

THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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The NUT bureaucrats say, weakly, in their commentary, that teachers must keep the right to strike.

But they give no guide as to how this is to be done, because it demands an uncompromising struggle with the Tory government.

Backing the bureaucracy's undermining of the fight against the anti-union laws is the Communist Party.

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Why are the Tories so furiously stoking the fires of an all-out clash with the labour movement? It is because behind their attacks looms the rapidly deepening economic crisis.

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In Britain this means using all the power of the state to destroy historic rights to organize in trade unions, and to install an open dictatorship.

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At the centre of the capitalist world crisis is the United States.

The Tories see the powerful US capitalists themselves desperately preparing for the oncoming crisis. Following swiftly on the heels of the protectionist bills carried in November, the US Administration now issues its 'inflation alert' and Congress decides to scrap the Super-sonic Airliner project.

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The Tories are giving the same message to the British workers, and for the same inescapable reasons. The anti-union legislation is something much bigger in its political implications than a 'blackleg's charter'.

If carried, it is intended to lay the foundation for a series of government decrees. Orders in Council and invoking of emergency powers, to carry out large-scale political repressions in the name of the 'national interest'.

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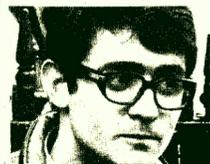
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Members of Parliament and from trade unions in the film industry.

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'They told us that the closures and cuts planned would not mean redundancies at Cowley if we accepted Measured-Day Work on the new ADO 28 model, Tom White, a shop steward in the engine assembly plant told the Workers Press.

## THREAT

'They kept on emphasizing this. It is clear that the management is using the threat of redundancies as a big stick to destroy piecework and introduce a massive speed-up on the new model,' he added.

In a strongly-worded state-

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

ment issued by Cowley management, closures are threatened if changes are not made at the Austin-Morris plant.

Cowley, says the two-page statement, 'has contributed more than its share to the loss of production through disputes and has not been making enough motor cars to justify its continued existence.'

## CHANGE

'Radical change is needed to put this right,' it adds.

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Management says, however, that these workers could be absorbed in production if the ADO 28 proceeds under MDW.

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Worst hit if the company's plan is implemented will be Birmingham, where over 3,000 face the sack.

In area meetings with management, local union officials and shop stewards were told that 700 workers must be put out of their jobs at Swindon, 600 at Oxford and 350 at Coventry.

Here is the urgent case for nationalization under workers' control in a nutshell. Central to the 'fifth phase' of the group's integration programme, as Austin-Morris director George Turnbull stressed yesterday, is the introduction of Measured-Day Work on to the ADO 28 model at the Cowley assembly plant in Oxford.

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'Our members are screaming out for leadership from the top,' said one. 'If the TUC says "act", then they will act. If it doesn't they won't.'

Other delegates spoke of the 'reactionary, stick-in-the-mud attitude' of the TUC campaign and one delegate accused the General Council of conniving with the Tories to get the Bill through.

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disciplined clauses union branches are expected to approve by next Tuesday.

It seems as if they're proposing to fall in line with any anti-union laws that are going to take place, even before they're passed,' commented sacked Pilkington's rank-and-file leader Gerry Caughey yesterday.

● More details on the deal in Monday's Workers Press.

## £1,250 Dec. Appeal Fund starts at £74 13s 6d

THIS month we are asking all our readers to begin the campaign early as we will need to raise the bulk of the fund before Xmas.

With the latest Tory proposals aimed at destroying the trade unions, the role of the Workers Press will be felt more than ever before.

We are confident, from the tremendous response you give us on each occasion, we can raise the fund in time. We certainly, will not let you down in this bitter struggle against this government.

Please give as generously as you can towards our December fund. Post all your donations to:

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

## DECEMBER EIGHTH

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

## Meeting

The postmen have shown the way to defeat the anti-union laws! Make the trade union leaders fight the Tories! Force the government to resign!

TUESDAY  
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The Lecture Hall  
Central Hall  
Westminster

Speakers:

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G. CAUGHEY (Chairman Pilkington's Rank and File Committee)

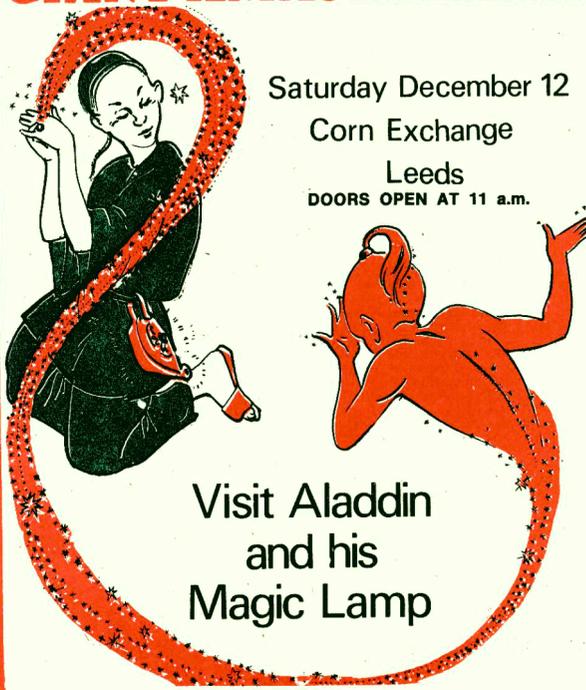
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Chairman:

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Corn Exchange  
Leeds  
DOORS OPEN AT 11 a.m.

Visit Aladdin  
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Toys — Bingo — Books — Raffles — Plants — Can-Can Records — Portraits — Xmas Gifts — Candy Floss — YS Boutique — Bottle Draw — Food Bargains — Lucky Straws — White Elephant — Instant Photo — Babies' Clothes — Punch 'N' Judy — Home-made Food — Fruit Machines — Childrens' Clothes — Alligator's Head — Xmas Decorations — Father Christmas — All the best jumble — Teas & Refreshments — Scarves, Hats & Gloves — Hot Dogs, Hamburgers — Stalls — Sideshows

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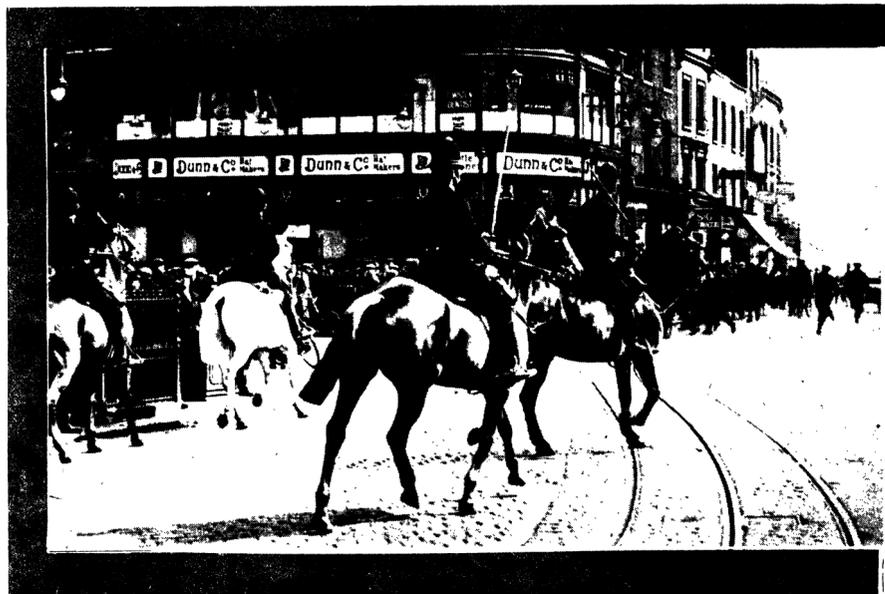
Toys — Bingo — Books — Raffles — Plants — Can-Can Records — Portraits — Xmas Gifts — Candy Floss — YS Boutique — Bottle Draw — Food Bargains — Lucky Straws — White Elephant — Instant Photo — Babies' Clothes — Punch 'N' Judy — Home-made Food — Fruit Machines — Children's Clothes — Alligator's Head — Xmas Decorations — Father Christmas — All the best jumble — Teas & Refreshments — Scarves, Hats & Gloves — Hot Dogs, Hamburgers — Stalls — Sideshows

PART FIVE OF A SERIES

# Some pages from miners' history

# 1926

## by Jack Gale



**THE SETTING up of a Royal Commission of Inquiry into the coal industry five weeks after Red Friday was the first step in the government's preparation for conflict.**

But the right was preparing in other ways as well—on September 25, 1925, the Organization for the Maintenance of Supplies was formed.

Its head was Lord Hardinge of Penhurst, a former Viceroy of India, and its Council included Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Jellicoe.

On November 20, the Emergency Powers Act was invoked and England and Wales divided into ten Divisions, each under a Minister acting as Civil Commissioner on behalf of the government.



A. J. Cooke



Sir Herbert Samuel

The government's position was clearly stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer — Winston Churchill — who declared on December 10, 1925:

"It is quite clear that a conflict of this kind, launched in this way, might easily cease to be a mere ordinary industrial dispute about wages and conditions and might assume a charter altogether different from such industrial disputes."

"If that were to ensue, then it is quite clear that such a conflict between the community on the one hand, with the government at its head, and many of the great trade unions on the other, could only end in one way, namely, by the community, at whatever cost, emerging victorious over an organized section of its citizens . . ."

"We considered, therefore, that should such a struggle be found to be inevitable at the very last moment, it was of supreme importance that it should only be undertaken under conditions which would not expose the nation needlessly or wantonly to perils the gravity of which cannot be overestimated."

"We therefore decided to postpone the crisis in the hope of averting it, or, if not of averting it, of coping effectively with it when the time came." (My emphasis, J.G.)

The state was quick to act. The Communist Party planned to produce a daily edition of 'Workers' Weekly' during the strike. The first issue appeared on May 3, 1926, and on May 5 the police raided the Party press and took away vital parts of the machinery.

Leading Communist Party members were jailed (see Red Friday article, Workers Press, November 21). Altogether 5,000 people were prosecuted for acts committed, during the strike, 1,200 of these were Communist Party members and 400 were jailed.

How did the workers' leaders prepare? The September 1925 Congress of the TUC passed all kinds of 'left' resolutions including one of support to 'our Chinese comrades', one supporting the rights to self-determination of all peoples in the British Empire and one condemning the enslavement of the German workers by the Dawes plan.

But despite this and despite the many speeches about the need for preparation by leaders such as TUC President A. B. Swales, no steps were actually taken. The trade union leaders placed their hopes in the Royal Commission (the Samuel Commission) and shirked their own responsibilities even though the Commission contained no union representatives.

### Alliance

The Industrial Alliance of unions in heavy industry and transport continued to grow—on paper the National Union of Foundry Workers joined and so did ASLEF and the ETU. In practice, however, this Alliance never functioned.

Even after the Samuel Commission reported and recommended cutting the miners' wages, the TUC urged the Miners' Federation to continue negotiations with the Mining Employers' Association 'to reduce points of difference to the smallest possible dimensions'.

The miners' leaders met the employers in March and again in April, but the employers wanted not only wage cuts but longer hours as well. In most districts they posted notices in the pits ending the existing contracts from April 30. The miners were locked out.

The mine-owners wanted to impose cuts of 2s 8d to 5s 11d a shift in S Wales and Monmouth, 2s 10d in Durham, 2s in Scotland and 1s to 1s 6d in all other areas.

The TUC leaders were on their knees from the start. They pleaded with the government and the employers to suspend the notices so that negotiations could proceed. J. H. Thomas the right-wing railwaymen's leader reported on these efforts as follows:

"I suppose my usual critics will say that Thomas was almost grovelling, and it is true . . . I begged and pleaded all day today."

All the state forces were ranged against the miners—not forgetting the church. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster (Cardinal Bourne) declared at High Mass on May 9: "There is no moral justification for a general strike of this character. It is a direct challenge to lawfully-constituted authority. It is therefore a sin against the obedience which we owe to God, who is the source of that authority."

"All are bound to uphold and assist the government, which is the lawfully constituted authority of the country and week is: 'Stand Firm. Be loyal to instructions and trust your leaders'."

Within 24 hours of this message, the TUC General Council was suing for peace.

Sir Herbert Samuel put forward some suggestions known as the Samuel Memorandum, the main points of which were that a settlement of the mining dispute can be secured. They stated that they 'assumed' that the mining subsidy would be renewed.

But the government was not bound by the Samuel Memorandum. In fact, the first government official communiqué was to the effect that they would not compel employers to take back workers who had participated in the strike.

Without consulting the miners, the TUC's negotiating committee sought an interview with the Prime Minister, Baldwin. They crawled before him and pleaded with him to help them.

H. Thomas almost wept before Baldwin: "Your assistance is necessary . . . we want you to help . . . we trust your word as Prime Minister. We ask you to assist us in the way you only can assist us—by asking employers and all others to make the position as easy and smooth as possible, because the one thing we must not have is guerrilla warfare."



Ernest Bevin pleaded in vain.

represents, therefore, in its own appointed sphere the authority of God himself."

On Saturday May 1, the TUC called the General Strike to start on Monday, May 3.

All conduct of the strike was handed over to the TUC General Council. On May 10 the TUC, in its paper 'British Worker' under a heading 'All's Well', declared:

"Nothing could be more wonderful than the magnificent response of millions of workers to the call of their leaders. From every town and city in the country reports are pouring into the General Council headquarters stating that all ranks are solid, that the working men and women are resolute in their determination to resist the unjust attack upon the mining community."

"The General Council's message at the opening of the second

whether there is to be a renewal of the mining negotiations with us."

Baldwin brushed off these timorous appeals with open contempt. He gave them nothing:

"Well, Mr Bevin, I cannot say more here at this meeting now. The point you put is one I must consider. In regard to your second point, there again I cannot say at this stage what will happen. I cannot say exactly what the lines will be upon which my object can best be obtained."

Bevin begged, obsequiously:

"I do not want to take up your time, but shall we be meeting upon these two points soon?"

Baldwin spurned him:

"I cannot say that, Mr Bevin. I think it may be that whatever decision I come to the House of Commons may be the best place in which to say it."

a decisive breakthrough in its influence in the unions and in the Labour Party . . . but Stalin was already seeking peaceful relations with British imperialism through the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee."

This was the international implication of the revisionist theory of socialism in one country. It brushed aside the whole struggle that had been waged in the first four congresses of the Communist International and the British Communist Party in Lenin's lifetime to establish Bolshevik methods of work in Britain, and transformed the British CP into a loyal appendage of the then emerging Stalinist bureaucracy.

Instead of working on a tactical united front basis with the TUC left wing, in the context of which the Party could advance its

'Workers' Weekly', where he preached caution."

"Our Party does not hold the leading positions in the trade unions. It is not conducting the negotiations with the employers and the government. It can only advise and place its press and its forces at the service of the workers—led by others."

"And let it be remembered that those who are leading have no revolutionary perspectives before them."

"Any revolutionary perspectives they may perceive will send the majority of them hot on the track of a retreat."

"Those who do not look for a path along which to retreat are good trade union leaders, who have sufficient character to stand firm on the demands of the miners, but they are totally incapable of moving forward to face all the implications of a united working-class challenge to the state. To entertain any exaggerated views as to the revolutionary possibilities of this crisis is fantastic." (My emphasis, J.G.)

Woodhouse illustrates the marked contrast between the Communist Party's role before and after Red Friday. Early in 1925, the Party correctly stressed that it would not subordinate its own activities to the diplomatic requirements of the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee: "Unity that only means a polite agreement between leaders is useless unless it is backed up by mass pressure. . . . Vast masses of workers everywhere are moving slowly forward."

"Those leaders who stand in the way are going to be swept aside. The class struggle cannot be limited to an exchange of diplomatic letters" ('Workers' Weekly', January 2, 1925.)

### Councils

Similarly, the Communist Party welcomed the efforts of lefts such as A. J. Cooke to build up the Industrial Alliance, but it combined this support with work at rank-and-file level to build up committees of workers under the leadership of the Communist Party and the National Minority Movement.

The purpose of these committees was not just to pressure leaders, but to become embryo Councils of Action. In this period the CP was relating its work in the unions directly to the creation of revolutionary consciousness.

Thus, Tom Bell wrote in June 1925:

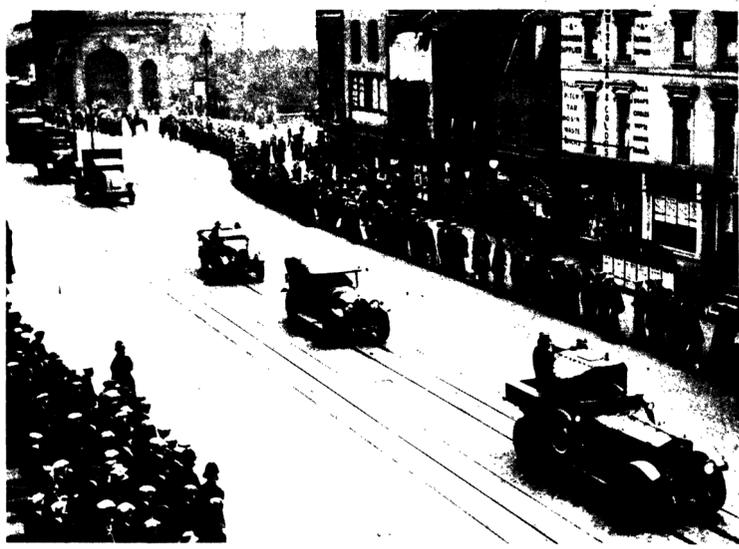
"All talk, such as the statement of Citrine, the acting secretary of the General Council of the TUC, that this is an 'economic dispute' is a definite sabotage of the working-class defence against capitalist attack. The miners' crisis is part of the general crisis of British industrialism. For that reason it has passed beyond any purely economic stage. It is a definitely political crisis and can only be solved by revolutionary political means." ('Communist Review').

After Red Friday, however, the British Communist Party was in an increasingly contradictory position.

The original attempts to develop the rank-and-file revolutionary potential were increasingly swamped by the pressure from the Communist International not to adopt an attitude to the TUC which would embarrass the working of the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee.

As time went on, approaching the outbreak of the strike, the Communist Party was acting more and more as the supporter, at a rank-and-file level, of the official General Council left wing. The initiative passed from the CP (which to a large extent had forced Red Friday on to the

"Quoted in L. J. Macfarlane 'The British Communist Party'.



A food convoy escorted by armoured cars.

political influence in the rank and file, the Communist Party became involved in an opportunist collaboration type of relationship with the Centrist left wing, in which the Party was basically a loyal component of a bloc with this left wing."

The Communist Party failed to prepare in any concrete way for the role of independent revolutionary leadership during the strike.

For example, it called for a special conference of trade union branches to form a workers' defence corps and to put the workers' case before the armed forces, but which would also fight for wider powers to the General Council.

Trotsky declared that the impending General Strike could herald the British Revolution and he warned of the danger that the British Communist Party would let slip the opportunity of the revolutionary situation as the General Party did in 1923.

"(Problems of the British Labour Movement', written March 5, 1926.)

On May 6, in a Preface to 'Where is Britain Going?' Trotsky wrote that 'a real victory for the General Strike can only be found in the conquest of power by the proletariat'.

But the position of the British Communist Party leadership was made clear by J. T. Murphy in

"A full account of the changing position of the Communist Party between Red Friday and the General Strike can be found in M. Woodhouse's article 'Marxism and Stalinism in Britain, Part 4', Fourth International Summer 1969."

### Victimizations

In some cases, they said, dismissal of workers would be inevitable due to the decrease in production caused by the strike and in view of obligations incurred by employers in regard to volunteer labour.

Victimizations multiplied. Railway companies, for instance, declared that strikers had broken their contracts and would be taken back only on individual contracts.

The TUC feebly requested that the government should stop the attacks on the unions.

"It must demand that the employers abstain from victimization. The word of the Prime Minister is at stake."

What did the Communist Party do in this situation?

By 1925 the British Communist party was beginning to make



TUC leaders from below) to the opportunist element in the union leadership, who in their turn assisted the right wing in sabotaging the strike.

Instead of preparing the workers for a sell out and building an alternative leadership, the Communist Party increased the illusion in the working class that the TUC would act firmly.

After the TUC's Scarborough Conference the Communist Party line was not to develop independent revolutionary potential in the unions, but to press the TUC to carry out the left-wing resolutions and to campaign for the General Council to assume full controlling power over the unions.

In circumstances where working-class consciousness was developing very rapidly and where the Party task was to give concrete revolutionary leadership, the Party in fact lagged behind the developments in the working class; it was theoretically unprepared for these developments and for the treachery of the lefts as well as the right wing, and it was unprepared for the movement of the General Strike towards a revolutionary challenge to the state.



Stanley Baldwin congratulated by Mrs Churchill on the defeat of the strike.

After the sell out, the Communist Party — in line with instructions from the Stalinist-dominated Communist International—condemned the action of the General Council and the timidity of the lefts.

"L. J. Macfarlane 'The British Communist Party'.

But, while Trotsky called for a Russian walk-out from the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Committee, the EC of the CI drew the conclusion that the Committee 'needed to be made into a more effective body'.

Despite its resolution of condemnation, the Communist Party retained a mild attitude to the TUC lefts and failed to criticize the errors of A. J. Cook (who had called for 'no post-mortem' on the strike).

Because of its inability to learn the lessons of the strike and of its own wrong line, the Party quickly lost the gains which it had made during and immediately after the strike (Macfarlane states that the CP gained 5,000 new members and the YCL 1,500 in the months after the strike).

### Accused

Trotsky, who had warned throughout of the danger of serious mistakes by the British Party was severely attacked in Russia and accused of writing off the British Communist Party as a reactionary organization.

Trotsky defended himself in a speech made on June 1, 1926 (Printed as Appendix F in Macfarlane).

He defended his warning that the British Party might adopt too passive or temporizing attitude.

"Does not fundamental revolutionary teaching suggest", he declared, "that in these circumstances it was necessary to repeat and to emphasize the danger that, in all the old organizational superstructure, the imminent strike would meet counter-activity resistance, sabotage and from the side of the Communist Party, a lack of decision? . . . The discrepancy between its strength, its resources, its means, and those objective tasks which are becoming increasingly imminent, is gigantic; and about this we must speak openly, not replacing revolutionary policy by party legends after formulae."

"In view of the monstrous conservatism of British social life the young British Communist Party needs to increase tenfold its implacability, its criticism, its counter-activity to the pressure of bourgeois social opinion and its 'worker' organization."

These warnings were ignored. Part of the price paid by the miners will be discussed in a later article.

"L. J. Macfarlane 'The British Communist Party'.

### IMPORTANT READING

**MARXISM and the TRADE UNIONS**

Two articles by **LEON TROTSKY**

Trade unions in the epoch of imperialist decay, Communism and syndicalism.

Leon Trotsky

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EAST & WEST European REVIEW

Divorce

AT DAWN on Tuesday the Italian Chamber of Deputies voted 319-286 in favour of the Bill allowing civil divorce.

Christian Democrats joined with Fascists and Monarchists to oppose the measure, which was passed with the votes of the CP, Socialist Party, Social Democrats and Republicans.

It now awaits only official publication to become law.

Shortly after the vote Pope Paul paused in his ceremonial visit to Australia to give a professional opinion.

'Deep sorrow'

Just before mounting to the altar at Sydney racetrack to celebrate an open-air mass he announced his 'deep sorrow'.

But back in the Vatican the Church diplomats were already busy preparing a gigantic political diversion for the Italian capitalist class.

For under the 'Concordat' between the Italian state and the Papacy—negotiated by Mussolini in 1929—the Church claims exclusive authority in 'the dissolution of marriage'.

And the Concordat is embodied in the post-war Constitution of the Italian Republic.

Its inclusion was proposed by the then head of the CP Palmiro Togliatti 'in order not to separate us from Catholic workers'.

As well as giving the Church the right to obstruct divorce, it gives legal and tax privileges to the clergy, requires the state to pay salaries to thousands of them and guarantees the Pope some of the most valuable real estate in Italy.

Clearly, a useful document.

As soon as the Divorce Bill was voted the French Cardinal Jean Villot, now recognized as the Pope's chief negotiator in such matters, set his officers to drafting a diplomatic note of protest to the Italian government.

Referendum

The move came in concert with a motion by 35 Christian Democratic Deputies to seek a referendum on divorce before the Bill becomes law.

Their words were echoed by lesser clerics throughout the length and breadth of Italy.

This agitation against the Divorce Bill and for a referendum is certainly consciously intended to divert attention from the impending mass strikes which could topple the Italian coalition.

But at the same time the Church rightly fears that this reform, coming at such a critical time, seriously weakens the age-old ideological and moral cement provided by Roman Catholicism for class oppression in Italy.

The fear behind diplomacy

THE DIPLOMATIC minuets being conducted around the negotiations on Berlin and the relations of W Germany with the USSR and the countries of E Europe conceal important moves by the Soviet bureaucracy towards a European 'security' conference.

At such a conference they would hope to reach agreement with the capitalist governments of W Europe and the US on a division of the continent, leaving the latter to take on the labour movement in their own countries while the bureaucracy and its servants police the working class in the Stalinist states.

But such a massive 'settlement' will not be reached easily. The E German Stalinists, who feel their position most threatened, are in open disagreement with Brezhnev and the Soviet leaders—one result of which was Brezhnev's attendance at the Warsaw Pact 'summit' which opened in E Berlin on Wednesday.

Ulbricht and the E German Stalinists know they cannot divide the German workers by signatures alone, and they have sharp memories of 1953, when the E Berlin workers called for support from W German unions in the days before their uprising was suppressed by Soviet tanks.

Opposition

Though the E German Stalinists are not in a position to break openly with Brezhnev, they marked their opposition by holding up traffic on the motorway from W Germany to Berlin (which runs through over 100 miles of E Germany) on Monday and Tuesday.

Officially, the action was a protest against the meeting of Christian Democratic (CDU) and Christian Social (CSU) parliamentarians (the CDU-CSU forms W Germany's main capitalist political organization) in W Berlin.

At the same time Brezhnev was declaring in the Soviet Union that 'an easing of the situation is perfectly possible as far as W Berlin is concerned'—and in effect accepting that a practical agreement on Berlin must precede a European deal.

Simultaneously the ambassadors of the four big powers who legally control Berlin (the USSR, the USA, Britain and France) continued their discussions in the city on transport and communications with W Germany.

The E German regime is also



E German Stalinists fear, above all, a repetition of the June 1953 uprising when Berlin workers (above) tore down sector barriers.

worried at the growth of extreme reaction within the CDU-CSU, led by the Bavarian demagogue Franz Josef Strauss. Strauss, with the backing of some of the biggest employers, is now openly campaigning—and conspiring—for the fall of Brandt's Social Democratic-Liberal coalition.

Gambit

But Strauss's position on 'the German question' is not only a gambit for domestic politics. He aims at a reunification of Germany for capitalism—a 'Fourth Reich' in which the employers will reign supreme and both the Stalinist apparatus of E Germany and the labour movement (including Brandt's Social Democratic Party) in W Germany will be destroyed.

Daubings

Openly expressing his intentions, Nazi terrorists have sacked Social-Democratic and trade union premises, daubing the insides with such slogans as 'Brandt to the wall!' And a union of 'Patriotic Asso-



The E German regime is worried at the growth over the border of extreme reaction led by Nazi-backed Franz Josef Strauss, the Bavarian right-wing demagogue.

Looks armless

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

IN THE SWISS resort of Lausanne, 40 miles along the lakeside from the centre of international amity in Geneva, there ended last week a trial which revealed just how lucrative 'neutrality' can be.

In the dock was Dietrich Buehrle—head of the firm of Oerlikon-Buehrle AG, manufacturers of machine-tools, cannon, anti-aircraft guns and ammunition—and six of the company's managerial staff.

They were charged in connection with supplying arms, to areas banned to Swiss arms merchants, disguised as shipments to permitted countries.

Twenty-eight twin 35-millimetre rapid-firing cannons and 216,000 rounds of ammunition had gone to S Africa via Marseilles.

Swiss officials allowed themselves to be deceived by official French government papers declaring that the final destination of the weapons was France.

Which raised the question how Oerlikon sales managers Lebidsky and Gebert had obtained the papers and why the Swiss bureaucrats accepted them although the signatures were illegible.

Similar shipments had gone to Egypt (via Ethiopia), Malaysia (via Indonesia), Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and the Lebanon.

Refusing to take sides in the Middle East, the enterprising salesmen had also supplied the Israeli government—via France, despite the French embargo on supplying weapons to Israel.

Three of the accused were jailed for their pains. But Buehrle himself, one of the richest men in Switzerland, with a fortune of over £11 million, was fined the modest sum of £2,000 and cautioned with an eight-month suspended sentence.

Prompted

This fear has even the power to bring truth to their lips. It prompted Friedrich Ebert, E Berlin's CP chief, to declare in Brezhnev's presence at the recent Budapest Congress of the Hungarian CP that 'W Germany is an imperialist state, and part of NATO'.

His simple wisdom cut across the polite talk of 'cultural exchanges' and 'friendly relations between states' having differing social systems'. It was the unspectacular sign of a crisis which threatens the historical death of the Stalinists and all brokers in class collaboration.

BBC 1 TV SATURDAY. 9.35 a.m. Square two. 10.00-10.30 Si dice costi. 12 noon Weather. 12.05 p.m. Space kiddies. 12.25 EdandZed. 12.45 Grandstand. 12.50 Football preview. 1.10, 2.10, International amateur boxing. 1.35 Cricket: Australia v England. 1.50, 2.20, 2.50, 3.20 Racing from Chesham. 2.40, 3.10 Rallycross. 3.40 Rugby League: Leeds v Warrington. 4.50 Results service. 5.20 Pink Panther show. 5.40 News and weather. 5.50 Wildlife safari to Ethiopia. 6.15 IF IT'S SATURDAY IT MUST BE NIMMO. 6.45 DIXON OF DOCK GREEN. 'Shadows'. 7.30 THE ROLF HARRIS SHOW. 8.20 THE SATURDAY THRILLER. 'See How They Run'. With John Forsythe, Santa Berger, Jane Wyatt, Leslie Nielsen and Franchoy Tene. Three children find themselves in mortal danger. 9.55 NEWS and weather. 10.05 MATCH OF THE DAY. 11.05 BRADEN'S WEEK. 11.40 Weather. BBC 2 3.00-4.35 p.m. Saturday cinema. 'Tammy Tell Me True'. With Sandra Dee, John Gavin. Tammy follows her boy friend to college. 7.10 WESTMINSTER. 7.30 NEWS, SPORT and weather. 7.40 RUGBY SPECIAL. 1871-1971: RFU Centenary Year series. Glasgow v Edinburgh. 8.20 'BLACK ROOTS'. Voices and music of Black America—the Negroes' view of their own country. 9.10 CHAMPAGNE ON ICE. With Daliah Lavi and Donald Jackson. 9.55 THE ROADS TO FREEDOM. The Reprise. 10.30 DISCO 2. 11.05 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 11.10 MIDNIGHT MOVIE. 'Pushover'. With Kim Novak, Fred MacMurray, Dorothy Malone and Phil Carey. A gangster's moll persuades a detective to join her in a daring and brutal crime. ITV 11.05 a.m. RAC road report. 11.10 Music room. 11.35 Toolbox. 12 noon Wind in the willows. 12.15 p.m. Stingray. 12.45 News from ITN. 12.50 World of sport. 12.55 On the ball. 1.20 They're off! 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Sedgfield. 1.45, 2.15, 2.50 Racing from Sandown. 3.10 International sports special. Ice Figure Skating Championships of Great Britain. 3.55 Results, scores, news. 4.00 Wrestling from Blackburn. 4.55 Results service. 5.10 The forest rangers. 5.40 Ev. Kenny Everett. 6.15 NEWS FROM ITN. 6.15 SATURDAY SPORTS NEWS. 6.30 THE BEVERLY HILLBILLIES. 'The Reserve Program'. 7.00 NO, THAT'S ME OVER HERE. 7.30 THE GOLDDIGGERS IN LONDON. 8.00 HAWAII FIVE-O. 'The Guernsey Caper'. 9.00 FRAUD SQUAD. 'Golden Island'. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.10 THE FROST PROGRAMME. 10.110 THINK TWICE. With Russell Davies and Clive James. 11.30 ON REFLECTION. Sir Brian Horrocks reflects on the Duke of Wellington. 12.00 midnight PARTICULAR CHURCHES.

BBC 1 REGIONAL BBC. All regions as BBC 1 except: Midlands, E Anglia, North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland, SW, South, West: 11.42 Weather. Wales: 12.05-12.25 Cadi ha. 5.50-6.15 Disc a dawn. 10.45-11.05 Match of the day. 11.42 Weather. Scotland: 5.00-5.20 and 10.05 Sports-reen. 10.35-11.05 Monty Python's Flying Circus. 11.42 News, weather. N Ireland: 5.05-5.20 Sports results and news. 11.40-12.00 Sports final, news, weather. YORKSHIRE: 11.30 Casting around. 11.35 Toolbox. 12.20 Skippy. 12.45 London. 5.15 Gunsmoke. 6.10 London. 6.15 Golddiggers. 6.45 No, that's me over here. 7.15 'Leave us the Dole'. With Deborah Kerr and Clifford Evans. Lancashire life during the Depression. 9.00 London. 9.30 Tom Jones. 12.10 Weather. GRANADA: 11.25 On reflection. 11.50 Toolbox. 12.15 Fireball XL5. 12.45 London. 5.10 Lost in space. 6.10 London. 6.15 Golddiggers. 6.45 No, that's me over here. 7.30 No, that's me over here. 8.00 FBI. 9.00 London. 10.10 Film: 'Odango'. With Rhonda Fleming and MacDonald Carey. Some of trainer Steve Stratton's wild animals are set free and suspicion falls on his servant, Otagoro. 10.20 London. 10.10 Theatre. 11.10 Frost. 12.10 Epilogue. BORDER: 11.50 All our yesterdays. 12.10 Phoenix 5. 12.45 London. 5.10 Big valley. 6.05 Sports results. 6.10 London. 6.15 Golddiggers. 6.45 No, that's me over here. 7.15 'Escape from Zahrain'. With Ful Brynner, Sal Mineo and Madlyn Rhue. Sharif, a revolutionary leader in an oil kingdom, is rescued from a police van by revolutionary students. 9.00 London. 10.10 Theatre. 11.10 Queenie's castle. 11.40 Love, American style. SCOTTISH: 12.15 Survival. 12.45 London. 5.15 Mad movies. 5.40 Wheel of fortune. 6.10 London. 6.15 Golddiggers. 6.45 No, that's me over here. 7.15 Movie: 'Red Skies of Montana'. With Richard Widmark, Jeffrey Hunter, Richard Boone and Richard Crenna. 9.00 London. 11.05 Match report. 11.20 Late. 11.25 Film: 'The Mummy's Hand'. With Dick Foran, George Zucco and Cecil Kellaway. GRAMPIAN: 12.30 Stories of Tuktuk. 12.45 London. 5.15 Gunsmoke. 6.10 London. 6.15 Golddiggers. 6.45 No, that's me over here. 7.15 Movie: 'The Running Man'. With Laurence Harvey, Lee Remick and Alan Bates. Mrs Black returns from her husband's funeral with a smile on her face. 9.00 London. 11.05 Match report. 11.25 Untouchables. BBC 2 7.00 p.m. NEWS REVIEW and weather. 7.25 THE RAY STEVENS SHOW. 8.15 THE WORLD ABOUT US. 'Sahara'. Narrated by Charles Boyer. 9.05 MUSIC ON 2. 'Music Now'. Rostropovich, Somu Yamashita and Alan Bush. 10.05 THE ROADS TO FREEDOM. 'The Defeated'. 10.50 THE GOODIES. 11.20 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 11.25 FILM NIGHT. ITV 11.00 a.m. Church service. 12.10 p.m. On reflection. Antonia Byatt reflects on George Eliot. 12.35 p.m. Music room. 1.00 Toolbox. 1.25 Granny gets the point. 1.45 All our yesterdays. 2.15 University challenge. 2.45 The big match. 3.45 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased). 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Flaxton boys. 6.05 NEWS FROM ITN. 6.15 SEVEN DAYS. 7.00 STARS ON SUNDAY. 7.25 PLEASE SIR! 'Situations Vacant'. 7.55 'A TOWN LIKE ALICE'. With Virginia McKenna and Peter Finch. Love and war in Malaya during the Japanese occupation. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.15 HAPPY EVER AFTER. 'Family Weekend'. 11.15 THIS IS... TOM JONES. 12.10 a.m. PARTICULAR CHURCHES.

The present dealings on Berlin were preceded by the signing of the W German-Soviet Pact. Putting pen to paper are Brandt (left) and Kosygin with Brezhnev standing between them. Now the western capitalists and Soviet bureaucracy want to get together to police workers in the East and West.

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BBC 1 REGIONAL ITV. CHANNELE: 11.00-12.35 London. 2.03 Weather. 2.05 Farming news. 2.15 Man from Uncle. 3.10 Big match. 4.05 Cartoon time. 4.35 Date with Danton. 4.55 London. 7.55 Film: 'The Pumpkin Eater'. With Ann Bancroft. 10.00 London. 10.15 Tom Jones. 11.15 Court martial. 12 midnight Epilogue, weather. WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.35-12.50 London. 1.30 Free and easy. 1.45 Farm and country news. 1.55 Acres for profit. 12.05 Faith for life. 12.10 Weather. SOUTHERN: 11.00-12.05 London. 12.07 Weather. 12.10 London. 1.30 Sea and Hoopity. 1.45 London. 2.15 Farm progress. 2.45 Soccer. 3.45 Soccer. 4.35 News. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'My Darling Clementine'. With Gary Cooper, Deborah Kerr, Eric Portman, Diane Cilento, Peter Cushing and Michael Wilding. Thriller. 9.45 Love, American style. 10.00 London. 11.15 Frost. 12.10 Weather. Action 70. HARLECH: 11.00-12.25 London. 1.45 University challenge. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Film: 'Lassie Come Home'. With Robert Taylor and Joan Fontaine. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Ivanhoe'. With Robert Taylor and Joan Fontaine. Ivanhoe tries to restore King Richard the Lion Heart to the throne. 9.40 Eartha Kitt in the Penthouse Suite. 10.00 London. 11.15 Frost. 12.10 Weather. HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 and HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 12.10 Dan sylv. 12.50 Sel a' sylwedd. ANGLIA: 11.00-12.25 London. 1.55 Weather. 2.00 Farming diary. 2.30 University challenge. 3.00 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased). 3.55 Match of the week. 4.40 London. 7.55 'Summer and Smoker'. With Karyn Rich and Geraldine Page. A Mississippi spinster still loves her childhood sweetheart. 10.00 London. 12.10 Epilogue. ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-12.25 London. 1.30 Mr Piper. 1.45 London. 2.15 Star soccer. 3.15 'Storrey Crossin'. With John Ireland and Derek Bond. Murder story. 4.41 Horoscope. 6.05 London. 6.35 Forest rangers. 6.50 London. 7.55 Film: 'Marriage on the Rocks'. With Frank Sinatra, Deborah Kerr and Dean Martin. Romantic comedy. 10.00 London. 10.15 Tom Jones. 11.15 Saint. Weather. ULSTER: 12.10-1.30 London. 2.15 London. 3.45 Champions. 4.45 London. 7.55 Movie: 'Scaramouche'. With Stewart Granger, Eleanor Parker, Janet Leigh and Mel Ferrer. Swashbuckling Paris a period piece. 10.00 London. 11.15 Tom Jones. 11.15 Festival cinema. YORKSHIRE: 11.00-12.25 London. 1.35 Calendar. 1.55 Farming diary. 2.25 Soccer. 3.20 'Nine Hours to Rama'. With José Ferrer and Horst Buchholz. January 30, 1948, in Delhi—the day Gandhi was assassinated. 4.35 London. 7.55 Film: 'A Walk on the Wild Side'. With Laurence Harvey, Jane Fonda, Barbara Stanwyck, Anne Baxter and Capucine. The seamy side of life in the American South. 10.00 London. 11.15 Frost. 12.15 Weather. GRANADA: 11.00-12.00 London. 12.10 London. 1.25 All our yesterdays. 1.53 Interpol calling. 2.20 Cartoon time. 2.30 Football. 3.25 Quentin Durgent. 4.20 Laughmakers. 'Pardon My Berthmarks'. With Buster Keaton. Buster is asked to cover a divorce story for his newspaper. 7.55 Film: 'The VIPs'. With Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. When for envelops an air hostess passengers have to spend 24 hours together. 10.00 London. 11.15 Frost. TYNE TEES: 11.00 London. 1.25 All our yesterdays. 1.55 Farming outlook. 2.25 Shoot. 3.20 Champions. 4.15 Nanny and the professor. 4.45 London. 7.55 Film: 'Valley of Decision'. With Greer Garson and Gregory Peck. Mary Rafferty's father is enraged when she takes a job as a servant in a steel manufacturer's family because he was injured in one of their steel mills. 10.00 London. 10.15 Tom Jones. 11.15 'Challenge'. Spike Milligan. 12 midnight 'Road Not Taken'. BORDER: 11.00-1.25 London. 1.45 Farming outlook. 2.15 Diary. 2.35 Football. 3.20 Saint. 4.15 Ev. 4.45 London. 7.55 'Topkapi'. With Melina Mercouri, Peter Ustinov, Maximilian Schell, Robert Morley and Akim Tamiroff. Elizabeth Lipp is determined to steal a priceless dagger from the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul. 10.00 London. 10.15 Tom Jones. 11.15 Frost. 12.15 Epilogue. SCOTTISH: 12.10-1.25 London. 3.20 All our yesterdays. 3.50 Seaway. 4.45 London. 7.55 Cinema: Granada. 10.00 London. 12.10 Late call. GRAMPIAN: 12.10-1.25 London. 1.45 London. 2.15 Farm progress. 3.10 Climbing. 3.10 Movie: 'The Perfect Woman'. With Patricia Roc, Stanley Holloway and Nigel Patrick. Comedy about a professor who invents a robot woman. 4.45 London. 7.55 Cinema: 'Great Expectations'. With John Mills. Dickens' story of a blacksmith's apprentice. 10.00 London. 12.10 You don't trust me, but...

# Tories out to take state steel

THE TORY hatchman for the nationalized industries Mr John Davies has opened talks with the chairman of the British Steel Corporation, Lord Melchett, to look into ways of selling off three of the most profitable parts of the industry in Wales.

Four Welsh plants employing 1,000 men each may be sold.

These are at the special steel division at Panteg, Brymbo and Landore; the constructional engineering division which includes the T. C. Jones works at Treorchy and the chemical division which has minority interests in three companies in Wales—BP, Bitmac and the Port Talbot Chemical Company.

Mr Davies has been told that selling off these divisions would mean tax payers' support for the rest of the industry and a shortage of capital for building new steel works.

## Decisive blow

It would deal a decisive blow to the industry's morale and would create weaknesses just as the new divisional structure was being consolidated.

Workers at Panteg have already expressed alarm at the proposals because they fear private owners would concentrate the industry on Sheffield.

A spokesman for BSC has said that the end result of selling parts of the industry back to private operators would be to close it down. And Lord Melchett says the 'only kind of 'disengagement' they would consider tolerable would be a BP-type solution where the state retained the major share of investment in the industry.

But already the winds of change which swept Lord Hall out of the Post Office are beginning to reach Lord Melchett who is claimed variously to be about to resign and to be in ill health. There can be little doubt that if Lord Melchett stands in the way of the Tory plan to break up the nationalized steel industry he will be forced to resign.



## DOCKERS in Liverpool have an almost unparalleled record of militancy under successive Labour and Tory governments.

But now they face their biggest test of all.

A government team is currently investigating the financial crisis of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. They will undoubtedly recommend closures and redundancies in all sectors of dockland.

Part of the team's strategy will be to bulldoze the Liverpool dockers into accepting Phase Two of the Devlin scheme, which has again been resisted by the 10,000-strong dock labour force.

But the most testing challenge of all to workers on the Liverpool waterfront are the Tory attempts to smash the dockers' strongest weapon—the unofficial strike—with the Industrial Relations Bill.

With this Bill the government seeks to outlaw completely the unofficial leadership that has fought for dockers' rights and conditions in Liverpool for over a century.

As the secretary of the Liverpool docks stewards' committee, Alan English is part of that leadership.

We talked to Alan about the draft Charter of Basic Rights published by the All Trades Unions Alliance for discussion at its December 19 conference.

HIGH COURT yesterday decided that Tuesday's injunction against the executive of print union SOGAT (Division A), preventing it from calling on its members to support the December 8 strike, should continue.

# Economic crisis

FROM PAGE ONE

in the government's view, why they should have to go to jail unless they deliberately want to make martyrs of themselves. This means, in plain English: militants will go to jail, and will be witch-hunted and condemned as self-appointed martyrs.

## Dictatorship

The new laws are the first step along the road to open capitalist dictatorship skin to the corporate state of Mussolini and Hitler's Nazi regime. The working class will not permit the capitalists to take this road out of the crisis.

But to defeat their plans it is necessary to conduct a ruthless struggle to force the union leaders to mobilize the trade unions for a general strike to bring them down.

The TUC right-wing's and the Labour leaders' treachery is that they collaborate with the class enemy in these steps to dictatorship. The more they crawl, the more the Tories press ahead.

It is because of the depth of the crisis, and the historic changes which are really signified by the anti-union laws, that the role of Stalinism is now so sinister and dangerous.

The Stalinists distort the struggle against the anti-union laws into a mere protest to 'change the government's mind'.

They obstruct the demand that the union leaders be forced to fight, and cover up for these leaders.

They create the fatal illusion that there could somehow be a Tory government today which carried on without such anti-union laws.

Here we have the traditional counter-revolutionary role of Stalinism.

## More meat for Polish miners

POLISH Communist Party leader Wladyslaw Gomulka told miners in Zabrze (Upper Silesia) on Thursday that meat exports had been cut to maintain Poland's shrinking domestic supplies.

There have been unofficial reports from Poland of miners' protests against food shortages in Upper Silesia, Poland's main coal-producing region. Because of their importance to the national economy, Gomulka explained, miners would be getting extra meat rations.

These would be diverted from other parts of the country, as exports to capitalist countries could not be reduced any further.

# Charter of Basic Rights

I HAVE read the Charter several times with my friend Jack Abbot, who is another Liverpool steward, and to be honest I cannot disagree with any part of it. Everything seems to be there; whoever did it made a very good job of the draft.

There are, listed in the Charter, rights that are a part of 100 years of working-class history. We have always struggled on this dock for wages and conditions, but now we face the biggest struggle of all.

The time is coming for a big show-down and to do this all workers, not only those on the docks, must come together to oppose this government's vicious plans.

The Bill is primarily aimed at destroying the unofficial movement. We can't let this happen—we have had to wait 42 years in the ports for an official strike and at this rate, I have worked it out, I will be 70 and retired before we get another one.

But it is this kind of situation that the Tories are aiming at with their Bill. As for the trade union leaders and the TUC, all I can say is that I am disgusted with their attitudes.

The time is ripe now, if they gave a lead they could mobilize all the working class against this Bill and the whole Tory government—but what do they do? Talk, talk, I think it's right that they should be asked to fight.

The local leadership down here seem to be right behind December 8, it's the top notch that are the villains—those around Victor Feather.

I don't know what is stopping these people. I have only seen the unity that exists now in the working class once before, and that was in the war. Now we are ready for a different kind of war, a war against

the Tories, but where are the generals?

December 8 should only be a beginning. I think the TUC will have to act after this and they will have to act fast with this kind of Tory government.

The demands I like particularly are those concerning the welfare service and pensions.

It's an absolute crime to take the milk off the kids. It shows just what kind of people we are dealing with.

Then there are the school meals—with prices of these up some people with large families will be paying £3 a week.

In other words the woman of the family will have to work just to keep her kids fed, yet this, as the Charter states, should be a right.

On pensions I find the demand for a sliding scale of prices and pensions very attractive. There are men

DELEGATES from the Swindon district committee of the AEF will be attending the December 19 ATUA conference which will discuss the Charter of Basic Rights.

on the dock who retire after a life-time of making money for the ship owners. Then in a few weeks you see them back on the dock collecting tea cups in the canteen or something.

This is terrible. All workers should be retired on their full basic wage instead of the £4 10s they get now.

See all these things being won only if we can get the Tories out. There will be such a sweep to the left among workers if this happens that the Labour Party won't be able to get up to the tricks when it gets back. This is the way I see the future.

# State of emergency due over Basque trial

SPANISH dictator General Franco summoned an emergency session of his cabinet on his 78th birthday yesterday, as big strikes and demonstrations continued against the Burgos military trial of 16 Basque nationalists.

The cabinet was thought likely to decree a state of emergency at least in the Basque country, where more than 80,000 workers struck on Thursday in a massive wave of popular support for the 16 accused.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Physical search which delayed the start of the trial by 45 minutes.

Waiting spectators stood outside the court under the muzzle of a machine-gunned by a soldier on the third floor of the courtroom.

Appeals from the defence lawyers for the trial to be suspended while an appeal for a civil trial is heard by the supreme court were brusquely rejected by the presiding officer.

All 16 counsel objected. The guard commander would not even allow defence requests for prisoners' handcuffs to be loosened.

Herr Eugen Beihl, W German consul in San Sebastian has still not been found despite a massive search of the Basque country by para-military police.

He was snatched on Tuesday from outside his garage and is being held hostage for the fate of the Burgos prisoners by a breakaway section of the Basque nationalist movement ETA.

## SPLIT

Franco's cabinet is reported to be split between hardliners who want maximum clampdown on the growing opposition movement to the fascist regime, and those who fear repression will damage Spain's relations with the western imperialists.

None of them, apparently, fear that the trial and the repression will damage the fascist regime's diplomatic and trading relations with the Kremlin and the E European States.

Police arrested more than 100 people in San Sebastian and the surrounding Guipuzcoa province after Thursday's strikes and demonstrations against the trial.

And the civil governor of the province warned that he had received central government permission to act freely in using 'hard measures' with recourse to every legal resort against strikers.

San Sebastian governor Julio Aranza admitted more than 30,000 people had struck in the province on Thursday—this is almost certainly a gross underestimate.

He threatened to take action against businesses, bars and other public establishments 'who close their doors without good reason'.

There were running skirmishes between police and demonstrators in San Sebastian on Thursday and at Tolosa nearby the road to Madrid was blocked for five hours by a barricade.

Police broke up big demonstrations in Barcelona, Bilbao and Hernani, firing in the air to frighten the marchers.

## FAST DURING BASQUE TRIAL

See page one story



# Deep splits over 'Prague spring'

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

DIFFERENCES are arising inside the leadership of the Czech Communist Party over the drafting of an official history of the 1968 crisis.

Sharp disagreements between Husak's supporters and the ultra-Stalinists are expected to be aired when the Party Central Committee meets in Prague on December 10.

Three views are being expressed on the origins of the crisis that began with the removal of the old-guard Stalinist Novotny and reached its climax with the Soviet invasion eight months later.

## Over-reaction

One blames the rise of Dubcek and the so-called 'reform movement' on bureaucratic repression of the Novotny era, to which Dubcek's 'liberalism' was an over-reaction.

Another school claims that Dubcek and his group were in league with counter-revolutionary elements, while the third traces the crisis back to a 'Zionist conspiracy'.

Oldrich Svestka, editor of the Party weekly 'Tribuna' has commented that Party meetings are no longer well attended as they were in 1968, when members spoke out freely for their own views.

Today, he complained, Party meetings have again become dull, routine affairs where members listen passively to speeches by their leaders (often appointed from above) and then give their unanimous support to the 'leaders' proposals.

## Fear to speak

The Army weekly, 'Lidova Armada', commented recently that many members fear to speak out at meetings, preferring to discuss quietly in corridors.

Underneath a bureaucratic blanket of official unity, new conflicts inside the Party leadership are developing around the nature of the 1968 crisis.

The most dihard of Stalinists, led by Professor Jaromir Lang, are claiming that the 'liberal' movement was a Jewish plot first hatched at a 1963 writers' conference on the great Czech author Kafka.

They also argue that the present anti-Stalinist movement in Czechoslovakia is a product of Khrushchev's Stalin revelations, made at the 1956 Soviet Party Congress.

## Deeply divided

Unable to drive the working class back to its oppressed position under Novotny, the Czech bureaucracy is deeply divided over how to solve the political and economic problems facing the regime.

This is what lies behind the controversy over the origins of the 1968 crisis.

## Eggs 7s 6d

THE Egg Marketing Board's prediction that eggs would cost 7s 6d a dozen by Christmas was a certainty, an executive committee member of the National Egg Producer Retailers' Association said yesterday.

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186a Clapham High Street  
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## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Discuss the proposed draft of the Charter of Basic Rights

OLLERTON: Saturday, December 5, 1 p.m. The Plough Inn, 'Lessons of the Miners' Strike'. Speakers: Yorkshire miners.

NEWCASTLE: Monday, December 7, 8 p.m. Royal Turk's Head, Grey St.

SUNDERLAND: Thursday, December 10, 7.30 p.m. Hendon Community Centre.

GLASGOW: Sunday, December 13, 7.30 p.m. Kingston Hall, Paisley Rd.

DAGENHAM: Monday, December 14, 8 p.m. Marsh Green School, New Rd.

ACTON: Monday, December 14, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Acton High St.

WEST LONDON: Monday, December 14, 8 p.m. Prince Albert pub, Balfe St, NW1.

SOUTHALL: Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Bridge Rd.

SW LONDON: Tuesday, December 15, 8 p.m. Prince's Head, Falcon Rd, Clapham Junction.

SE LONDON: Thursday, December 17, 8 p.m. Artichoke pub, Church St, Camberwell Green.

## PUBLIC LECTURES Elements of Marxism

The importance of Marxist philosophy in the building of the revolutionary party.

Lectures by C. Slaughter (Central Committee member of the Socialist Labour League)

SWINDON: Eastcott Hotel, Manchester Rd, 8 p.m. Wednesdays. December 9 and 16.

NEWCASTLE: Hotspur Hotel, Haymarket, 7.30 p.m. Sundays. December 13 and 20.

BRISTOL: Building and Design Centre, Colston Ave., Bristol 1. 8 p.m. Thursdays. December 10 and 17.

Lectures by G. Healy (national secretary of the Socialist Labour League)

SOUTHAMPTON: Polygon Hotel, the Polygon, 7.30 p.m. Sundays. December 6, 13 and 20.

BEXLEYHEATH: Roberts Hall, Christchurch, Broadway, 8 p.m. Tuesdays. December 15 and 22.

ACTON: Oddfellows Hall, Fletcher Rd, W3. 8 p.m. Thursdays. December 10 and 17.

Lectures by M. Banda (Editor of Workers Press)

BIRMINGHAM: Digbeth Hall, 8 p.m. Mondays. December 7, 14 and 21.

Lectures by P. O'Regan (SLL)

BALHAM: Co-op Hall, 47-51 Balham High St, SW12. 8 p.m. Mondays, December 7 and 14.

## LATE NEWS

### GUINEA DEMO AT LONDON CENTRE

Twelve demonstrators carrying banners entered the Portuguese Tourist Centre in London yesterday to protest against Portugal's involvement in the recent attempted coup in Guinea.

### BASQUE TRIAL TELEGRAM

Defence lawyers for the 16 Basque nationalists on trial in Burgos, Spain, have sent a telegram to the Supreme Council of Military Justice protesting that they were continually ruled out of order by the presiding officer when they tried to pose objections to the proceedings.

### GUINEA INVASION

The United Nations special mission to Guinea reported unanimously yesterday that

last month's invasion was carried out by Portuguese armed forces acting in conjunction with Guinean dissident elements from outside.

### TORIES BACK KY WITH CASH

Anthony Kershaw, under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, and the first British Minister to visit S Vietnam for three-and-a-half years, left Saigon yesterday after aid talks with leaders of the regime.

Kershaw said that future aid to Saigon would certainly be no lower than the £600,000 a year being supplied under the Wilson government.

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## How NOT to fight the anti-union laws

FROM PAGE ONE

negotiations have broken down when there is automatic submission to arbitration.

The union would be opposed to any proposal which in effect denied its members the opportunity to exercise the right to withdraw their services.

The union expresses 'particular concern' at the section of the Bill which refers to legal proceedings for the inducement of a breach of contract in furtherance of an industrial dispute.

With what can only be assumed naivety they say: 'It would appear that any strike action not called by a national executive and without its full backing would be illegal.'

## Employer

The union points out that although in law the government is not the teachers' em-

## WEATHER

SE ENGLAND will be bright and mainly dry. W England, Wales and N Ireland will be bright but become cloudy with showers.

NE England and SE Scotland will have a mostly bright morning, but will become rather cloudy with occasional showers.

N and W Scotland will be rather cloudy with blustery showers which will be of snow on the highest ground. Temperatures near normal everywhere.

Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Continuing changeable with some rain or showers in most places, chiefly in the N. Temperatures near normal.

## It happened yesterday . . .

### PAKISTAN'S first-ever general election has ended.

56 million voters had a choice of 20 parties, with the Awami League (or E Pakistan autonomy) expected to win most of the 169 seats in the East.

### CANADIAN plane carrying the kidnappers of British diplomat James Cross arrived in Havana.

This was the signal for the release of Cross from the Cuban consulate in Montreal, where he had spent the previous night after being handed over by members of the banned French separatist FLO.

### ITALIAN student died and two were injured when home-

made bombs were dropped from Manila University windows on to demonstrating students in the street below.

Police threw tear-gas canisters to disperse students who had been demonstrating against the suspension of some 300 militants from their schools.

ITALIAN firemen marched 5,000-strong through Rome on the fourth day of their national strike for higher wages, a 40-hour week and danger money.

They are also demanding a recruitment drive to boost the service to 14,000 men, and the creation of an auxiliary fire service to supplement their hard-stretched resources.

During the industrial strike, the firemen are maintaining only skeleton emergency services.

SOVIET shipping delegation is in Franco Spain negotiating improvements in the servicing of Soviet merchant ships using Spanish ports.

The delegation was received by Boado, Franco's under-Secretary for the Merchant Navy.

This is the most recent of a series of official contacts between the Kremlin and the fascist regime.

GOVERNMENT'S High Court application for appointment of a receiver of the crisis-wracked Mersey Docks and Harbour Board was adjourned for a week after insurance companies with a £13 million stake in the Board complained of the move.

## Atomic accidents boost cancer rate

ACCIDENTS at atomic plants have resulted in a high rate of cancer among atom workers and posed a clear radiation threat to nearby communities, according to an article in the current issue of the American 'Look' magazine.

'Look' senior editor Jack Shepherd said there is 'irrefutable evidence' that atomic accidents have spread radiation hazards across the United States, despite repeated denials by officials of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).

The article states that at one AEC plant in Rocky Flats, Colorado, contamination accidents have caused an alarmingly high incidence of cancer among workers.

According to the article, 325 workers at the Rocky Flats plant have been contaminated since 1953 and of these 56 contracted cancer and 14 died.

In areas from two to four miles from the plant readings of plutonium fall-out were five to 300 times above normal.