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Many men angry, but not demoralized

Big union pressure forces GKN return

BY THE EDITOR

THE RETURN TO WORK urged by Transport and General Workers' Union national officer Moss Evans, accepted at yesterday's meeting of GKN workers, concludes another sorry chapter in the history of compromise and retreat practised by the trade union bureaucracy.

GKN workers expected—and were led to expect—that the T&GWU and other unions would make their six-week strike official. Now they know differently.

It is not surprising, therefore, that they should have accepted, with bitterness and frustration, the advice of Messrs Evans and Wright to go back to work on the company's terms.

The refusal of the union leaders to support the GKN workers' demand—despite the fact that the strike had already caused a £40m loss in production and the morale of workers was high—is a tactical victory to the employers and their government.

Warning confirmed

Their (the officials') endorsement of the company's offer as 'final'—though the GKN 'pay deal' had been rejected three times in three consecutive meetings by large majorities—is a harsh reminder of the trade union leaders' real outlook and aims.

It confirms the warnings of the Workers Press given at the time of the Trades Union Congress that, for all their fine talk of an 'offensive wage strategy', the TUC leaders were not politically prepared, and certainly did not look forward to, a showdown with the employers on wages or anything else.

It also bears out what we said ten days ago when we warned against undue optimism:

'It is clear that the union leaders have not budged one inch in their determination to drive them (GKN workers) back to work.'

We can confidently predict that the miners and local government workers will soon be faced with the same sort of shilly-shallying and looking-both-ways that GKN workers experienced this month.

The more union leaders talk about 'wages offensive' the more workers must look out for productivity strings and redundancy.

This is the moral of GKN. As our reporter points out, the GKN workers are angry but not demoralized. They have learnt an invaluable lesson about the trade union officials and realize that there is little or no difference between the 'right' and the 'left' leaders except perhaps in the sonority of their phrases.

Draw lessons

They have lost a battle, but not the war against GKN. Workers who have not compromised on the principle of productivity strings must now draw the appropriate lessons and fight to replace the union leadership in the factory with a new leadership based on the policies advocated by the Workers Press and the All Trades Unions Alliance.

Workers should strengthen their shop-floor organization and, as a first step in preparation for the struggles on job-evaluation, to participate actively in the Liverpool conference organized by the Pilkington's glass-workers and the All Trades Unions Alliance on October 3.



Some of the GKN-Sankey workers angered by yesterday's vote to return to work.

Plans made to resist

PLANS TO purge present union leaderships and resist company speed-up proposals formed the main topic of discussion amongst many GKN-Sankey workers yesterday following a far-from-unanimous vote to end the Shropshire factory's six-week pay strike.

A good third of those attending yesterday's 30-minute football stadium meeting will return to their jobs on Monday determined to carry what they have learned during the dispute into the fight to strengthen shop-floor organization and beat back inevitable management attacks on jobs, wages and conditions.

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Morris Motors men stick out for new rate

FIFTEEN HUNDRED pieceworkers from British-Leyland's Morris Motors plants at Cowley, Oxford, voted yesterday to continue their challenge to Lord Stokes' plans to speed-up his £410 million combine.

Assembly workers on the Minor 1000 production-line have been out—180-strong—over the last four weeks.

They have been supported in their strike during the last fortnight by 1,300 other pieceworkers from the factory's mounting, 'N' block assembly and sub-assembly shops in a dispute over pay rates for Leyland's forthcoming ADO 28 model.

Redeveloped

This is scheduled to go into volume production shortly on Cowley's redeveloped South side.

All 1,500 workers voted unanimously yesterday to continue their strike and to meet again, after the works' holiday, on September 29.

Despite a virtual press black-out on their struggle and

the suspension of social-security payments to 2,200 workers at the plant (Cowley is completely shut down by the dispute), the pieceworkers have decided to challenge the firm's attempt to force acceptance of 17s 10d an hour as the starting piecework price for the ADO 28.

Senior shop stewards met management on Thursday and won several points in informal talks, but the company would not budge from this offer.

Fleet St's cautious approach to the dispute is to some extent understandable.

Burned fingers

The Cowley management has burned its fingers in two important respects—relating both to termination of a special Minor 1000 agreement and to established 'mobility of labour' practices.

But the black-out may seem just a little surprising in view of the fact that a total of 16,500 British-Leyland workers have been laid off as a result of the strike.

Stewards explain that Leyland hope to start ADO 28 production on a 'controlled piecework' system, similar to that operating of late on the Minor 1000 line at a price of 16s 10d.

They also wanted to avoid the established procedure of

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BY A CORRESPONDENT

The Arab Revolution not only burned three airliners on Dawson's Field. It also burned its political boats irrevocably. There can be no going back to the situation before July 1970.

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Until the outbreak of the hi-jacking crisis two weeks ago, Nasser and Hussein seemed to be moving smoothly towards a cynical deal with the Zionists, based upon the Nixon-Rogers 'peace plan'.

Now the fedayeen have put an end to that.

STRIKE

The movement in solidarity with the guerrillas has also spread to Lebanon, where 300 Palestinian employees of the Beirut United Nations headquarters struck work against the Hussein regime's war on the commandos.

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YES! was disappointed only a total of £20 for the fund. This year we must have a million and push up the total beyond the £250 mark. In this issue, we hope to arrange the most important drive yet for the Workers Press. Let's begin immediately to raise every penny towards £850 14s 1d due September 30. Send your donations today to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

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Their determination to fight the closure has been stiffened by the recent spate of factory closures on the Clyde-side.

Anyone thrown out of work in the area faces a very long period of unemployment. Sterne's management were given 14 days' notice of industrial action.

Satisfaction

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

CONFERENCE

The Pilkington struggle and the right to strike

Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws

St George's Hall, Lime St LIVERPOOL

Saturday October 3
2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Credentials and visitors' cards 5s each from Conference Secretary, W. Hunter, 58 Leighton View, Liverpool 8.

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The movement in solidarity with the guerrillas has also spread to Lebanon, where 300 Palestinian employees of the Beirut United Nations headquarters struck work against the Hussein regime's war on the commandos.

Also in Beirut, 500 students and workers took over the Jordanian Embassy, declaring they would not leave until the Hussein regime had been overthrown.

In Damascus, Syrian workers and students are also involved in solidarity demonstrations.

In the Zionist-occupied Gaza strip, Arab workers and shopkeepers defied the Dayan terror army and supported the strike call of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

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Trade union demonstration in Copenhagen Fields in April 1834 against the deportation of the Tolpuddle Martyrs

IMPERIALISM has entered its deepest crisis. This is the opinion not only of the Marxist movement, but also of the more far-sighted members and representatives of the capitalist class.

In the last few years a series of monetary and financial crises have brought the near collapse of arrangements painfully devised at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, themselves an attempt to avoid a collapse of the system on the scale of the 1930s.

This growing monetary crisis which imperialism cannot solve has been combined with preparations for a trade war between the United States and the Common Market countries.

Beneath the economic crisis has been a loss of confidence by capitalists in the future and stability of their system.

This evaporation of confidence has been increased by the action of workers all over the world, but especially in the advanced capitalist countries of Europe and America.

So a world economic crisis tends to merge with and develop alongside a deep political crisis in which the continued rule of the capitalist class is at stake in every country, together with that of the bureaucracy in E Europe and the Soviet Union.

Opportunities

The present period contains great opportunities for the revolutionary movement. But it also holds great dangers, particularly at a theoretical level.

It would be wrong to think that we can grasp the depth of the crisis by focusing attention on surface events like strikes which are effects not causes.

We must study the situation theoretically — and these articles will explain how Marx approached the analysis of capitalism.

It is impossible for Marxism to anticipate forms of development the crisis will take as it unfolds.

Capitalism is a system capable of rational planning. It operates through the mechanism of blind market forces — and because of this we cannot 'know' in advance precisely how and at what speed the enormous changes now being prepared will develop.

Marxism remains only a general science of development which has the task of estimating the main forces and contradictions at work in the course of preparing revolutionary crisis and the struggle of the working class for the taking of power.

All changes and develop-

ment of the imperialist crisis, both economic and political, have to be analysed continually. If we take only certain isolated aspects of the crisis — for example its purely 'economic' manifestations — we run the risk of being taken completely by surprise when sharp 'turns' in the situation take place, none of which can be predicted precisely beforehand.

The first question to ask is: why did Marx write 'Capital' in which the bulk of his analysis of capitalism is to be found?

Immediately we run up against the problem of the revisionists. One of their main aims has been to undermine Marx by presenting his analysis as that of a mere 'economist'.

They attempt to divorce Marx's work in the field of politics, history and philosophy from his study of political economy. Above all they want to ignore Marx's central concern which was preparing the working class for the overthrow of capitalism.

'Capital'

This is what 'Capital' is about. Unless this is understood nothing essential about the work or about Marxism can be grasped.

Marx sought to demonstrate in 'Capital' that the working class alone had the task of overthrowing existing social relations.

He went on to show that the working class, in completing this task, would not, as had other revolutionary classes in history, replace with one form of exploiting society another.

The dictatorship of the proletariat would lay the basis for a classless society freed from all forms of exploitation and oppression.

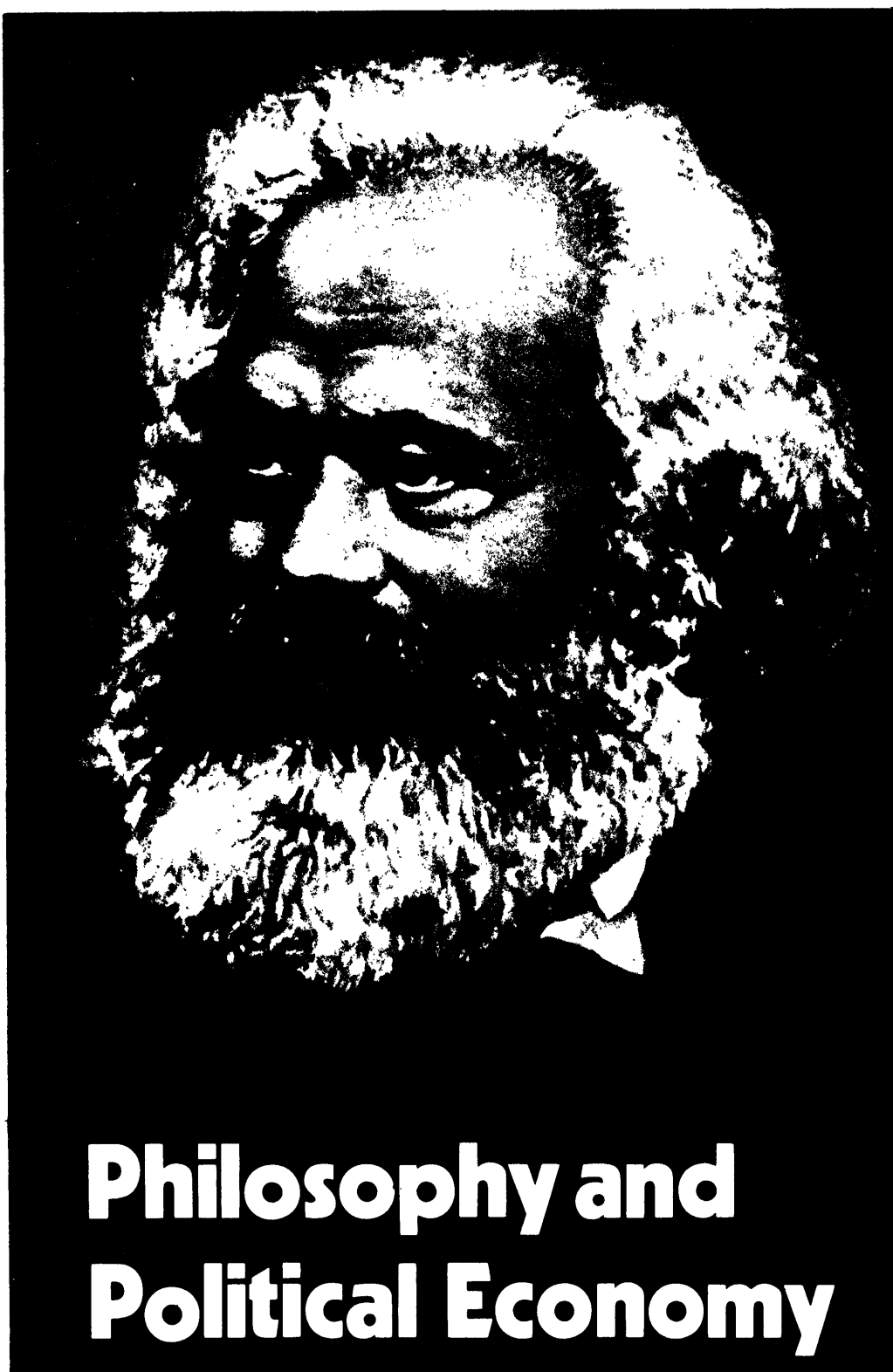
These views separated Marx from all the varieties of Utopian socialism characterized by their inability to see how socialism could arise out of the conflicts in capitalist society. For them socialism remained a 'good idea' which could best be put into practice through the force of moral persuasion.

But Marx argued that the very development of capitalism had laid the material foundation for a socialist system at the same time as it had brought into being that force — the working class — which was continually, if unconsciously, in conflict with it.

Marx was doing more than analysing the role of the working class. He was demonstrating the correctness of his general world outlook, historical materialism.

In the 'Preface' to his 'Critique of Political Economy' (1859), Marx explains the outline of the world outlook which guided his studies.

In the social production which men carry on they enter



Philosophy and Political Economy

into definite relations that are indispensable and independent of their will; these relations of production correspond to a definite stage of development of their material powers of production. The sum total of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society — the foundation, on which rises the legal and political superstructures and to which corresponds definite forms of social consciousness.

'The mode of production of material life determines the general character of the social, political and spiritual processes of life. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but on the contrary, their social existence determines their consciousness.'

Proletariat

'At a certain stage of their development, the material forces of production in society come in conflict with the existing relations of production, or, what is but a legal expression of the same thing — with the property relations within which they had been at work before.

'From forms of development of the forces of production, these relations turn into their fetters. Then comes the period of social revolution.'

For Marx the most revolutionary element within the productive forces was the proletariat.

It was the clash between the needs of this class and the restrictions imposed upon the systematic development of the productive forces repre-

sented by production for profits that constituted the fundamental 'opposites' in capitalist society, from which his entire analysis begins.

'Hypothesis'

Lenin explained how Marx developed the 'hypothesis' which we have quoted from the 'Critique':

'He took one of the economic formations of society — the system of commodity production — and on the basis of a vast mass of data (which he studied for not less than 25 years) gave a most detailed analysis of the laws governing the functioning of this formation and its development.'

'This analysis is strictly confined to the relations of production between the members of society: without ever resorting to factors other than relations of production to explain the matter, Marx makes it possible to discern how the commodity organization of social economy develops, how it becomes transformed into capitalist economy, creating the antagonistic classes — the bourgeoisie and the proletariat — how it develops the productivity of social labour and how it thereby introduces an element which comes into irreconcilable contradictions to the very foundation of capitalist organization itself . . . since the appearance of "Capital" — the materialist conception of history is no longer an hypothesis, but a scientifically demonstrated proposition.'

To understand Marx's aim is to see why he starts 'Capital' with an analysis of the commodity. 'At first sight the wealth of society under the capitalist system presents itself as an immense accumulation of commodities, its unit being a single commodity.' ('Critique')

A commodity was an object of wealth produced for exchange on the market, rather than for the use of the producer.

Commodity

Under capitalism, unlike all former modes of production, commodity production was the dominant form. Under capitalism production for the market is driving out all small scale production not just on a national, but on an international scale.

The opposite had been the case under feudalism, for example. Here the greater part of production had been for the immediate needs of the producer or his family. Trade, although growing in importance as capitalist relations matured within feudal society, played only a secondary role compared to the one which it was destined to play with the triumph of the new mode of production in western Europe.

In particular, the ability to work, or what Marx in 'Capital' terms labour power, under capitalism becomes a commodity. The working class appears under capitalism as that class with only its labour power to sell to the owners of capital and therefore locked in continual struggle with them.

For this to happen, the small owners had to be forcibly

The mode of production of material life determines the general character of the social, political and spiritual processes of life. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but on the contrary, their social existence determines their consciousness.

Part one of a series of articles by Peter Jeffries

Chartist demonstration at Kennington Common, April 1848.



dispossessed, and all the wealth accumulated by the capitalists.

The creation of the categories of political economy, and particularly 'labour power' were the result of the struggle between classes.

The violent separation of the English peasantry from the land and the driving of the population into the towns in the horrific conditions of the industrial revolution, were a absolutely necessary prerequisites for the full development of capitalism.

And as it grew in number so this new class became increasingly conscious of its identity, in struggle with the employing class and the landowners.

Franchise

The fight of the trade unions in the nineteenth century against all forms of legal repression, the struggle for the extension of the franchise and above all the emergence of Chartism in the 1840s, were indications of this growing class consciousness.

In engaging in commodity production, men were engaging in social production:

'In production men not only act upon nature but also on one another. They produce only by co-operating in a certain way and mutually exchanging their activities. In order to produce, they enter into definite connections and relations with one another and only within social connections and relations does their action on nature, does production take place.' — (Marx, 'Wage-Labour and Capital').

In the following two articles we shall deal in detail with Marx's analysis of the commodity. But as a preliminary, we can say that for Marx the exchange value of a commodity, as distinct from its use value, is determined by the proportion of society's total social labour time which it embodies.

For example: take a pair of shoes as a commodity. The shoes have two aspects: on the one hand they have a particular use — as things to wear on the feet. This is their use value and to be a commodity, an object must have use value: that is it must be of some use for someone apart from its producer. On the other hand the shoes also have an exchange value: that is they can be exchanged in definite proportions for all other commodities, whatever their use value.

Marx explains that the exchange value (or simply the 'value' as he always terms

exchange value) is determined by the socially necessary labour time involved in their production. Thus to say that commodity X has a value twice as great as commodity Y means that it has, on average, taken twice as many hours to produce.

This category value appears therefore as the expression of the production-relations between men in society. The relationship, manifesting itself on the market between goods which are the subject of individual exchange, is in essence an expression of the relations between the separate producers of these goods.

Method

In 'The Poverty of Philosophy' (1847), which indicates the method and conception which was to be developed in 'Capital' later, Marx says:

'In principle there is no exchange of products — but there is an exchange of labour which co-operates in production. The mode of exchange of products depends upon the mode of exchange of the productive forces.'

'In general, the form of exchange of products corresponds to the form of production. Change the latter, and the former will change in consequence.'

In other words, what Marx had to do in demonstrating the correctness of historical materialism, was to show how all forms assumed by the relations of production in capitalist society could only be understood not as things 'in themselves', but as forms determined by the social relations of production.

Analysis

This is why 'Capital' starts with an analysis of the commodity. For behind the exchange of a commodity — an act repeated millions of times in capitalist economy — lies the exchange of labour between men.

In order to explain these 'appearances' — the exchange of 'things' as commodities — Marx had to penetrate beneath the surface to the 'essence' which determined them: the relations between men in production and exchange.

In the next two articles we will show how Marx, developing his analysis from the commodity, seeks to explain all capitalism's surface movements.

He was able to do this because of his profound grasp of the method he inherited from Hegel — the dialectical method.

● Continued next Saturday

IMPORTANT READING

Germany 1931 1932
Leon Trotsky

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Scotland: 5.00-5.20, 10.15-10.45 Sports reel. 10.45-11.15 Monty Python's Flying Circus...

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3.00 CINEMA: 'The Scarlet Spear'. With John Bentley and Martha Hyer.
7.45 NEWS, sport and weather.
7.50 DISCO 2.

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11.30 a.m. RAC road report. 11.35 Taliesin tales. 11.55 Climbing. 12.20 p.m. Stingray. 12.45 News. 12.50 World of sport. 12.55 On the ball...

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9.00-9.30 a.m. Nai Zindagi-Naya Jeevan. 10.30-11.30 Morning Service. 1.25 p.m. Farming and weather for farmers. 1.55 Education programme. 2.20 Made in Britain...

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BBC 2
7.00 p.m. NEWS REVIEW and weather.
7.25 THE WORLD ABOUT US. The Sherpas of Everest.
8.15 CAROL BURNETT SHOW. Guests Nancy Wilson and Donald O'Connor.

ITV
11.00 a.m.-12 noon Church service. 1.30 p.m. Wind in the willows. 1.45 All our yesterdays. 2.15 Survival. 2.45 Big match. 3.45 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased)...

REGIONAL ITV
CHANNEL: 11.00-12.00 London. 2.13 weather. 2.15 match. 3.10 'Voyage to the bottom of the sea'. 4.05 Cartoon. 4.35 Date with Danton. 4.45 London. 7.55 'The one that got away'...

EAST & WEST European REVIEW



Leila Khaled: Polish radio calls for firm action against hijackers.

Hijack!



Palestinian commando in Jordan.

ANGLIA: 12.15 All Our Yesterdays. 12.45 London. 5.40 Sky's the limit. 6.10 London. 6.15 Maggie's Place. 7.00 Nol That's me over here...

STALINIST fear of the deepening Arab revolution has expressed itself over the last two weeks through a furious radio and press tirade against the guerrilla hi-jackers.

In the Soviet Union, after a total news blackout on the hi-jackings, which lasted from Sunday to Wednesday of last week, Moscow Home Service quoted Arab government statements attacking the action.

More significantly, no Moscow news broadcast made any reference to the guerrillas' demand for the release of the three commandos held in W Germany. Neither was there any mention of the hi-jacking attempt by Leila Khaled and her murdered comrade.

On no account could the W German government, currently the closest W European allies of the Soviet bureaucracy, be embarrassed.

This anti-Arab style of reporting set the tone for the next week.

SYMPATHY
The Soviet propaganda machine even took the Reuter's News Agency to task for 'giving the impression that almost all Arabs are in sympathy with the Palestinian partisans who have seized aircraft on international routes'.

Over the next few days, Moscow Radio contented itself with relaying anti-hi-jacking statements by Arab governments and the Central Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Kremlin's four-day silence on the hi-jackings created big problems for the radio and press of its Warsaw Pact allies.

TWO LINES
For example, while E German Radio played safe by rehashing Cairo attacks on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Prague broadcast bluntly stated that the hijackings 'played into the hands of extreme right-wing elements in Tel Aviv'.

On Polish Radio, two different lines were put forward on the same day!

One broadcast, quoting from the journal 'Zycie Warszawy', explained:

'It is not easy to evaluate the Palestinians' behaviour, especially in view of the Israeli attack on Beirut airport and the recent jailing of two Algerians...'

Another took a much stronger line against the guerrillas, emphasizing 'the need for firm action against hi-jackers, including returning them to their country of origin or to the country owning the hi-jacked plane'.

In the case of Leila Khaled, this would have led to the Tories handing her over to the Zionists.

By September 10, when Moscow had at last spoken on the hi-jackings, every Stalinist hackwriter in E Europe felt free to slander the guerrillas.

The Czech daily 'Rude Pravo' smugly informed its readers 'although these adventurous acts impress the politically-backward strata in the Arab world and a narrow group of sectarian intelligentsia, they are a heavy blow to the prestige of the Palestinian resistance.'

The next day, Budapest Radio accused the PFLP of 'rendering service to the Israeli extremists and even to

the partisans of American interventionist policy'.

MYTHICAL

Steadily, following the lead of the Moscow publicists, the international Stalinist slander machine has tried to fabricate a mythical conspiracy between the leaders of the most radical guerrilla groups and the Zionists.

This is the time-honoured method of the bureaucracy, which always seeks to identify revolutions with counter-revolution in the minds of the world's oppressed.

This is Stalinism's greatest service to imperialism. However, the frantic nature of the slanders indicates the growth of mass sympathy for the Palestinians in E Europe and the Soviet Union, a feeling of solidarity that the bureaucracy has to politically confuse and disarm if the Kremlin Middle-East deal with Nixon is to be forced through.

Slanders will not break the guerrilla movement any more than they broke Lenin's Bolshevik Party and Trotsky's Fourth International.

The 'hi-jackers', whose audacity exemplifies the profound stirrings of an oppressed people, are harbingers of revolutionary leadership for the Arab workers and peasants.

That is why the Stalinists fear them so.

Strike at Perrier

WORKERS of the Perrier Trust - the French mineral water and food concern - face an attack on the right to strike which has become a weapon in the hands of the whole French employing class.

As at Pilkington's, the management is attempting to victimize militants and trade unionists in retaliation against a united strike which brought out the vast majority of workers.

Perrier - the fizzy mineral water which is claimed to be the indispensable cure for the dietary over-indulgence of the European middle classes - is bottled at a number of plants, mainly in the Gard region of SW France.

Strike spread

A strike started on June 4 at the Vergeze plant - the most militant of the group - and soon spread to four others: Contexville, Montigny, Vichy and Saint-Yorre.

The demand was for a general agreement covering all grades and giving substantial pay and hours concessions.

In the course of the strike the Vergeze plant was occupied for four days.

Of 1,200 workers, 900 supported the action. Of the 300 remaining, 150 were management and supervisory staff.

On June 15 workers at all plants made a united return to work having won a 4 per cent rise and a progressive reduction of working hours over the next two years.

Legal weapon

For the first time, members of the two main unions, the CGT (CP-led) and CFTD had

acted as one in all the plants. The management was determined to destroy this unity.

But they dared not simply sack leading militants. What they found to hand were the legal weapons to victimize twelve Vergeze workers.

Using the section of the Napoleonic Code dealing with the 'judicial resolution of the labour contract', they have set down legal cases against 12 workers for 'faults committed during the strike of June 4 to 15, 1970'.

Of these 12 workers, five were CGT stewards, three were trade union branch delegates (one CFTD and two CGT), one was the secretary of the CFTD plant committee and one was the joint secretary of the CGT plant committee.

For good measure, and in a feeble attempt to wrap up their real intentions, they also took action against two rank-and-file workers.

Despite continued strikes and demonstrations by workers within the plant the management has refused to retreat. And the CGT and CFTD national leaderships have refused to lead any official action in support of the Perrier workers.

Principles

A statement from the trade union organizations within Perrier correctly points out that the principles involved in this struggle are universally important.

The management, they say, will only retreat if forced to. The cases come to court at the end of this month, and they are calling for the widest possible support to make Perrier withdraw them unconditionally.



French repressions

THE VICIOUS sentences passed last week on five young people in the French Court of State Security for 'reconstituting a dissolved league (the Maoist 'Proletarian Left') summoned a reluctant objection from the French Communist Party leaders.

Jean Noel-Darde was sentenced to six months in prison, and loss of civil rights, and Jacques Kucklick, Georges Chuffart, Yvette Moniot and Francoise Delescaut got three-month sentences and were also deprived of their rights.

CP secretary Georges Marchais and his fellow Stalinists certainly have scant sympathy with these victims of Gaullist police rule.

The 'Proletarian Left' was one of the organizations they have described as 'fascists of the left' and 'radio-controlled from the Ministry of the Interior'.

DISGUST

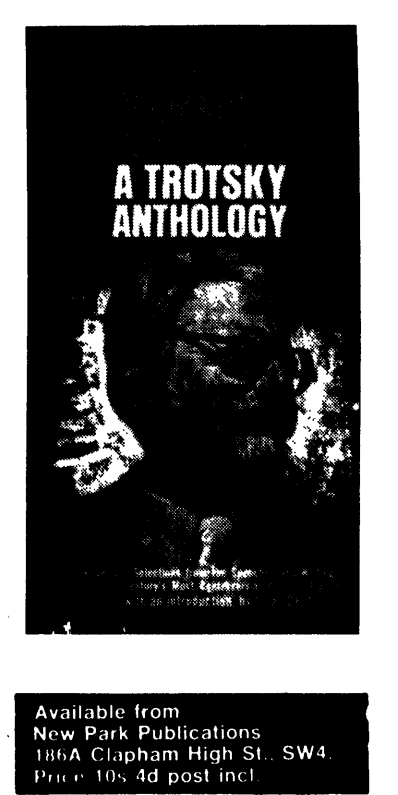
What the reproachful comment in Tuesday's 'L'Humanité' (French CP daily) reflects is the profound disgust of many Party members with the encouragement of the leadership give to the police and their slanders against other sections of the labour movement.

The writer particularly objects to the deprivation of rights, which he describes as an 'exceptional' measure.

It was not used 'even against those sentenced for crimes with the OAS'.

This 'defence' is absolutely inadequate, and can convince no serious socialist or militant. The central question is the unconditional defence of 'Proletarian Left' and the other outlawed organizations against all police and legal attacks.

IMPORTANT READING



JUST OUT

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Unofficial strikes Feeling for all-out action on bus pay

BUSMEN in Leeds and Sheffield staged unofficial one-day strikes yesterday and 450 Derby busmen will strike today in support of their national claim for a £20 basic wage.

Overtime bans, a ban on standing passengers and no co-operation with the introduction of one-man buses — sanctions supported by the Transport and General Workers' Union — continued in Maidstone, Barnsley, the NE, Crewe, parts of Derbyshire, S Wales and the West Country, as well as other areas.

By an Industrial correspondent

Sheffield busmen are particularly angry at their union officials' lack of support for strike action.

A mass meeting of the afternoon shift on Thursday overwhelmingly rejected an attempt by the local transport department to push through a local pay-and-productivity agreement and threw out the officials' proposals to limit action to an overtime ban in favour of one-day strikes every Friday.

More and more of them feel that only a national strike can win their claim.

STEPHEN JOHNS TALKS TO TWO COUNCIL SHOP STEWARDS

SHOP STEWARDS representing council-workers in 19 London boroughs have told union leaders: 'Retreat on our pay claim and we will strike.'

After a meeting in Blackfriars on Thursday night 121 stewards and delegates issued this warning to the unions concerned—the General and Municipal Workers, the Transport and General and the National Union of Public Employees. They fear that once officials begin to argue amounts with employers, they will defer the threatened official strike from the date fixed, September 29.

'We want to make it quite clear to the unions that the stewards in London and in the provinces will call the men out—official or unofficial—if every one of our demands are not met in full by September 29,' said Terry Wilson, secretary of the rank-and-file co-ordinating committee.

'We are, as far as the men are concerned, doing the organizing. We organized the lobby at Brighton and the one at the Ministry in London and we will organize this strike if necessary!'

The 770,000 council workers are demanding a £2 15s increase in basic pay, a 10 per cent penalty payment for men and women not on incentive bonus and better holidays and service increments.

Political

'We look on this dispute as a political movement on the part of the Tories. They are using us as whipping boys and we are not prepared to be used this way.'

'A lot of other public employees will be watching this dispute—the busmen are next in line with a claim—the Tories know this and if they are not firm they won't be able to take that £800m off the working class they have promised to give to their supporters,' said Mr Wilson.

'But we are preparing the lads on the shop floor for a political battle.'

'We want the trade unions to work in close liaison with us on these matters. We are not interested in jingoism and argument about the amounts the employers are offering. We want our higher basic and all these other demands.'

We talked to Tony Sweeney, chairman of the committee and a refuse worker representing men North of the Thames.

'Really if we have to go out unofficial we are only doing what the trade unions themselves did in the early days and fight for their rights. We've had 100 years of this and we are just going to keep on going.'

No deals

'Another important thing with our demands is that we want them with no productivity dealing. We accepted job evaluation last year and we regret it now. I am completely suspicious of these deals. Let me tell you if I see them carrying one out at the Houses of Commons on the MPs, then I'll buy them.'

The London men will be organizing a meeting with delegates from the provinces to discuss progress on the claim before September 29.



Tony Sweeney (wearing hat) and Terry Wilson, chairman and secretary of the rank-and-file council workers' co-ordinating committee. 'All the lads on the shop floor are ready for a political fight.'

'Retreat on pay and we'll strike'

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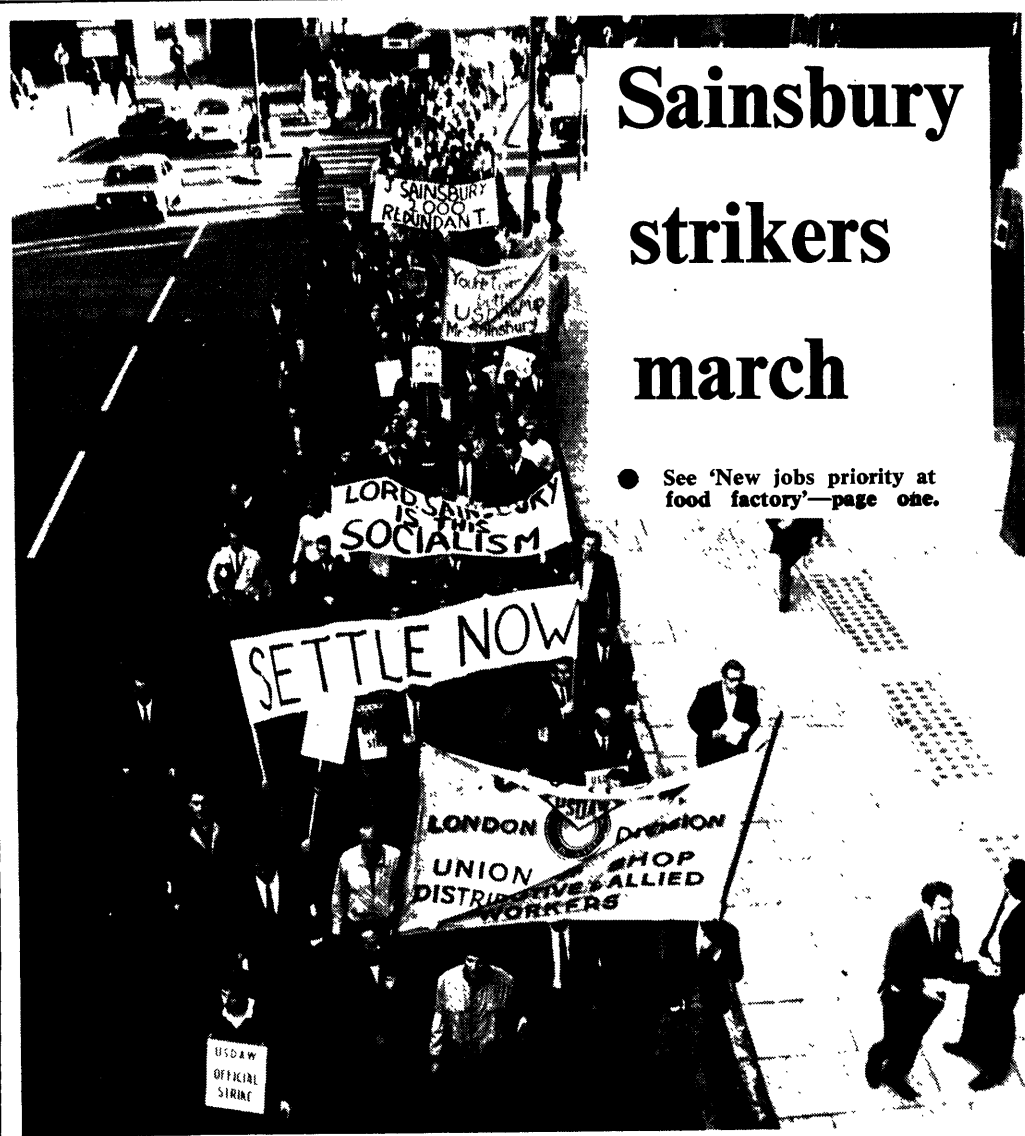
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ALMOST ALL the 2,000 Sainsbury strikers marched through London yesterday in protest against the firm's alleged broken promises over redundancies at their Blackfriars factory.

Police lose control in S Italy city

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

POLICE had yesterday lost control in widespread street fighting in Reggio, Calabria.

Niarchos—no charge

AN ATHENS council of judges yesterday decided not to indict Greek shipping tycoon Stavros Niarchos on charges of inflicting fatal injuries to his wife, Eugenie.

The three-member tribunal met privately and called no witnesses. Niarchos — a supporter of the colonels' regime — is believed to be in Switzerland at the moment.

The demonstrations earlier this week, sparked off by the Rome government's continued refusal to make the city (in S Italy) the capital of the new Calabria region, flared into running battles between heavily armed police and groups of youths, some of whom were also armed.

Locomotives and rolling stock in the railway yards were destroyed and a timber depot set alight.

A group of demonstrators took refuge in the cathedral, where they held a large force of police at bay.

An angry crowd of hundreds gathered outside the main police headquarters. Shops were also ransacked.

These explosions, though centred on the question of the regional capital, are rooted in the grinding poverty and unemployment of the whole of S Italy—apart from a few administrative and industrial centres.

No post-war government has made any serious attempt to solve the problem of southern development.

Similar demonstrations took place on Wednesday in Torre Annunziata, a Naples suburb, where hundreds of unemployed workers attacked Ministry of Labour offices.

They had sent in a deputation, demanding guarantees of work, and when the delegates were sent away without getting any satisfactory reply, police attacked the crowd.

Outbursts such as these horrify 'responsible' Stalinist and Socialist politicians, who consider that the Italian working class should patiently await their ticket along the 'peaceful road'.

It is this treacherous attitude which enables local capitalist politicians to exploit events such as those in Calabria for their own purposes.

But the forces now unleashed in Reggio are under no one's control and the government finds itself in a position where repression would require a full-scale military operation.

Sainsbury strikers march

See 'New jobs priority at food factory'—page one.

Arab revolt

FROM PAGE ONE

armed forces. But equally as important, the working class can draw enormous political inspiration from the Arab guerrillas' achievements.

They have disrupted all the plans, so abhorred and concocted between the Stalinists and the imperialists over the last year, to betray the Arab revolution.

Such a situation had not matured during the French war in Algeria (1956-1961) and the Zionist 'blitzkrieg' of June 1967.

Heath and Nixon both have their hands full combatting powerful strike movements at home. Nixon's army is fully engaged in Vietnam, while British forces are stretched to the limit in N Ireland.

A new Suez, Vietnam or Cambodia would only intensify the already unbearable problems of imperialism.

IMMEDIATE

Nevertheless, British labour must be ready to take immediate action should any intervention against the Arab Revolution and the Palestinian guerrillas be mounted by either British, US or Zionist

Manoeuvre

A meeting of day-shift men called for the evening was then postponed 'in the interests of democracy' by the platform, because 'the hall was too small to get anyone in'.

'It's a manoeuvre' one

Chrysler-Rootes, Linwood

'Cold' strike to go on after week's holiday

PATTERNMAKERS and die-manufacturing engineers in the 'cold-strike' at Chrysler-Rootes Linwood, Scotland, factory, were meeting yesterday.

The 100 workers went home last Wednesday following repeated management refusals to provide adequate heating.

The whole factory went on a week's holiday yesterday, but will come back to Chrysler's determination to drive up production-line speeds and drive down wages.

One Rootes worker told Workers Press that a big wages battle would put great pressure on those in the factory leadership who support Measured-Day Work. It would open up opportunities for forcing through a pay rise without strings.

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Council cuts jobs with work-study...

A **PATTERN** for council job cutbacks is set in the current 'Target', official bulletin of the British Productivity Council.

Consultants called in to investigate existing methods at Sutton-in-Ashfield (Notts) Urban Council selected and trained work-study staff.

Time standards

Method studies were followed by the setting of time standards for all repair jobs.

This led to the elimination of overtime and enabled the run-down of the maintenance section from 80 to 66 men.

At the same time, joiners' productivity rose by 71 per cent and that of plumbers by 145 per cent.

The article states that the

Closed shop

Now the management claims that a closed-shop agreement entered into with the Transport and General Workers' Union at Haverhill will prevent employment priorities being given to the London workers.

'This is not an inter-union dispute,' one woman striker told Workers Press yesterday, 'it's simply a matter of redundancy.'

'Are we all to be unemployed when this plant closes despite the promises made by Sainsbury's?'

Radio control

Also, radio control has been installed on all vehicles, including street cleansing and gully emptying machines, and their movements are now monitored from a central control panel.

Altogether, the labour force of the highways section has been cut from 115 to 65 workers.

Morris ...and it's Big Brother' at Islington

FROM PAGE ONE

canvassing labour for new jobs by isolating the present Minor 1000 labour force as the nucleus for the new line.

If this had been agreed, stewards say, it would have held initial earnings on the ADO 28 down by £5-£7 per week and could later have worked two weeks to work 50 cars an hour.

Rejected offer

So they rejected management's offer of a further 1s an hour for continuation of the Minor 1000 agreement on the new model and insisted that the mobility of labour procedure be observed.

ISLINGTON Borough Council is ignoring its town hall workers' opposition to a proposed performance reports system and is to press ahead with its introduction.

Members of the local 900-strong local government officers' association (NALGO) branch have threatened strike action if the scheme is implemented.

Designed by management consultants as a variation of a US scheme, the system examines 'job performance and

personal qualities' of every worker.

These include intelligence, temperament, tact, team instinct and time-keeping. Promotion and pay would be based on the reports.

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Plans

FROM PAGE ONE

mood—attempting to channel it in the direction of a return —with an earnest appeal to the 37 shop stewards who had opposed the recommendation to end the strike and who stayed in the body of the meeting leading opposition.

At their Thursday night meeting with stewards of all five unions involved, officials failed to get agreement that all stewards join the platform at the mass meeting and present the return call as a unanimous decision.

'You have a responsibility as shop stewards,' Evans told hecklers at the mass meeting. '...there's a job to be done and it has to be done inside that factory.'

Swung waverers

And it was undoubtedly Evans, rather than AEF executive council member Bob Wright or General and Municipal national officer Ken Baker, who swung most of the waverers at the meeting for a return.

In fact Wright — after insisting that Sankey's job-evaluation scheme meant a substantial pay increase for the whole factory, an uplift for low-paid pieceworkers and a basis for 'a more equitable piecework system' — almost succeeded in uniting the meeting against his 'take good advice' — this is the end of the road.

'Out! Out!'

And loud boing, chants of 'Out! Out! Out!' and slow hand-clapping exploded when he cited as authorities for his advice 'three of the most experienced and powerful union leaders in Great Britain — Lord Cooper, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon'.

Talks about implementation of the company's multi-stringed' plan, officials told reporters later, would begin as soon as possible.

But many GKN-Sankey workers are already preparing to meet the blow when the axe does fall.

Devlin halted?

A **PAY DISPUTE** has broken out at London docks on the eve of the introduction of Devlin Phase Two scheme.

Foremen at three of the largest stevedoring companies will refuse to work Devlin on Monday if management do not pay them £2,600 a year.

The employers claim that the men — who work for Scruttons Maltby, Thames Stevedoring and Southern Stevedores — had accepted £2,440.

Switch

The foremen say that they will not make the switch to the two-shift system which will operate from Monday.

Without their first-line supervision it is doubtful that Phase Two will get off the ground.

The British Transport Docks Board, which controls 19 of Britain's ports, expects to make a 'sizeable' deficit this year, believed to be in the region of £1m.

This is the Board's first deficit since its creation in 1963.

WEATHER

London area, SE England, central southern England, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Dry with sunny periods. Wind light. S or SE. Warm. Max. 23C (73F).

E England, W Midlands, SW England, NW England, central northern England: Rather cloudy with some sunny intervals, but a little rain or drizzle in places. Wind light or variable. Rather warm. Max. 21C (70F).

NE England, Glasgow area, N Ireland: Mainly sunny with sunny periods. Winds mostly light. W. Rather warm. Max. 18C (64F).

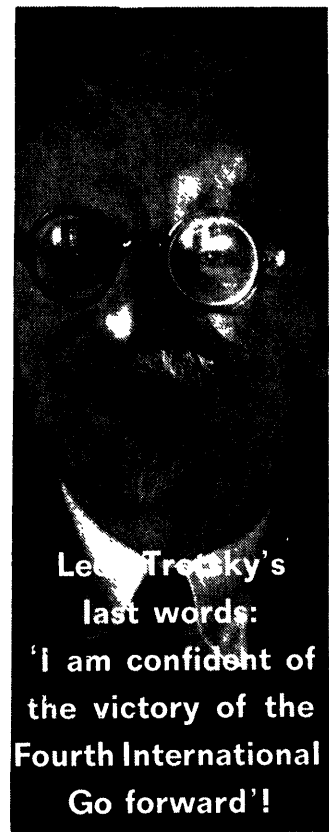
Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Dry in England and Wales at first but some rain over N Ireland and W Scotland will spread to western districts of England and Wales during Monday. Generally rather warm at first, becoming cooler in West.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE Trotsky Memorial Meeting

GLASGOW
Partick Burgh Hall
(nr Merkland St underground)

7.30 p.m.
Admission 2s.
'Trotsky and the coming English Revolution'
Speaker: G. Healy (SLL national secretary)

Sunday
October 4



LATE NEWS

'FOREIGNERS IN AMMAN' Hussein's military boss Habis Majali yesterday claimed that his troops had arrested 'a group of armed foreigners' in Amman.

Though their nationality was not mentioned, observers in Amman think they are either Syrians or Iraqis.

VIETNAM DEMO CLASH Sydney police fought against anti-Vietnam war demonstrators yesterday at the end of a massive march in support of the Australian Vietnam moratorium.

HOSPITALS PAY OFFER REJECTED

Four unions representing 230,000 hospital workers yesterday rejected a pay offer of 35s and 36s for men and 31s

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