

workers press

The daily organ of the Central Committee of the Socialist Labour League

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Not a penny on the basic wage

Reject Pearson Report

AS THE Workers Press predicted, the Tories' 'independent' court of inquiry into the docks' dispute has supported the port employers to the hilt and rejected completely the dockers' demand for the £20 basic wage.

SUPPORT MOUNTS IN THE UNIONS

LIVERPOOL'S 6/75 branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, embracing dredgers, floating crane workers, lockmen and other dockworkers on the engineering side, has

EXPRESSED full support for the dockers' struggle.

REALIZED that the docks section is in the forefront of the struggle against a most determined employer and the Tory government.

URGED the union's executive to use all its forces to win the strike and

ASKED that they consider a general levy.

THE HULL branch of the National Union of Seamen has donated £150 to the Hull strike committee.

Docks members of the Transport and General Workers' Union have collected £205 for 'Blue' union members who receive no strike pay.

THE SHOP stewards committee of Armstrong Patents, Beverley, East Yorks, has carried a resolution of full support for the dockers' strike.

Contrary to the extravagant speculations of the capitalist press, Lord Pearson has given the dockers nothing except the advice to swallow the employers' modernization schemes hook, line and sinker.

There is to be not one penny increase on the basic wage.

After telling the dockers that they are 'by no means underpaid' and that they 'would find it difficult to sustain a valid claim for an increase in wages, even by way of interim relief... on the grounds of inadequacy of total remuneration', the report goes on to say:

If without any increase in productivity there is a general increase in the minimum time rate, the resulting addition to the industry's wage bill would be excessively large. We think also that by reason of the inflationary effect there could be damage to the national economy.

Pearson therefore recommends that the dockers should accept the employers' offer to increase the fall-back guarantee to £20 a week, with some additional payments in regard to overtime, holiday pay and modernization payments.

The report recommends: ● The guarantee should be applied on a daily basis of £4 a day as minimum wage for an eight-hour day without overtime.

● For calculating overtime

BY MARTIN ZARROP

premiums there should be a special overtime calculator of 8s an hour instead of the present 5s 6d an hour.

● Holiday pay should be at the rate of £20 a week instead of the present £16 15s 7d.

● Modernization payment of 1s 6d and in principle the additional 6d should be paid across the board.

Little wonder that within the hour the port employers stated that they were willing to accept the report's recommendations!

Crumbs

For a few crumbs, they would have the way wide open for the rationalization of the docks at the expense of the dockers.

Indeed, the report makes it clear that at the centre of the national dock strike is the implementation of Devlin Phase Two:

'For the good of the industry and the nation as a whole, the further progress of the transitional process [modernization]... should be actively pursued and nothing should be done to hinder it. That is more important than the issues arising in this industry, which have a temporary character.' (Our emphasis.)

Quite so. Above all, the employers and their Tory representatives require Devlin on the docks and with it speed-up, wage freeze and unemployment for the dockers. For the Tory government, this is an essential prerequisite for the introduction of anti-union legislation towards the end of the year, using unemployment as the big stick. The dock strike is therefore not an economic struggle being waged by one section of workers, but a political struggle against the employers and the Tory government.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 9



A Southampton docker demands action against blacklegs.

'NO' TO BANANA BOATS

DOCKERS in S Wales ports yesterday rejected a proposition to join Barry dockers in unloading stranded banana boats carrying over £250,000 worth of fruit.

Impressive march by London men

BY JOHN SPENCER

LONDON DOCKERS rallied in an impressive display of solidarity when they marched 2,500-strong from dock gate meetings to Tower Hill yesterday.

The entire No. 1 docks group area — including London, Tilbury, Felixstowe, Ramsgate, Shoreham, Newhaven and Dover, some of them outside the dock labour scheme — are out on strike.

But platform speakers both at Tower Hill and earlier outside the Royal Group of Docks made little or no effort to prepare their audience to meet the Pearson Report.

While dockers' pickets expressed their complete hostility to handling perishable cargoes on any terms, No. 1 docks group chairman Maurice Foley told Royal dockers he had informed the Port of London Authority that if the minister of the day gave a guarantee that prices would be held down by law such cargoes would be unloaded.

Pickets indignantly rejected this idea: 'As far as we're concerned we won't let any volunteers go through,' said one group outside the Victoria docks. 'We will not shift any perishable goods.'

POSITION

Maurice Nichol, a 'Blue' union member from the Royal docks, summed up the pickets' opposition to the proposal when he told Workers Press: 'I support that no perishable cargoes will be shifted. We are strong now and we won't fall for that old government trick. If we move perishables we might as well abandon the strike and go straight back to work.'

At the Tower Hill meeting, before proposing a vote on thanks to the Metropolitan Police, Foley repeated his proposal, and was backed by group secretary Peter Shea.

Shea told the meeting he thought the issue of perishable cargoes was 'always a debatable one', and added that he hoped to see a satisfactory end to the strike by the end of the week.

'Our general secretary has said that if something substantial is forthcoming from the Pearson Report, he will put it to the delegate conference—but it will have to be substantial.'

Jones' idea of what constitutes a substantial offer is obviously radically different from the dockers: he is putting the Pearson recommendations to a delegate conference tomorrow.

At the Royal docks yesterday morning, strikers made it clear that a Pearson-style settlement will be entirely unacceptable.

Strike committee member Ernie Rice, for example, said: 'We could never tolerate a position where someone wants to raise the basic by only £1 or £2. We could never tolerate a position where it would be below the minimum guarantee we "enjoy" at the moment.'

Bonn-Soviet pact will not defend USSR

SOVIET and W German diplomats begun talks in Moscow yesterday aimed at finalizing a treaty to renounce the use of force between the two states.

If successful, these talks are expected in both Bonn and Moscow to create closer political links between the governments of E and W Europe.

The widening of trade relations is also very much dependent on the outcome of the present negotiations.

The W German team, led by Foreign Minister Walter Scheel, was greeted on its arrival on Sunday night by Scheel's Soviet opposite number, Andrei Gromyko.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

The Gomulka regime in Poland, which has been negotiating directly with Bonn for the final recognition of its post-war western Oder-Neisse frontier is far more enthusiastic.

A Polish broadcast on the subject last week noted 'A distinct will [by Brandt] to conclude a treaty with the Soviet Union.'

Play off

Referring to 'the maturing of the fruitful dialogue of the Bonn-Soviet talks', the same broadcast openly advocated the continuation of capitalism in the western half of Germany, simply calling for 'the reconstruction of the role and importance of the German capitalist state in European politics, or even world politics'.

Both the Gomulka and Kosygin governments aim to play off German imperialism and the Soviet Union.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 8

JUST OFF THE PRESS

Working-class unity needed to defeat the Tory government

THE 1970 DOCK STRIKE

Cavanagh

A SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE PAMPHLET PRICE 6d

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Southampton dockers anxious

FEARS of full acceptance of the Pearson Report prompted the decision by Southampton dockers yesterday to send a large delegation to lobby the next docks delegates meeting.

'Too many people,' said strike committee member Don Cox, 'will try to settle for anything.'

Once again the meeting unanimously reaffirmed its decision last week not to move perishable goods despite the pleas from Jones and O'Leary. It also made clear what sort

● PAGE FOUR COL. 2

Hull committee retreats on £20

A MEETING of fewer than 500 of Hull's 3,700 dockers was today persuaded by strike committee chairman Harry Spavin to mandate their docks delegates to seek a basic £16 wage.

Spavin explained that the whole docks delegate conference had been mandated before the strike to claim £16 and he asked for that to be repeated.

This, of course, amounts to abandoning the £20 claim

PHOTO - P.A.

and if adhered to could split Hull from the other ports. The vote was taken before many dockers realized its implications. When some of them argued that this undermined the £20 claim, they were told by Spavin that a vote had already been taken.

'Flexible'

Spavin—who in 1966 introduced a Moral Re-armament film at the dockers' club—told the Hull men yesterday that the delegates, of which he is one, would have to be flexible if the offer was slightly less than £16.

They could not tie T&GWU docks officer Mr O'Leary to a definite figure, and that if the delegate conference voted to accept less than £16 they would have to go back to work.

DEP joins ban on Workers Press

ANOTHER government department — the Department of Employment and Productivity — has joined the ban on Workers Press by refusing to release an advance copy of a report of the utmost importance to the working class.

Yesterday morning the DEP press office refused to release a copy of the Pearson report to a Workers Press journalist and told him that he would have to wait until noon, the general publication time.

This was despite the fact that other journalists were already studying their Reports at the DEP and

that some were given their copies after our reporter made his request at 10.30 a.m.

A DEP press officer said that he was only giving advance copies to members of the Labour and Industrial Correspondents Group.

Our industrial correspondent David Maude's application for membership of the Group was voted down in January this year.

Yesterday's DEP action confirms the statement of a CIR press officer (reported

in Friday's Workers Press) that this ban is being applied by ALL government departments.

The application of the ban on such an important report as Pearson's — containing vital information for the dockers' struggle — emphasizes forcibly the necessity of the campaign to demand that the Workers Press is admitted to the Group.

We call as a matter of great urgency on all trade unionists to submit resolutions to shop stewards' committees, union branches and trades councils demanding the lifting of the ban.

THE LIFE of Oliver Cromwell should have provided the basis for a great dramatic film.

That 'Cromwell' (Odeon Leicester Square) should be so unsatisfactory and fail to do justice to the potential richness of its subject is an indication of the complete inability of the establishment and all those liberals who surround them to face up to the real meaning of the great events that were enacted in English society in the 17th century or to understand the powerful, dominant role which Oliver Cromwell played in them.

In no country as in Britain has the real role and history of the bourgeoisie and its rise to power been so consistently and consciously distorted.

In most schools the events of this period are completely ignored or if they find their way into the syllabus they do so only in the most superficial and shallow way.

At worst the revolutionary events of the 1640s are presented merely as a conflict of personalities between Charles I and Cromwell.

At best the upheavals are seen as an expression of religious differences or as a struggle

REVIEW

REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL LOST IN LIBERAL SHADOWS

between the forces of 'democracy' and 'reaction'. And once the King was executed and the period of Cromwellian 'dictatorship' brought to an end, English history resumed its 'normal' course, with the gradual extension of parliamentary democracy and freedom.

Thus the Fabians would cut Cromwell and the Civil War down to size and assimilate them both into the mainstream of 'our' history.

Cromwell's 'greatness' like that of all outstanding historical figures, Lenin included, lay in the fact that he was able to sum up, to make concrete in his thoughts and actions, great and historically progressive forces.

For the historic conflicts of the 17th century were, despite all the attempts of bourgeois historians to cover up this basic fact, a conflict of great class forces, set in motion by an irreconcilable collision of economic and political interests.

What was fought out in the military, political and ideological battles of the 1640s and the years which followed was the conflict of interests between a rising bourgeoisie, based primarily on capitalist property in the towns and a decaying feudal class closely allied to the semi-Catholic Church whose power and privileges rested largely upon its landed property.

That the conflict was so sharp, violent and decisive was only an

indication of the long period—stretching perhaps over 200 years—in which the forces involved in the collision had been maturing in the womb of the old society.

And Cromwell was the central figure of the drama because, instinctively, he best understood the needs of the rising capitalist class and was most determined and ruthless in organizing and fighting for these interests against the forces of both the 'right' and the 'left'.

It was largely in his New Model Army that all the energy and force of the rising bourgeoisie was concentrated based as it was upon the small farmers and other sections of the petty bourgeoisie.

fact that he was able to summon up the forces residing in this petty bourgeoisie, call them into battle and inspire them with a sense of their historical mission.

As against both the Presbyterians, representing the bourgeoisie and standing for the restoration of a limited monarchy and the Levellers, representing the left and plebeian elements of the petty bourgeoisie, the Independents, the party of the bourgeoisie were the most determined, unswerving and clear-sighted enemies of the old feudal order.

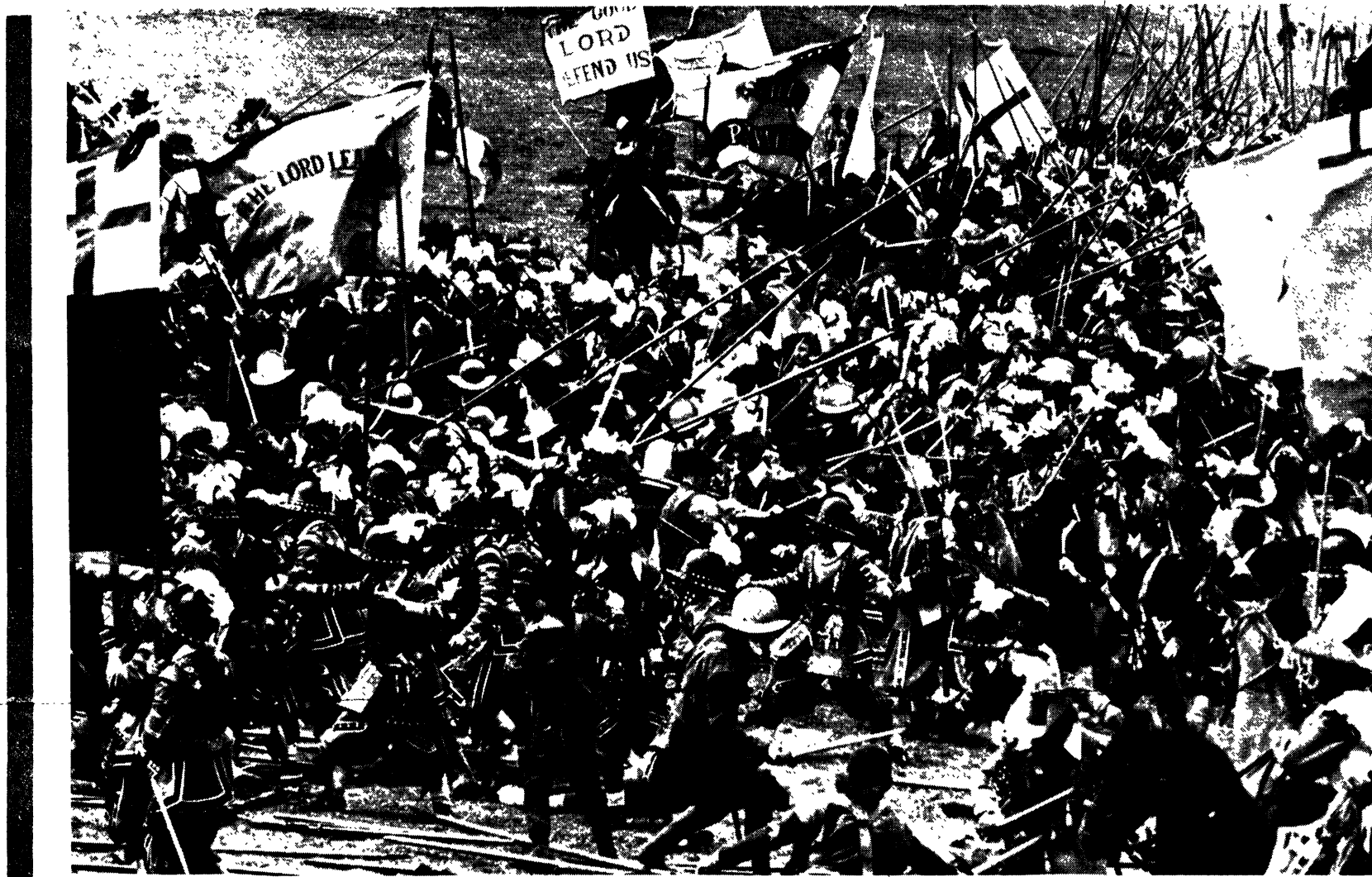
The relationships between these tendencies and their leaders, the shifts which occur in them as the struggle unfolds, reflect, therefore, the movement

In no country as in Britain has the real role of the bourgeoisie and its rise to power been so consistently and consciously distorted.



RICHARD HARRIS plays Cromwell

'CROMWELL' Starring Richard Harris, Alec Guinness, Robert Morley Directed by Ken Hughes



Cromwell's army battle it out with Royalist cavaliers (plumed hats)

of great social forces, if in a less articulate form than in the French Revolution, the classical bourgeois revolution.

To the extent that these forces enter 'Cromwell' they do so only indirectly and in a shadowy way. So, although we see Cromwell shifting his position, being, for example, driven to the left in the early stages of the conflict with Charles, there is no clear reason for his shifts.

Inevitably, Cromwell emerges as a largely unreal figure. Portrayed by Richard Harris, he appears as a brooding, shouting histrionic figure whose major declarations are invariably prefaced by a dramatic and quite irrelevant rolling of drums, and usually accompanied by the singing of heavenly choirs.

By contrast, Alec Guinness' Charles I is a much more satisfactory figure. We see a weak and vacillating monarch pushed along by forces quite outside his control: by the Queen representing the Catholic Church, by the various factions amongst his advisers, usually responding to the moves and strategies of his opponents. As such he no doubt evokes much more sympathy in the majority of his audience than does Cromwell.

But even the film's most satisfactory technical parts suffer from the general overall misconception.

Thus the battle scenes, while they give a definite idea of the better morale and discipline amongst the parliamentary forces, fail to give any real idea of the moves and strategies of his opponents.

In the early stages of the

conflict Cromwell's forces were at a severe disadvantage against an army used to the techniques of cavalry warfare.

Cromwell soon realized that unless his cavalry forces could quickly be reorganized the forces of parliament faced the prospect of rout.

But he did more than work out new tactics and methods of fighting for those under his command, important though this no doubt was.

Most decisive of all was that fact that his was a New Model Army which was, in effect, a political party, the party of the Independents, with its own political machinery.

Delegates, known as 'agitators' were appointed by the rank and file to look after their grievances and at their regular gatherings political and religious discussions were inextricably inter-mixed.

The demand for religious freedom and tolerance, with the right of each religious group to settle its own form of worship, became an important political question which largely provided the fervour and sense of mission which Cromwell instilled into his troops.

In the same way the religious dimensions of the conflict—which in the consciousness of many of the participants were certainly the dominant question—are not posed in a sharp enough way.

It is true that the battle scenes provide some indication of the part which religious conviction played among the Puritan preachers going amongst the troops to inspire them in their coming conflict.

But no attempt is made to trace the connection between these deeply held religious differences and the economic and social interests which underlay them.

But it is perhaps in its treatment of the question of 'democracy' that the film is at its weakest and seriously distorts the real relationship of forces in the revolution. Throughout, the tendency is to depict Cromwell as a staunch and consistent upholder of the freedom of 'the people' against 'unjust authority'.

This, of course, is a serious mistake. For Cromwell's relationship to the class forces throughout the struggle against the King reveal that he was the most consistent and tenacious upholder of the rights of and interests of the bourgeoisie and not of rights 'in general'.

Cromwell's role was a constant attempt, and largely successful, to balance between the forces on the one hand of those elements in the bourgeoisie, represented by the Presbyterians, who vacillated in the face of a fundamental break with the King, and the Levellers who wanted to take political and



ROBERT MORLEY plays the Earl of Manchester

economic freedom beyond limits which endangered the prospect of stable bourgeois rule.

So Cromwell's attitude to parliament was an empirical one in line with this role. At stages he was prepared to use parliament, at other times to rid it of the most right-wing elements, while at others to dispense with it completely ('Take away this bauble').

Cromwell's real base was not in parliament. His real solid support came from the army, which, in fact, was the main political party of the revolution.

On February 4 of this year, he stated in the Commons that members of the forces were not forbidden to belong to trade unions. The catch was that membership obligations must be confined to payment of subscriptions. As yet there are no takers.

If there had been, the present dock strike would have raised the threat of T&GWU soldiers being moved into the docks to scab on fellow union members.

I wonder if Mr Cousins can solve that one.

He urged all conscious British workers to study this period, particularly for its lessons about the role which armed force plays in the settlement of revolutionary struggles, as a preparation to break the British working class from many of its parliamentary illusions.

It is no accident that the most fruitful work on the real forces that determined both the outcome of the war and the shape of British society afterwards has been done by writers, such as Christopher Hill, with some knowledge of Marxism, even though seriously distorted by Stalinism.

Indeed, it is impossible adequately to portray the real meaning of Cromwell's life at this decisive turning point in history from any other point of view.

Certainly it cannot be accomplished from a liberal standpoint which retains its illusions in 'British' democracy and the 'love of compromise'.

And because this film, even though not as bad as some reviewers have claimed, does not break from this erroneous view of the past, it must be judged a failure.

TV and Regional BBC/ITV listings for various regions including BBC 1, BBC 2, and regional channels like HTV, STV, and ITV.

behind THE NEWS ON THE DOCK. THE working class goes into struggle with its history strapped across its back. Includes a portrait of John Burns.

TOMMY ROT. This was obviously a frustrating experience for the poet and the puzzled man finally admitted that he had come up against what he described as 'a civil service blank wall'. Includes a portrait of John Burns.

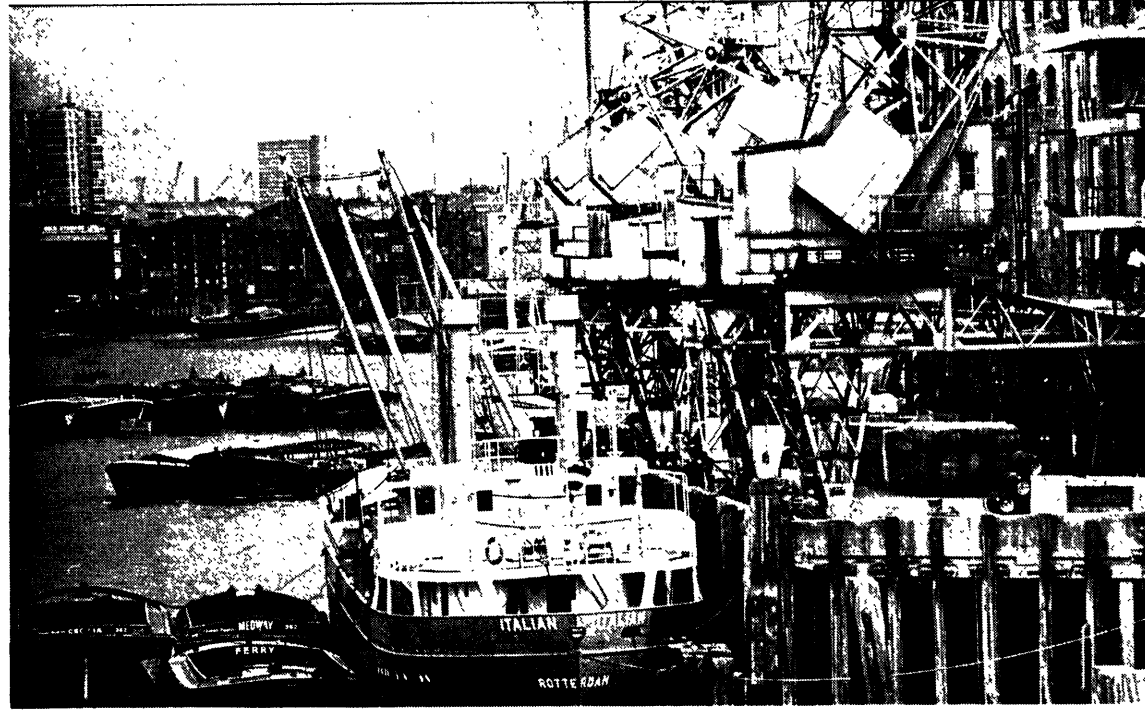
Look No Hands. This system not only steers the tractor but instructs it to lift, lower and operate its various implements in line with a precise programme. Includes a portrait of John Burns.

MANHANDLING



Working the wharves: Right: Conventional unloading of sides of meat in London. Far right: The cramped docks in the Pool of London are slowly being closed down as those further down river are modernized.

THE WHARVES



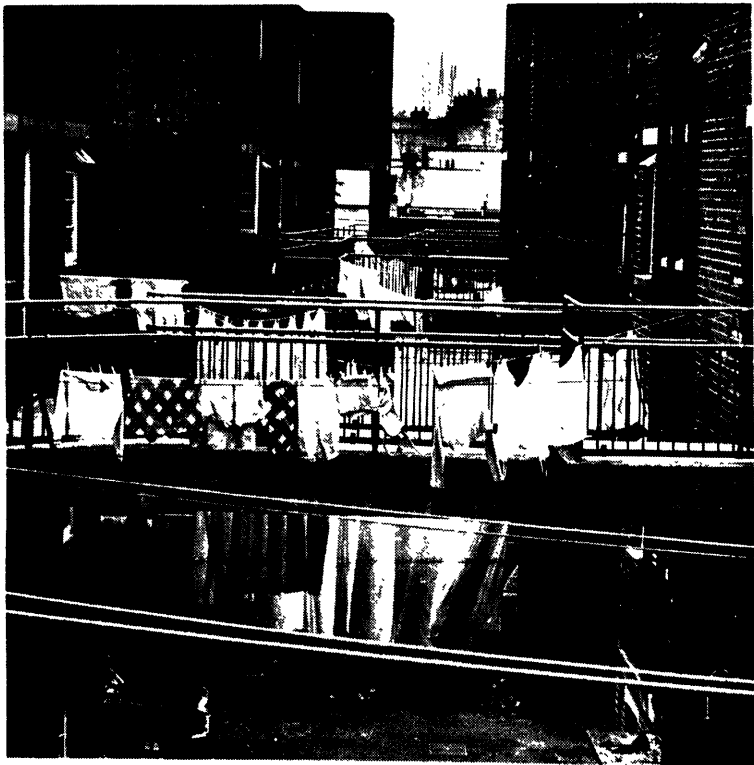
Posters carried by pickets in Southampton (right and below) carry a clear enough message for other trade unionists and for blacklegs.



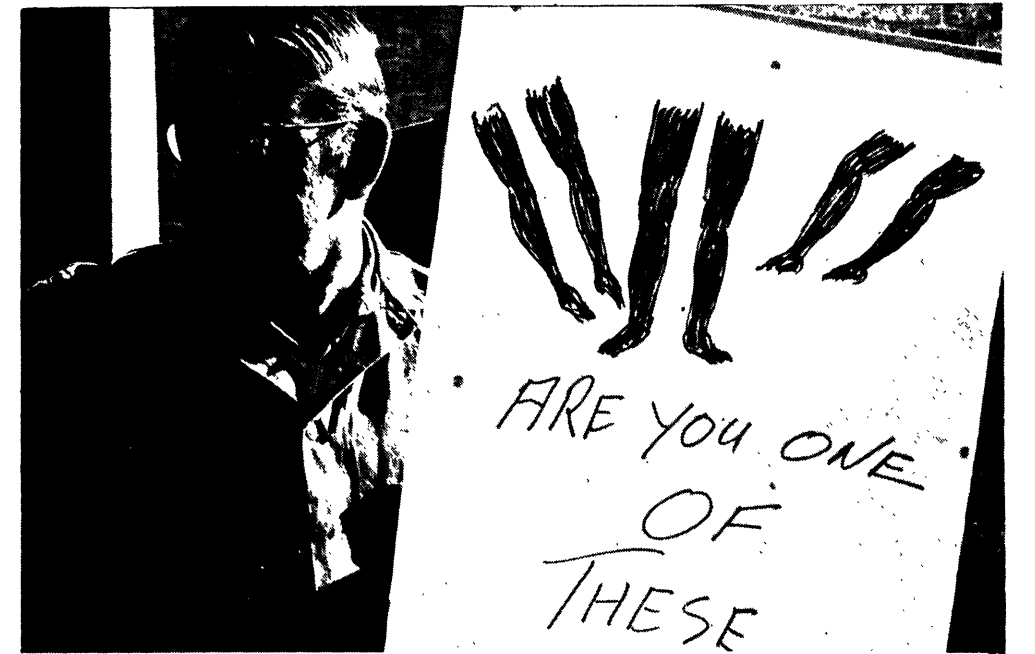
PHOTO-NEWS

BEHIND THE DOCKERS' FIGHT

THE HOME



Home for many dockers—and playground for their children under the shadow of the ports' cranes—are like the tenement flats in Southampton (left and bottom) and the terraced Liverpool houses (below left).



CONTAINERIZATION



This is the modernization which, under capitalism, means speed-up and less job security. Extreme left: A gantry crane in Liverpool for lifting containers on to ships. Centre: The extension of the docks at Southampton. A dredger is taking earth from one bank of the river to build up the other on which more gantry cranes, like those at Southampton on the left, will be built.

ENTERTAINMENT



STRIKE PAY



Still one of the main centres for discussion during the strike are the dockers' clubs like the one (far left) in Bristol. Other dockers in London are seen (left) receiving their first amount of strike pay late last week.

Rents increase and housing conditions worsen—

Lancaster tenants to demonstrate

COUNCIL TENANTS in Lancaster will be demonstrating outside the town hall council meeting tomorrow.

They are dissatisfied with the treatment of their complaints and angry about rent increases due on August 1.

They intend to serve the Tory-controlled council with notice to quit—a mock eviction order.

It is quite possible that a number of tenants will refuse to pay the increased rents.

Since the initial leaflet issued by the Marsh Tenants' Action Committee, thousands of signatures have been coming in on petitions against the increase.

On the Marsh estate itself practically all the tenants have signed.

With the signatures have come donations of cash to help the tenants' movement; and from every estate in Lancaster there has been a stream of complaints about the council's neglect of tenants' problems.

New action committees have been formed on the Rylands, Ridge and other estates.

PAY MORE

At a Marsh estate meeting earlier this month railway worker and Committee chairman Albert Rigby, said that while the tenants were being asked to pay more, they were getting nothing back.

Many pre-war council houses did not even have fitted washbasins. They still had outside toilets and could not receive improvement grants.

This point was reinforced by a woman from the Newton estate who complained that paintwork was in a disgusting condition and the house needed painting.

The houses had cost £275 to build, but some tenants had spent as much as £2,000 to £3,000 and they still want more.

A young mother from the Rylands estate complained of the lack of play facilities for young children.

Peter Ageros, a Ridge estate tenant, accused Tory councillors of treating council tenants as 'second-class citizens'.

He urged the committees be formed on all the estates and tenants' complaints taken along to councillors.

'GET OFF'

'If your councillors don't do anything about them, the answer is in your own hands—get them off.'

A young Rylands estate building worker said that the action committee which had been formed on his estate was urging people to refuse to pay the increase.

'We want people just to pay the normal rent. They will try to frighten us with eviction, but if we stand together we have nothing to fear.'

The council is due to meet at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

Tenants from the Marsh estate plan to meet at 6.15 at the Community Centre and to march through Lancaster to Dalton Square, outside the town hall, where they will be joined by tenants from the other estates.

CORRECTION

IN Far 10 of 'An Introduction to Marxist Philosophy' by Cliff Slaughter (Workers Press, Saturday July 25) the quotation in paragraph three, column one should have read...

A definite social production relation... The quotation in paragraph two, column three should have read...

the specific economic form in which unpaid social labour is pumped out of the direct producers'.

LATE NEWS

MICHAEL FOOT'S VISIT OFF Mr Michael Foot, a member of the 'Shadow Cabinet', was forced to cancel his visit to...

at Rathfriland and Magheralin, Co. Down, despite police warnings.

Castro says industrial and agricultural problems have created an economic crisis in Cuba



New economic crisis admitted by Castro

BY ROBERT BLACK

IN A DEMAGOGIC Bonapartist gesture during his Havana speech on Sunday night, Cuban leader Fidel Castro told his listeners they could remove him if they were dissatisfied with recent setbacks in the economy.

In his speech marking the 17th anniversary of his first armed attack on the Batista regime, Castro admitted serious and growing problems in industry and agriculture.

The most spectacular reverse had been the failure to reach the sugar harvest target of ten million tons, for which the entire population has been mobilized over the last six months.

But there were also shortcomings in the beef, milk, fertilizer, fuel, tyre, rubber and other industries, admitted Castro.

'This is our responsibility and mine in particular,' he added.

'NEW GROUPS' After suggesting that one solution to the crisis was for the masses to 'take a direct role in management', he announced that he would form 'new groups' to 'co-ordinate the economy'.

So on the one hand, he en-

Southampton

FROM PAGE ONE of action could be expected if troops were called in to the docks.

A resolution passed at the national shop stewards' committee in London on Sunday was read out to the meeting.

It calls for: ● Mass pickets on all dock gates

● Mass demonstrations and meetings outside all factories where goods would be taken

● Solidarity action by other trade unionists on the docks and on the shop floor.

'If troops are moved in other trades would become involved like the N.U.R.' chairman Bernard Behan told the meeting. 'We would call for their support even if it was unofficial to start with,' he warned.

While these dockers prepare for determined action to end the strike, the Transport and General Workers' Union leadership continues to give authority to foremen in Southampton—also T&GWU members—to cross the picket line.

at Rathfriland and Magheralin, Co. Down, despite police warnings.

MORE POST CHARGES UP The Post Office yesterday proposed to reduce the basic letter weight from four to two ounces to raise an extra £100 million a year.

Inland parcels would go up by about 14 per cent. An inland parcel now 3s for 2 lbs would cost 4s.

Foreign letters under one ounce now 9d would cost 1s. Post cards now 5d would go up by 2d.

Fix standards At the present time, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders is attempting to fix standards for the tachograph so that it can be fitted in any vehicle.

Also, the trade journal 'Motor Transport' reports that Lucas Kienzle, the main suppliers of the instrument in Britain, has already set up 14 tachograph installation centres.

All drivers of commercial vehicles have a direct interest in ensuring a victory for the dockers, in the face of the employers' plans to widen the scope of speed-up and cuts in manning associated with Devlin Phase Two.

THE DOCKER AND HIS FAMILY

A SERIES OF WORKERS PRESS INTERVIEWS

'I don't think dockers are highly paid at all. They have to work for every penny...'

says Bristol docker's wife

WE TALKED to Mr and Mrs Mike Worlock in a club facing the immobilized Avonmouth docks, now the main port for Bristol and the West Country, where Mike has been working ten years.

'Just at this moment I'm sick, my wife is pregnant and we already have two children, but all the men are behind the strike,' he says.

'They say there is high earning on the docks, but this is not altogether true.

'To have a drink and keep my house I have to work three or four nights a week and Sundays to make my wage good.

'The trouble is you can earn good money one week then in another week your pay is poor. So in a good week I can't spend the money because I don't know what the next week will bring.

'This is why we want the higher basic earnings, but I would like to see the rates go up on some jobs as well.

'I can get an average of £28 I suppose, but this means some weeks working maybe 50 hours, sometimes much more than this.

'Now it's strike pay and national assistance. But the men are in good spirits; at the moment we are ready for the fight.

'I hope it isn't a long strike, but we have no choice, we have to stick it out.

'I saw Tonge on the television. He said he didn't want to talk.

'So far we haven't felt the pinch, but in the future I don't know, I don't know how we'll manage.'

Mrs Worlock was angry about all the false newspaper and television stories about the dockers.

'I know what it's like. I see Mike when he comes home, and I have to manage on his pay,' she told us.

'I don't think dockers are highly paid at all. They have to work for every penny they earn.

'I would like to see some of the employers do the kind of filthy work they have to do on these ships.'

'On some jobs Mike can hardly breathe and then injuries to the back are a common danger.'

NUT diversion

THE NUT yesterday attacked the government's proposed £100-million-a-year education cut.

Deputy general secretary Mr Fred Jarvis said this 'made nonsense' of the late Mr Iain Macleod's promise to increase expenditure. 'It is a tragedy that Mr Macleod did not live to give effect to his strong and sincerely-held views on educational expenditure,' (Our emphasis.)

The shooting began after a rally protesting against the arrest of two Negroes.

Police moved into the Houston suburb where the headquarters of the newly-established 'People's Party Number Two' is situated, and arrested more than 40 marchers on various charges.

Fighting then broke out and the police opened fire.

Arabs march over Nasser-US deal

A THOUSAND Arab workers and youth took to the streets of Amman yesterday to demonstrate their hostility against the Hussein regime's acceptance on Sunday of the US Middle-East 'peace plan'.

The marchers called for the continuation of the armed liberation struggle against the Zionists and opposed any settlement with the current occupiers of Palestine.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

And in Tel Aviv, the Israeli government has begun to look more favourably on the plan put forward by State Secretary William Rogers a month ago.

This became evident when the Israeli cabinet, after a day-long session on Sunday, met again today to re-examine the US plan for a three-month 'cease fire' and mutual withdrawal by both Zionist and Arab forces from the present battle lines.

Without it, the Arab people will be betrayed by the Kremlin and the Nasserites to imperialism.

Toned down

Sensing the softening attitude of the Zionists, Moscow has deliberately toned down Nasser's verbal blusterings, which he is now using to cover over his capitulation to the US plan.

Nasser's speech to the Arab Socialist Union Congress last week contained the usual ritual references to the continuation of the 'armed struggle' against Israel.

All such references have been carefully excluded from the Soviet news agency 'Tass' coverage of the congress.

Leaders of the various guerrilla groups have undoubtedly been forced to take up a position against Nasser's capitulation by the pressure of the Arab masses, especially those driven from their Palestinian homeland by the Zionist invaders.

Support for the Rogers plan would have deprived them of the popular support which they have won over the last year.

Compromise?

Yet even now a compromise with Nasser and Hussein is possible.

None of the guerrilla groups—even those claiming to be 'Marxist-Leninist'—denounced the Rogers plan until Nasser pronounced on it.

They all hoped that Nasser's Moscow trip would provide them with a new formula that would prevent them from having to clash openly with the Egyptian President.

After a delay of several weeks and a series of high-pressure talks in Moscow, Nasser swallowed the Rogers plan whole.

The liberation groups were forced to speak out. But their complicity in Nasser's manoeuvring over the last month reveals them all as tied to the ideology of Arab nationalism and back-stage dealings of Stalinist diplomacy.

With all their heroism and militancy, these organizations are still unable to lead



Docker's wife Mrs Mike Worlock: 'I would like to see some of the employers do the kind of filthy work the dockers have to do on these ships.'

Salazar—'Britain's oldest ally'—dies

ANTONIO SALAZAR, former Prime Minister of Portugal, died yesterday in Lisbon aged 81.

Nearly two years ago, he suffered a brain stroke and his understudy Marcello Caetano took over as premier.

Salazar's regime has been a bastion of reaction in Europe since the dictator came to power in 1932.

When Franco launched his rebellion in July 1936, Salazar placed Portugal's transport network at the fascists' disposal for the movement of men and material from Africa, Germany and Italy into Spain.

The Tories have lost their 'oldest ally'—and only they will mourn him.

Pearson

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whose outcome is decisive for the entire working class.

The publication of the Pearson Report now strengthens the hand of the employers and emphasizes the complete inability of the official union leaders to do anything but retreat before the Tories on these main issues.

On the eve of the strike, Transport and General Workers' secretary Jack Jones tried to foist an unacceptable settlement on the re-call delegate conference.

When the Tories threatened to send troops onto the docks he took a further step back and recommended dockers to handle perishable cargoes.

Now the retreat has turned into a rout. Jones' comment on Pearson's arrogant rejection of his members' demands was:

'It is a significant advance on what the employers previously offered' and announced that the docks' delegate conference has been re-called for tomorrow.

Leadership

The dockers must now be prepared against the ending of their struggle by these leaders.

A new rank-and-file political leadership must be built around a socialist programme for the nationalization of the docks without compensation and under workers' control.

The demand for the £20 basic wage must be integrated with the struggle to reject outright Devlin Phase Two and the Tories' proposed anti-union laws.

We must elect dockers that such a leadership will not be forthcoming from the Labour 'lefts', the Stalinists or their revisionist allies.

That inveterate left phrasemonger Mr Michael Foot is now a respectable member of the Wilson shadow cabinet, which has given its full support to the use of troops on the docks.

Communist Party's 'Morning Star'—as if in anticipation of Jones' treacherous reaction to Pearson—said yesterday:

'Dockers... have made it clear that they will continue their two-week-old strike for an increased basic weekly wage until the employers put forward a reasonable offer.' (Our emphasis.)

Cover tracks

Undoubtedly they will now continue to cover Jones' trail as he places the employers' terms before tomorrow's conference.

Meanwhile, the so-called International Marxist Group, allying themselves with former members of the Stalinist-dominated Liaison Committee have issued a leaflet which deals with the strike as an economic issue.

The line-up—from the right-wing trade union leaders through to the 'lefts' of every variety—is now to blur the central political issues and hence prepare for a defeat, which would have serious implications for every section of workers.

The dockers must give no support to the right-wing trade union leaders and must mobilize the whole labour movement against the Tory government and its policies.

If troops are sent into the docks, there must be complete solidarity of all sections of workers with the dockers and a national stoppage must be called.

Above all, any negotiations with the dock employers must be broken off and an all-out struggle waged for the following programme:

- No retreat from the £20 basic demand.
- No confidence in the present leadership.
- Nationalization of the docks under workers' control without compensation.
- Force the Tory government to resign.

'US troops have crossed Laos border'

IT WAS disclosed in Washington yesterday that US troops have crossed into Laos several times to fight liberation forces there.

These invasions of Laotian territory were first reported on May 4 in a testimony before a House of Representatives subcommittee made by Defence Secretary Laird four days after Nixon's invasion of Cambodia.

Laird said he authorized the intervention because US troops were being fired on from across the frontier—the same pretext that was used to justify the US invasion of Cambodia.

Drivers face extension of docks scheme

ROAD HAULAGE operators are to push ahead with attempts to introduce the tachograph, referred to by many drivers as 'the spy in the cab', even though the Tory government has shelved for the time being the provisions for its compulsory use.

As far as the employers are concerned, speed-up and rationalization of working operations associated with containerization and other modern systems for handling goods cannot stop at the docks, but must be extended to give a minimum handling and operating time with all means of transport.

The notorious Devlin scheme on the docks has already been further developed for use with modernization of ships and the reduction in size of crews in the form of general purpose agreements.

Now, many transport firms are hoping to use the tachograph as a basis for similar productivity deals leading to 'reduced labour costs' and 'greater efficiency' on the roads.

Fix standards At the present time, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders is attempting to fix standards for the tachograph so that it can be fitted in any vehicle.

Also, the trade journal 'Motor Transport' reports that Lucas Kienzle, the main suppliers of the instrument in Britain, has already set up 14 tachograph installation centres.

All drivers of commercial vehicles have a direct interest in ensuring a victory for the dockers, in the face of the employers' plans to widen the scope of speed-up and cuts in manning associated with Devlin Phase Two.



Hull dockers entering their meeting yesterday.

Labour 'lefts' call a march

EIGHTY people took part in Sunday's demonstration in London in solidarity with the dockers organized by the Labour Party's Socialist Charter wing.

This included seven varieties of 'left' protesters from the IMG Pablistes to the 'Unity Theatre' song group via the Co-op.

Lawrence Daly, National Union of Mineworkers' secretary, said at the meeting after the demonstration: 'It is important for miners to support the dockers. They need our support this month, we may need theirs next month to win our wage claim for a £20 basic.'

All miners must demand Daly acts upon this. Daly praised 'left unity' symbolized in the 'small but magnificent' demonstration.

WEATHER

London area, E and W Midlands, E England, central northern England: Dull with drizzle and hill fog, becoming mainly dry with sunny intervals. Winds light or moderate, SW. Normal. Max. 21C (70F).

SE England, central southern England, SW England: Dull with drizzle and hill and coastal fog, becoming brighter mainly dry with sunny intervals. Normal. Max. 21C (70F), but cooler near coasts.

Channel Islands: Dull with fog and drizzle. Moderate SW winds. Rather cool. Max. 17C (63F).

Glasgow area and N Ireland: Cloudy with rain and hill and coastal fog, becoming brighter. Light westerly winds. Rather cool. Max. 16C (61F).

Outlook for Wednesday and Thursday: Cloudy with some rain or drizzle in most parts, becoming drier and brighter from the NW later. Rather cool in the North, near normal temperatures in the South.