build revolutionary leadership.

If yesterday the protesters believed that by protesting in Downing St they could force Wilson to turn the helm to the left, then today they imagine that by spoiling Wilson's prospects of victory they can force the Labour Party, in opposition, to do what it would not do when it was in power: adopt a socialist policy and provide a left cover for the revisionists to operate in.

As Mr Triesman characteristically put it: 'We all eagerly anticipated in 1964 and 1965, the millennium, but like all late-learners the message finally came through. Alas! Having prostrated themselves at the feet of the great god Wilson and scabbed on the Young Socialists when they were expelled by him, they have now — horror of horrors — discovered him to be a fallible Fabian and an imperialist agent to boot. Strange as it may seem, the Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists were violently accused by these reformist simpletons of being "ultra-left", "sectarian" and even "disruptive" for pointing out the character and logic of Wilson's policy only six years ago.'

Even in the land of the Asian economic miracle, the power of the working class and the falling rate of profit — with all the attendant problems of inflation and markets — are beginning to assert themselves.

Big class battles over wages and productivity are undoubtedly on the way in Japan just as in every other major capitalist country.

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'protests', stunts and adventures is like a midwife who not only confuses the first month of pregnancy for the ninth, but also tries to induce a normal birth by shouting 'revolutionary' exhortations to the patient.

In this sense the revisionist adventurer is nothing more than a political abortionist. Trotsky, in his preface to the 'History of the Russian Revolution', gives some valuable advice to his readers on the dialectic of history: 'Entirely exceptional conditions, independent of the will of persons or parties, are necessary in order to tear off from discontent the fetters of conservatism, and bring the masses to insurrection.'

The swift change of mass revolutionary moods in an epoch of revolution thus derive, not from the flexibility and mobility of man's mind, but just the opposite, from its deep conservatism.

Revisionists, Marxists do not ignore this conservatism or make a virtue out of it. On the contrary, in countries with a long parliamentary tradition and a long history of trade-union struggles, the task of revolutionaries is to dialectically comprehend this 'conservatism' and anticipate the emergence of a new revolutionary content out of this old conservative form.

The revisionists with their static, one-sided metaphysical outlook are quite unable to see the unity and conflict of opposites within the working class.

For them everything is isolated and eternally changeless. If this crazy idea is correct now, then why wasn't it correct in 1964 and 1966? Nobody heard Jordan, Blackburn or their publications calling for an abstention then. How Workers voted Labour yesterday not because they like Wilson or Brown, but because they hate, despise and fear the Tories and because they feel that they can exploit the weaknesses and contradictions of the government to their own advantage in increasing their wages and improving their working conditions.

They do not expect any great or substantial reforms from Labour like the National

Health Service. All they want is a Labour government from behind whose rickety ramparts they can continue to squeeze the profits of the employers. That is the only reason why workers will vote Labour. We think the instinct of the workers is sound, but instinct alone is not enough. We urge workers to vote Labour, but we do so fully conscious of the impending economic perils which will compound the political crisis in Britain and very rapidly bring the workers and not only the vanguard face to face with decisive political issues.

We urge them, therefore, to fight for our policy and to place no trust in Wilson. We don't make propaganda alone — we fight to move all sections of the working class against the bureaucracy.

Unlike and in contrast to the revisionists we do this not by 'injecting issues' or by forming 'ad hoc committees' which are a diversion, but by building the SLL, YS and All Trades Unions Alliance (ATUA) and by widening the influence and circulation of the Workers Press before, during and after the General Election.

In this sense there is little difference between the General Election and a strike led by a reactionary right-wing union. We support the strike while criticizing the limitations of its leadership and warning about possible betrayal. In this way we establish a definite relation with the workers and help win important sections away from the bureaucrats. In this way too we enrich our theory and practice and prepare for the bigger struggles ahead.

The revisionists are like people who refuse to support the strike because it is led by right wingers and even advise the workers on the futility of strikes and the virtues of guerrilla war and insurrection.

The strikers would predictably reject such worthless less advice with a few well-chosen words. We urge all workers, youth and students to reject this date-revisionist nonsense. Join the SLL, the YS and build a revolutionary alternative to Wilson.

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THE AUSTRALIAN LETTER

SYDNEY, June 13 — Labour camps are out, prisons are in. The ruling Liberal (Tory) government has dropped its proposals to introduce the alternative of work camps for national-service objectors.

This will no doubt delight the Australian youths who have had the courage to refuse to fight for American imperialism but it is small comfort to them to know that instead of trying to kill Vietnamese peasants and workers, or spending two and a half years suffering the heat and flies of the outback, they will instead spend two years of their young lives rotting in prison.

The government feels that in 'fairness' to the 99.8 per cent it claims willingly complied with the National Service Act, the dissenters should be jailed.

The National Service scheme was introduced in 1965. BUILDERS' labourers are back at work after a bitter and at times violent struggle over their claim for a 36-a-week increase (about £3).

The management committee of the Builders' Labourers' Federation claims the battle was 'completely successful'. They have won an interim award of £1.75 to £2.50, the exact amount the Master Builders' Association offered at the beginning of the strike.

According to union leaders an examination of 'work-value rates' will produce increases ranging from \$5.80 to \$6.30 in a few weeks time.

WHILE the workers are fighting for a few dollars extra in their pay packets, offers of money seem to drop into the laps of the people at the top.

A hue and cry went up this week when it was discovered Comalco Ltd, Australia's biggest integrated aluminium producer, had offered thousands of shares to members of various state governments, their wives and families.

Premier of Queensland, Mr G. Chalk, is listed as having 1,500 and members of his family 1,000.

Comalco Ltd is raising \$35,750,000 in exchange for a 10 per cent interest in the company, which has most of its interests in Queensland.

The remaining 90 per cent is owned by Conzinc Riotinto of Australia Ltd and the US Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Corporation.

Comalco's shares were issued at \$2.75 each. They joined the public list on Thursday of this week (June 10) at \$6.

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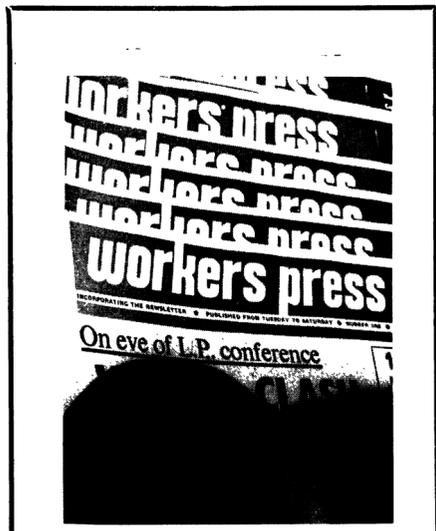
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LATE NEWS

'BLUE' DOCKERS MEET ON DEVLIN London members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers met yesterday to discuss whether they would accept the port employers' pay-and-conditions offer Phase Two of the Devlin 'modernization' scheme.

Implementation has been delayed by the 'Blue' union's refusal to accept terms already agreed by the Transport and General Workers' Union. NAS&D official Ron Webb today that no statement would be issued by the union on its attitude until constituent committees had heard a report-back from yesterday's meeting.

CARS GIANT DENIES SACK REPORTS British-Leyland, the giant

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