

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

Power men's action shows

The way to defeat anti- union laws

BY A POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

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(General secretary,
Spanish CP)

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What reply—if any—did the Gomulka regime give to your letters?

Are you prepared to denounce the strike-breaking of the Polish government, which continued in June 1970 with the export of Polish cement to Ireland during the cement workers' strike in that country?

In February 1970, you stated:

'We have always thought that the socialist countries, even when trading with Spain, should not formalize political, consular nor diplomatic relations until the regime changed. At a certain moment, the Russian Comrades modified their attitudes and established consular relations. We did not agree with this semi-recognition of Franco, and we told them so sincerely.'

In view of this statement, will you therefore denounce the political support given to the bloodstained Franco regime by the Soviet government?

As you know, not only the Soviet Union but Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and Bulgaria have political as well as trade links with the fascist regime in Spain.

This is in direct opposition to the wishes of your own party. You said:

'We are assured by other socialist countries in Europe that no relations would be established whilst Franco was in power. Now, suddenly, Poland and Hungary turn back on this agreement.'

So the Gomulka regime is a breaker of both pledges and strikes.

Will you therefore call on the British Communist Party leaders to declare their attitude to this treachery.

At this moment, six Basque nationalists face death sentences at the hands of Franco's military court in Burgos.

Another ten face jail terms of up to 80 years.

Yet it is now that the E European governments decide to reward Franco with diplomatic recognition!

In the name of all those workers, Communist Party members and International Brigaders among them, who died fighting Franco fascism, speak out against this betrayal!

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But the Tories and the employers are more than ever determined to smash the trade unions through inflicting a powerful defeat on the working class.

Mr Edward Du Cann, former Tory Party chairman, implied all this when he said on BBC radio that 'maybe virtually the whole of British industry is going to be brought to a standstill'.

Industrial relations had been worsening for years and there had never been such a bad situation since 1926, he said.

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In the face of this blunt statement of the kind of thinking that forms the background to government policy, the right-wing Labour and trade union leaders are determined to retreat as far as possible.

Speaking in the House of Commons on December 8, Prime Minister Heath recognized this when he said:

'It must be said in fairness to Mr Wilson and his colleagues that they have made their position about today's demonstration absolutely clear.'

Can there be any greater indictment of the role of the Trades Union Congress and the leaders of the trade unions? Can there be any greater indictment of the Communist Party and revisionists who refuse to fight these leaders into action against this government?

Such abstention is tantamount to endorsement for the reactionary do-nothing policies of the TUC and union leaders.

Millions of workers would respond to the call to bring this government down if it came from within the unions.

The magnificent stand taken by the power workers in the teeth of every insult the Tories can hurl at them shows this.

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Like the victorious council workers, they're not cowed by the reactionary bawling of the Fleet St tycoons.

They know that to win their wage demand they must

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fight the government... and they're doing just this.

If the power workers must beat the government to get their wage increase, how much more must workers defeat the same government to preserve the union movement?

What is the difference between the power strike which disrupts the life of a capitalist nation and a political General Strike which has the same basic implications but which would mobilize the entire working class against the main enemy, and force the abandonment of the anti-union laws?

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Indeed, to be really effective, the General Strike should immediately follow January 12.

Let us learn the lessons of the fight against the H-bomb in the early 1960s.

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● PAGE FOUR COL. 5

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'These are not new problems. But during the 1960s the system of industrial relations at least seemed to work—the number of strikes (outside coalmining) remained low and relatively stable.'

'Even in the early 1960s there seemed real grounds for believing that unions and management could reform themselves, and good reasons for giving them every opportunity for doing so.'

'Today, that is no longer the case. Without the efforts made in recent years—particularly, perhaps, by the TUC under Mr Victor Feather's leadership since June 1969—the problem might indeed have been even worse. Yet these efforts are being swamped by the pressure of events.' (p. 6.)

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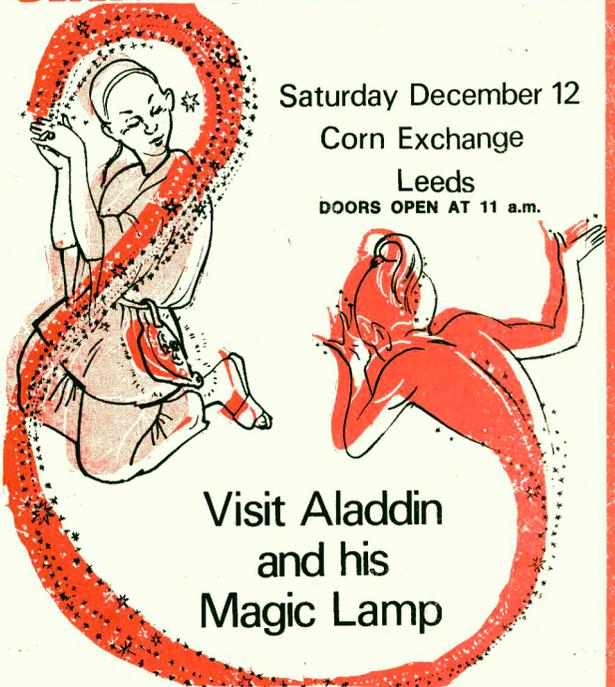
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Background to Guinea

REPORTS of a Portuguese mercenary invasion of Guinea from November 20 have been denied.

Portugal occupies part of Guinea, Angola and Mozambique and only recently hired mercenaries to attack Nigeria when Portugal backed 'Biafra'.

Sekou Touré, President of Guinea, made the typical Lumumbaist appeal to UNO, despite its known role in the Congo, Palestine, Korea, etc., as an agency of imperialist intervention.

'Observers'

UN 'observers' duly arrived in Conakry on November 27 and soon will give their 'report'. Meanwhile, it is necessary for the workers to know more about Guinea than the imperialist press can tell them.

In 1870 Pan-Africanist, J. A. Horton, wrote of a feudal type of social organization in the Guinea region (which included Ghana and present-day Guinea) before the European slave traffic.

In 1861 Lincoln's 'Negro' Pan-Africanist explorer Delany wrote: 'The term "slave" is unknown to them as it has only been introduced among them by whites from Europe and America.'

Guinea, together with the W Sudan, was part of a complex of proto-feudal and fully-formed-feudal societies and 'empires' contemporary with medieval European feudalism, and R. Michelet, Leo Africanus (16th century), the later racistist Armattoe, Leo Frobenius, Du Bois and others have given fairly full accounts of this social system.

Armattoe wrote: 'Throughout the whole of the Middle Ages, W Africa had a more solid politico-social organization, attained a higher degree of internal cohesion, and was more conscious of the social function of science than Europe.'

And Frobenius said that the zone South of the Sahara desert was in 'an efflorescence which the European conquistadores annihilated as far as they progressed.'

'Traffickers'

The Guinean and Sudanese civilizations were destroyed not by the 'Arabs', as European racist historians have tried and still try to show (the 'Arabs' being, in fact, an integral part of this civilization), but by the European invaders and slave-traffickers.

European capitalism brought darkness to Africa and rose to its own glorious heights on the pillage, murder and destruction of the ancient orders in the Americas, Asia and in Africa.

Few areas suffered more than

CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

BY N. MAKANDA

The W Coast of Africa from this process of what Marx called 'primary accumulation'. He regarded the process of European colonialism as 'the chief factors of primary accumulation'.

Marx included the 'transformation of Africa into a precinct for the supply of Negroes who were the raw material of the slave trade' as a basic part of this primary accumulation process.

Capitalism in Europe developed by conquest, dispossession and enslavement, made African cheap labour a mainstay of capitalist profits in Europe and Britain. Guinea suffered heavily in this process.

Plantation

In the 16th century Portugal began the plantation system in Cape Verde, on the Guinea Gulf islands and Spain tried it out on the Canaries in the 15th century, before the system was exported to the Americas.

The main supply of slaves to work this system came from

Africa, especially from the W Coast, including Guinea. One million were landed in the 16th century, another three million in the 17th, ten million in the 18th and five million in the 'emancipation' 19th century—19 million in all.

Slain

For every slave landed in the Americas some five to eight were killed or drowned on board ship, perished en route to the coastal slave-ports from the interior of Africa and were slain during kidnapping, raids upon towns and villages.

Over 100 million Africans were killed by European capitalism. Britain was the main killer and British industry, commerce and ports (especially Bristol and Liverpool) the main beneficiaries of this mass deportation and murder of peoples.

These were the first bloody steps in the present economic relationship between Africa and European capitalism.

Continued next week.



African slaves being stowed aboard an 18th century slave-ship

THE Ligue Communiste, French section of the revisionist United Secretariat, has carried out attacks in its journal 'Rouge' on the Alliance des Jeunes pour le Socialisme (AJS—French Young Socialists).

In particular H. Weber of the Ligue Communiste attacked the AJS in issue No 85 of 'Rouge', suggesting that the AJS had capitulated to Interior Minister Marcellin by demanding—that its statute be published in the government newspaper 'Journal Officiel'.

Weber also attacked the firm stand taken by the AJS against police provocateurs who have on a number of occasions singled out AJS members for brutal physical attacks.

AJS secretary Charles Berg wrote to 'Rouge' refuting the allegations made by Weber. But 'Rouge' refused to publish his reply. It was printed in the November 25 issue of 'Information Ouvrière' and is reproduced here.

INTERNATIONAL youth NEWS

French revolutionary youth answer the revisionists

I ASK you to publish this reply in relation to the article signed by comrade Weber in 'Rouge' Issue 85 which was couched in slanderous phrases derived from false or mutilated facts.

I add, in order to eliminate any possible misunderstandings, that you can, of course, refuse: we do not lean on bourgeois legislation in asking you to publish this article, which is, in any case, quite long, but base ourselves on the most elementary principles of workers' democracy.

There is a dividing line between polemic and systematic use of slander; we must avoid crossing that line, comrade Weber.

It is said, then, that we are guilty of several crimes and betrayals in relation to the workers' and revolutionary movement.

Let us examine the accusations made by comrade Weber: The AJS (Alliance des Jeunes pour le Socialisme) is not fighting against repression and even worse they beg, in an open letter to Marcellin, for legal status for their movement and its constitutionally registered officials.

Finally, they inform readers of 'Rouge', so that they can pass the information on, that the AJS refuses to participate in the activities of the Committee of Initiative for 'Secours Rouge'.

Intervention

It is clear that comrade Weber's article is the first of a series which aims to 'arm' Ligue Communiste members against this 'reformist group' which far from all 'grandiosity' has in the recent period developed its strength, influence and support through active intervention in the class struggle.

The preoccupation of the Ligue Communiste seems to us to be unfounded. But, in wanting to prove something too much one ends up proving nothing.

The struggle for the defence of workers' democratic rights, for us as young communists, is integrated in the general struggle of the working class against the state and its government.

Against a bourgeoisie which is reactionary and decadent all along the line, the revolutionary working class must defend all the gains won in the class struggle: the right to strike, to organize, freedom of the press, etc.

It is only in this way that the working class can, by its action, victoriously oppose the ruling class, whose repression now takes on a permanent character, and prepare the way for the dictatorship of the proletariat.

It is by starting from the interests and needs of the working class in its struggle against the bourgeoisie that revolutionaries can define a strategy for mobilizing the masses. Such is the essence of the Transitional Programme.

But let us leave aside all 'schemata'. Let us approach the problems from the standpoint of what has taken place and what must take place.

When in April 1969 de Gaulle presented his corporatist plan aimed at destroying the workers' movement, called for abstention, the established political personnel, most, vanguard organizations, we fought in the working class and its youth to unite all organizations opposed to de Gaulle.

The Ligue Communiste, rejecting any kind of 'parliamentarism' or 'compromises' on the electoral ground, called for abstention. Thus he said to workers: this struggle does not concern you, to vote yes or no, makes no difference at all.

Charles Berg writes to the Minister of Interior... Alain Krivine, he presented himself as a candidate in the presidential elections.

While the working class had demonstrated massively its opposition to Gaullist Bonapartism, while the crisis of the leading bourgeois classes was deepening (Pohle-Pompidou), Duclos, Deferre and Rocard refused the urgent task of drawing together the forces of the working class against all the bourgeois candidates.

Revolutionaries must intervene to impose the struggle of class against class at all levels, including the electoral field.

The Ligue Communiste came together with the Stalinist, reformist and petty-bourgeois bureaucracies. We fought, starting from the needs of the working class, for a single candidate from workers' organizations, and when at that time we asked the revolutionary candidate Krivine to publish the list of signatories of the 'established political personnel' who enabled him to present himself, we were told that these were Stalinist methods and in addition that it was impossible to force him without cancelling his candidature on legal grounds!

A triumphant compromise? Maybe. But let us see what followed.

That the bourgeoisie conceals its own legality is one thing, that the working class accepts it is another.

Revolutionaries must not only expose these facts, but also mobilize on this question the broadest of masses to oppose a government incapable of ensuring freedom and rights except through facing baton blows, with the need for a government of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The 'Association des Amis de la Cause du Peuple', and, we also believe, the 'Secours Rouge' have taken up the battle for their constitutions to be recognized and legally registered, wanting, just as we want also, to show and prove that the bourgeoisie seeks today through every means to isolate and repress organizations which stand for the socialist revolution.

Comrade Weber, you must lack political confidence to use 'quotations' and their amalgam as you do. The article is, above all,

of our organizations would take place against the Censier attacker.

Two hours later comrade Weber, to whom we proposed a joint leaflet denouncing the police provocateurs and not a political tendency, declined to give an opinion... arguing about our methods!

Finally on 'Secours Rouge' and the struggle against repression. The AJS affirms that the struggles it is carrying out in all its terrains of intervention are against repression in all its



May 1968 French CRS police clash with students.

Thus the AJS, through its national secretary, wrote to the Minister of Interior to demand official, legal status and the constitution and organization of the AJS.

Comrade Weber simply quotes from this letter the necessary polite sentences—the same as the 'Red Brigades' of the Ligue Communiste I presume had signed in order to obtain the support of the 'established political personnel' for the candidature of Krivine— which were, in any case, edited in the most ironic tone possible.

But, comrade Weber, you forgot the essential thing.

Fraud

Let us quote in order to refresh your memory: 'The decree of June 12, 1968, must be completely repealed as everyone knows that the abuse of power makes it a complete fraud! No evasion is possible any longer. The only "groups of militia for armed combat" that we know in this country are those who aggressively wounded workers. Those who killed Lanvin, member of the Young Communists. Those who pulled out an eye from Jean-Pierre Speller! We must raise, Monsieur le Ministre, that the latter is still waiting for a trial of his attackers amongst the militants of the two sons of Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat Kasperet, member of the government of which you are a member.'

I do not wish to believe that you would allow practices to be established in this country which would spread contempt for legality and the law.

I cannot accept that the attackers of Jean-Pierre Speller are sheltered by judges because of the authority of their father while today dozens of militants are in prison because of their ideas, as I was myself in order to be kept under surveillance in June and July 1968 in conditions recognized today as being completely illegal and while eight other organizations, dissolved by yourself, still remain dissolved.

'The decision, Monsieur le Ministre, of the Conseil d'Etat, reminds us that it was not so long ago when this country was considered as the home of ideas of justice and freedom. Today in this country militants are arrested and things are allowed to run free, proceedings are instituted against sellers of papers, organizations which stand for socialism are dissolved illegally.'

We fight the iniquitous measures taken against workers' militants, students, teachers. We defend the unquestionable right of everyone to express themselves and to spread their opinions, because debate is a condition of the gathering together of the oppressed against the oppressors in the light of day.'

Let us add that this letter ends with these three demands: 'For the complete repeal for the decrees of June 12, 1968. For the freeing of all the imprisoned militants. For the publication of the constitution of the AJS.'

Are these demands therefore capitulations? Let us take it further. Is it counter-revolutionary to force the bourgeoisie to expose itself completely? No. Like the AJS,

mainly viciously anti-AJS. A leader of the Ligue Communiste writes: 'When Charles Berg writes to Marcellin and... in Grenoble after the brutal attack against our comrades the few members of the Ligue Communiste organize a demonstration of about 60 individuals who shout: "AJS-Marcellin the same struggle!"'

The Grenoble events are reduced to a confrontation between anarchists and members of the AJS?

You are wrong, comrade Weber, completely wrong.

In the middle of the period of police repression, "Max" clubbed our Trotskyist comrades and walked calmly around the centre of the town, without being in the least worried. Through their hatred of Trotskyism the Maoists chose to give their support to the "unprotected youth". Their attitude can hardly surprise true anarchist militants who have always seen Maoism as a variant of Stalinism. Everybody must take up their responsibilities today and must take up a position in relation to the "Max" affair. That is what I am doing in refusing to answer for a thug, in denouncing his provocations and in expressing publicly my sympathy with my comrades of the AJS aimed at in these aggressions.

(Grenoble, November 2, 1970. Roland Lewin, member of the Anarchist Federation.)

'Secours Rouge'? We simply demand you to take up your Grenoble Committee for supporting Max and his friends. Without that the AJS will never enter this "mass" organization which, in order really to fight against repression, must reject the use of violence, of slander against a tendency in the workers' movement.

'The JCR continues'. Freed without a trial, after long months of prison, after having stated, as we did then, that only the ideas of the JCR continued, Krivine had not become an ally of the bourgeoisie—as the article of Weber tries to insinuate in relation to myself!

We must not, comrade Weber, go beyond certain limits which will lead only to dangerous incoherence.

Grenoble (two people injured), Censier (four people injured), Caen (two people injured), Toulouse (1 person injured). In each of these places they are members of my organization. In Censier the thugs struck without warning, in Caen there was individual aggression against our comrades. The list is long. Today the AJS, the UNEF and tomorrow comrade Weber? Nobody is safe. We are all involved.

The workers' movement is involved in common, as in the Beaux-Arts, as in Bobigny, that we must impose workers' democracy, to isolate the provocateurs through a political, "mass" campaign. We must, comrade Weber, break with those who, while claiming support for the "month of May movement", are the instruments of police provocation.

But I have just heard that in the last issue of 'Rouge' which is going to press you show in a cartoon a member of the AJS clubbing a student!

The least I can say is that I find it hard to believe it. If it is true, be logical carry it to its conclusion, why not add onto the AJS badge the swastika...

Excuse me for having been so long.

Charles Berg, National secretary of the AJS, November 12, 1970.

SCIENTIFIC WORLD

ONLY A VERY small proportion of human beings at present inhabiting the earth are trained scientists.

Yet in everyday life everyone recognizes—though for the most part unconsciously—that matter in all its forms obeys laws that can be understood and used by man.

A factory worker is taught to operate his machine and what to do to prevent a breakdown. Behind his daily drudgery lie laws of mechanics and the science of materials and lubrication of which he may be unaware.

An Asian peasant will sow and gather his meagre crop of rice likewise unaware of the processes underlying his annual ritual.

Occasionally, 'by chance', the machine will falter and stop and the rice will wither and die. Yet we know that this is not 'chance' or God intervening in 'the natural order of things', but the results of real processes taking place in matter itself.

A part of the machine wears out, changes take place in the

rice—perhaps due to some minute organism. In both cases, the changes can be understood and, in doing so, the 'breakdowns' lead to a deeper knowledge of nature's laws.

We may improve the machine or its lubricants and breed a harder strain of rice. Such examples of nature's workings (and we include man as part of nature) can be multiplied a millionfold.

In nature nothing remains constant. Everything is a perpetual state of transformation, motion and change. However, we find that nothing simply surges up out of nothing or disappears without a trace.

By Martin Zarrop

Indeed, this general principle lies at the very foundation of being able to understand nature in a rational way.

It is 'responsible' for the peasant's rice, even though his detailed comprehension of the chain of events that produce his crop may be minimal.

However, this takes us an important step further on, for the peasant knows that, barring accidents, his sowing of the rice

causes the crop to appear at a later time.

In other words, under a wide range of conditions, we discover that inside all the complexity of change and transformation there are certain relationships that remain effectively constant.

Sowing produces a crop, provided that weather conditions are right, disease is absent, etc.

In the same way (except that the processes involved are better understood), objects released in mid-air quite consistently fall to the ground with a constant acceleration.

In every example, we interpret this constancy as signifying that the relationships are necessary—meaning that they are objective and essential aspects of what things are—rather than coincidental.

Yet it is clear that the picture is incomplete if we have merely established the law itself. It is equally essential that we understand the conditions within which it is valid.

If a drought occurs, sowing will not yield a crop; if there is too little lubrication, the machine will break down; if there is a gust of wind, a piece of paper will not fall directly to the ground.

Conditional

Hence, all laws of nature are conditional and must be conceived as necessary only if we ignore contingencies, by which we mean any disturbing influence.

The gust of wind is a contingency. Provided the wind speed is within very narrow limits, the piece of paper can be considered to fall directly to the ground.

But surely, it may be argued, it is unnecessary to introduce the concept of contingency. We could always drop our object in a vacuum chamber and eliminate the need to consider the effect of air at all.

This doesn't help. The object is still affected by the rotation of the earth, the gravitational attraction of the moon, etc. If we had refined enough instruments, we could examine the way the path of the falling object deviated from a straight line. Such effects are far smaller than that produced by wind. All

the exercise has shown is the objective nature of one contingency—wind—by being able physically to remove it.

But there is a further objection.

The laws of motion of the air are known. Can we not calculate exactly the effect of the wind on the piece of paper and hence eliminate the need for contingencies by broadening the context of the process, i.e. include the air along with paper?

But here we will meet new contingencies. For the behaviour of the wind depends on the locations of the clouds, on the temperatures of bodies of water and land, etc.

Even if we go into the laws governing cloud formation and temperature distributions, we are still not finished.

Indeed, no evidence has been discovered that tracing the chain of cause and effect will ever end. In other words, every real process is subject to contingencies arising outside the context in question.

Therefore the laws governing cause and effect (causal laws) and the laws governing contingencies complement each other and together make up the laws of nature.

As we implied earlier, contingencies give rise to the concept of the 'accidental', i.e. the chance occurrence. 'Chance' is natural law and not something extraneous.

We therefore find that the accidental is necessary, in contradiction to common sense.

In 'Dialectics of Nature', Engels takes up this contradiction: 'Common sense, and with it the great majority of natural scientists, trace necessity to chance as determinations that

exclude one another once and for all.

'A thing, a circumstance, a process is either accidental or necessary, but not both. Hence both exist side by side in nature; nature contains all sorts of objects and processes, of which some are accidental, the others necessary, and it is only a matter of not confusing the two sorts with one another.'

Deterministic

If we attempt to remove chance altogether by removing contingencies, then we are back to the example of explaining the motion of a falling object by calculating the effect on it of everything in the universe—atmospheric motion, lunar attraction and so on.

In this way, we come to a completely deterministic conception of nature. Engels remarks: 'According to this conception only simple, direct necessity prevails in nature... With this kind of necessity we likewise do not get away from the theological conception of nature.'

'Whether with Augustus and Calvin we call it the eternal decree of God, or Kismet as the Turks do, or whether we call it necessity, is all pretty much the same for science. There is no question of tracing the chain of causation in any of these cases...'

Once we accept that necessity and chance are two complementary sides of all phenomena, we have to investigate the laws of chance, not as an expression of our ignorance of what is really going on, but as a necessary stage in our understanding of every process.

TO BE CONTINUED

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Common Market rules make Spy-in-the-cab

A SETBACK has occurred in the compulsory introduction of the tachograph in vehicles by employers throughout the Common Market.

Existing types of the device do not conform to the complex specifications laid down by the EEC authorities, it has been found.

The tachograph, which records on a graph details of speeds and distances travelled by a vehicle, is also required in the EEC area to indicate visually without opening the instrument—that the recording mechanism is in working order.

Further, separate charts for each driver are required.

According to the trade paper 'Motor Transport', 'this will probably involve having master and slave tachographs in the cab of each vehicle'.

Change

The paper adds that 'the EEC regulation has the effect of changing the function of a tachograph from its original purpose of being a vehicle monitoring device to a driver-monitoring device'.

Work-study experts consider it equivalent to having a time-and-motion man sitting next to every driver.

The big road-transport employers are determined to move in on drivers who to a certain extent have had some independence—not being continually under the eye of supervisors.

The tachograph is designed to 'correct' this by ensuring that the movements of drivers are accounted for to the nearest foot and to the nearest second.

Backlog in Japanese mail

JAPANESE post office workers taking the day off have produced a backlog of more than six million pieces of mail, the postal ministry said yesterday.

Their union, opposing management labour policies, ordered members to go on leave during three days from Tuesday, and they plan to strike on December 15.

'Little proof' in Burgos trial

AN OBSERVER for the international Federation of Human Rights at the trial of 16 Basques in Burgos, Spain, has said the prosecution has little or no proof against them.

The observer, M. Gisele Halimi, told a Paris press conference: 'The Burgos trial is in reality a trial against an organization opposing (Spanish chief of state) Franco's policies.'

'Big Brother'

Speed-up sting in rail reading tale?

A GROUP of railway workers who recently underwent a rapid-reading course have more than doubled their reading speeds, according to a report in the current issue of the railwaymen's union paper 'Railway Review'.

The course, which consisted of two six-hour sessions on consecutive days, was held at the British Rail productivity-training centre at Watford.

As well as increasing reading speed, the system is also said to have improved retention of what is read.

British Rail's use of this system is claimed to be purely experimental.

Cutback

But in the United States, numerous rapid-reading systems have been developed.

And some employers have sent sections of their clerical staffs to similar courses, which enabled the handling of all paperwork to be considerably speeded up with a consequent cutback on the number of office workers required.



Thousands of workers from Pirelli's 'Bicocca' plant in Milan marched last week to protest against distorted TV and Radio coverage of their struggle for an improved national contract.

Italian strike for reforms

WORKERS throughout Sicily are to stage a four-hour general strike today to back national union demands for reform in southern development policies, agriculture, health and housing.

BY DAVID BARNES

Their stoppage is the first of a series of regional strikes in which most sections of workers will down tools for 24 hours.

Tomorrow the strike call will go to the Alto Adige (the region bordering on Austria), on Tuesday to Milan and the surrounding area of Lombardy, and on Wednesday to Turin and Piedmonte.

The Italian working class wants to come to grips with the employers and the rotten, reactionary centre-left coalition that drives the leaders of all three

major unions to join in calling a series of strictly limited actions. During the last week alone thousands upon thousands of workers have shown themselves ready to respond.

Tens of thousands of rubber workers demonstrated in Milan last week in support of their demand for a national contract. There is to be a national stoppage today against victimization of militants in the giant Good-year and Pirelli (Bicocca) plants.

PROVOCATIONS

At Ferrara 10,000 struck and demonstrated for economic

reforms last week, and at Varese thousands of workers and students responded to a call for a mass demonstration against fascist provocations in the area.

But the official leadership in all three unions now lead action for reforms only because they can do nothing else.

On July 6, when the Rumour government resigned on the eve of a threatened general strike for reforms, the Catholic union (CISL) and the Social Democratic union (UIL) immediately countermanded the strike orders, and were very shortly followed by the Stalinist-led CGIL.

The government crisis has been further inflamed by the resignation of the centre-left coalition in Sicily, following allegations that the newly-elected Christian-Democratic mayor of the capital, Palermo, has been closely connected with the Mafia for many years.

And in Sardinia the political 'understanding' between the four centre-left parties—Christian Democrats, Social Party and Republicans) has been fractured by the election of a regional President with Christian-Democratic and Socialist Party votes, with the agreed abstention of the Communists.

NO ADVANTAGE

But the Stalinists who head the Italian CP have no intention of turning the employers' political difficulties to the advantage of the working class.

They are hard at work for a deal with 'left-wing' Christian Democrats on a national scale: a deal which would offer no basic gains to the working class and could only provide time for the extreme-right forces to prepare.

Some 90 ships were diverted elsewhere during this period.

Reasons given for this reduction by employers and union leaders include: problems of dockers now working different hours from road-haulage drivers, the shorter working week, the reduced labour force and 'a reluctance by a minority to accept the new agreement'.

Measures to enforce acceptance of the already widely-hated scheme may soon be on the way.

Animal feed may force up food prices

FOOD PRICES will soar this winter way beyond previously predicted levels.

Some shortages may occur following the sharp rise last week in the price of farm animal winter feeds.

Increases of £2 and £3 12s a ton on pig, poultry and cattle feeds are justified by the compounders on the grounds of 'dear raw materials and rising production costs'.

The last price-rise of feed was in November, and the suppliers predict yet another increase in the New Year.

Shortages may occur if dairy and poultry producers find it cheaper to slaughter animals rather than pay high feeding costs.

Business down: Port bosses reach for the whip

AMOUNTS of goods handled in London's enclosed docks have fallen by 23 per cent in the first seven weeks of the second phase of Lord Devlin's 'modernization' scheme, according to a Port of London report.

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BBC 1

11.40a.m.-12.00 p.m. Schools. 12.30 Representing the union. 1.00-1.25 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.50 Schools. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Scooby-Do, where are you? 5.44 The magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE, London.

6.45 THE DOCTORS.

7.05 TOP OF THE POPS.

7.45 BACHELOR FATHER. 'Feminine Company'.

8.15 THE MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW.

9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 PLAY FOR TODAY. 'Robin Redbreast'. With Anna Cropper, and Bernard Hepton. Thriller about a woman who retires to her country cottage to get over an eight-year romance which has broken down.

10.35 24 HOURS

11.20 IMPROVING YOUR PLAYGROUP.

11.45 Weather.

BBC 2

11.20 a . . . PLAY SCHOOL.

1.00 p.m. KNOW HOW.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 FIRST ELEVEN. 'Venus de Milo'.

8.15 THE MONEY PROGRAMME.

9.00 LOOK, STRANGER. 'Eilan Vannin'.

9.20 THE BLACK AND WHITE MINSTREL SHOW.

9.55 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP. 'Human Rights Day'.

10.30 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

10.35 WORLD CINEMA. Sergei Eisenstein's 'Ivan the Terrible'. With Nikolai Cherkasov. Part one.

ITV

2.15 p.m. Journey of a lifetime. 2.30 Vantage point. 3.50 Mad movies. 4.17 Origami. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Flipper. 5.20 Maggie. 5.50 News. 6.02 TODAY.

6.40 REYTON PLACE.

7.00 QUEENIE'S CASTLE. 'Unaccustomed As I Am'.

7.30 THURSDAY FILM. 'The West Point Story'. With James Cagney, Virginia Mayo, Gordon Macrae, Doris Day and Gene Nelson. Musical director Elvin Bixby goes to West Point to help stage an amateur variety show.

9.30 THIS WEEK.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 CINEMA. 'Ryan's Daughter'.

11.00 THE AVENGERS.

12.00 midnight IDEAS IN PRINT.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 4.00 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 Origami. 4.20 Mona McCluskey. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Farming news. 6.15 Sports roundup. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'Top of the World'. With Dale Robertson. 8.30 This is your chance. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 11.00 All our yesterday. 11.25 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.58 News. 4.00 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 11.30 Faith for life. 11.35 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 3.05 Journey of a lifetime. 3.55 Forest rangers. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Ivor the engine. 4.30 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Man from Uncle. 7.30 Film: 'Man From Bitter Ridge'. With Lex Barker, Stephen McNally and Mara Corday. A special agent investigates stage coach robberies. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Julia. 11.40 Weather. Action 70.

HARLECH: 2.30-3.50 Vantage points. 4.18 Women today. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'The Young Invaders'. With James Garner. War story. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 10.30 To hell with repetition. 11.00 Tom Jones. 12 midnight Weather.

HTV (Wales) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.16-4.18, 6.18-6.35 Report West.

HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 and **HTV (Cyprus/Wales) black and white service** as above except: 5.20-5.50 Dilyn-dobyn. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.

ANGLIA: 4.05 Granny gets the point. 4.30 News. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.50 Joe. 9.0. 2.15 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'Houseboat'. With Cary Grant and Sophia Loren. A widower hires someone to look after his three children. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 11.00 Man in a suitcase.

MIDLANDS: 3.49 Horoscope. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Fireball XL5. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movie: 'Saurda's Hero'. With John Derek and Donna Reed. The son of immigrant parents is the athletic pride of his college. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 11.00 Avengers, weather.

ULSTER: 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Joe 90. 5.20 London. 6.00 HTV (Ulster/Wales) black and white service as above except: 6.35 0.00 Cartoon 7.05 Branded 7.35 Name of the game. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 11.00 What's it all about. 11.20 Love American style.

YORKSHIRE: 2.45 Judo. 3.10 Fencing. 3.35 Archery. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 London. 4.30 Matinee. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.45 Room 222. 7.15 'The Admirable Crichton'. With Kenneth More, Diane Cilento and Cecil Parker. A butler takes over when he and his master are marooned on a desert island. 9.00 London. 11.00 European Formation Dance Championships. 12 midnight Weather.

GRANADA: 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.15 London. 6.00 Six-one. 6.20 This is your right. 6.30 Man from Uncle. 7.30 Film: 'The Spoilers of Alaska'. With Jeff Chan-der, Anne Baxter, Rory Calhoun, Ray Danton and Barbara Britton. A part owner of a gold mine becomes involved in a dispute over the ownership of his property. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 11.00 Tom Jones, weather.

TYNE TEES: 4.10 News. 4.15 Lone Ranger. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 Flipper. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.30 Police call. 6.35 Film: 'Slattery's Hur-ricane'. With Richard Widmark and Veronica Lake. Pilot Will Slattery remembers his life as he flies through a hurricane. 8.00 1 spy. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 11.00 University challenge. 11.30 News. 11.45 Epilo-gue.

BORDER: 4.10 News. 4.12 Sailor of fortune. 4.40 Wind in the will-ows. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 Lon-don. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Mr and Mrs. 7.45 'The Fast Lady'. With James Robert-son. Justice. Stianey Baxter. Leslie Phillips and Kathleen Harrison. Com-edy about the Honorary Secretary of a cycling club. 9.30 London. 11.10 European Formation Dance Cham-pionships. 12 midnight News, weather.

SCOTTISH: 3.40 Dateline. 3.50 Horo-scope. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Lon-don. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.05 Tele-phone game. 4.50 Fantastic four. 5.15 Lon-don. 6.00 News. Lookaround. 6.30 High living. 7.00 Film: 'Son of Lassie'. With Peter Lawford, Donald Crisp and June Lockhart. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 11.00 Play better golf. 11.30 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 3.49 News. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Cartoon. 4.20 Telephone game. 4.50 Fantastic four. 5.15 Lon-don. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Win a word with Lesley Blair. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 On the buses. 7.30 Comedy: 'The Stooges'. With Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis. A song and dance man gets a morose office boy as his stooge. 9.00 Queenie's castle. 9.30 London. 11.00 European For-mation Dance Championships. 12 midnight A kind of living.

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Charter of Rights



FRANK DOOLEY was one of the 75 building workers who were fired two months ago by the Stockport construction firm of Rowlinson for demonstrating in St Helens in support of the town's sacked Pilkington glassworkers.

Up until the day they were sacked the men on the Rowlinson's site were among the few groups of NW building workers to maintain their black on Pilkington's products.

This ruthless action by Rowlinson's was an indication of the alarm they felt at the growth of solidarity among

workers in the area over the Pilkington sackings.

Since then Frank and the rest of the men have been fighting for reinstatement. So far they have been unsuccessful. But, says Frank, 'We will never give in over this issue of principle'.

Workers Press talked to Frank, a lay member of the Transport and General Workers' Union national executive, about the Draft Charter of Rights released by the All Trades Unions Alliance in preparation for the discussion on it at Birmingham on December 19.

the TUC policy is on the Tories but if I did I would probably be disgusted. The fact that workers have to struggle to find out exactly what their line is is an indication of how much they are fighting.

But we now have a great movement behind us. I can feel this up here on the

THE All Trades Unions Alliance's Charter of Basic Rights has been adopted by the 1/409 Transport and General Workers' Union branch which is based on the London County Bus

full dismissals.

I was 'wrongfully' dismissed three times at the Fiddler's Ferry power against the Bill and the Tory government.

We must bring home to all people the dangers and evils of Tory legislation. This means going out to the housewife and the working

Services garage at Garston, Watford.

The branch is also sending a delegation to the ATUA's Birmingham conference on December 19.

reactionary government of the century and it has to be brought down.

This to me means a united fight. The Communist Party, the SLL and the Labour Party within the areas all agree as to what they want. It's on the roads to socialism that we disagree.

But with this Bill the whole movement should unite to destroy the legislation and the government that promotes it.

The way

FROM PAGE ONE

So it will be now with the large demonstrations of today if we allow them to remain where the CP wants them to remain—as a form of protest.

We ask every trade unionist to start with his factory, trade union branch and district committee and go right up to the leadership to mobilize the widest campaign to force the leaderships to decide for a General Strike when the TUC meets on January 12.

This is the only adequate solution for what is becoming an ever more serious situation. It is on the basis of this policy that we support all the demonstrations on January 12.



A demand that the TUC call a General Strike against the Tories was the central theme of Tuesday's London All Trades Unions Alliance meeting (above). 20,000 marchers had earlier endorsed the same call at Liverpool's Pier Head (below).

'Make January 12 the start of General Strike to defeat anti-union laws'—SLL secretary

IN THE darkness of Westminster's Central Halls, blacked out by the power workers' work-to-rule, 600 members and supporters of the All Trades Unions Alliance held a highly successful meeting after Tuesday's mass demonstration against the anti-union laws.

Socialist Labour League national secretary Gerry Healy, the meeting's main speaker, stressed the revolutionary significance of the struggle against the Tories.

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

He warned of the hidden enemy inside the Labour ranks. 'Why all the coyness in the Communist Party about the TUC leaders?' he asked.

Union leaders like Scanlon of the AEF and Jones of the T&GWU should be 'smoked out' in their offices by mass demonstrations and made to say where they stood on the anti-Tory fight.

'The working class in Britain is ready to fight this Tory government. Workers are now demonstrating a willingness to fight which none of us have seen since 1926,' he said.

'This anti-union law is not a scabs' charter. It is a Bill for smashing the trade unions. Under the Bill they can rush emergency regulations through parliament in a matter of hours. They're going to smash the unions if they can get away with it.'

'The enemy would not be frightened by protest. You've got to hit home at the point of production and when you hit him there you've got to be prepared for the next step to take the power, comrades Healy said to loud applause.

'What is the use of another day's protest on January 12? Why not make January 12 the start of a general strike against the Tory government?'

The situation demanded a leadership which took its policies very seriously and a programme to meet the problems facing workers.

'The Charter of Basic Rights—the draft programme for the All Trades Unions Alliance conference on December 19—is the only programme which takes into account all the attacks on the working class,' he said.

Press published a 'scab issue' on the strike today.

'They were liars. The paper had been produced before the strike began. The slander was an insult to the intelligence of the working class, which had suffered enough from lies in the past.'

'Why was the "Morning Star" silent on Polish strike-breaking in the Irish cement strike, on the coal that went to break the Asturias miners' strike, on Soviet aid to the Greek colonels? Revolutionists must fight against these lies and not give an inch.'

Answering questions, comrade Healy referred to the experience of Germany before Hitler came to power, when the Communist Party policy of denouncing reformist leaders as 'social fascists' had split the working class and allowed Hitler to come to power.

'We are not going to make that same mistake again,' he said.

EDUCATION

Pilkington rank-and-file committee chairman Gerry Caughey said he had always believed you didn't need to force the leaders to fight.

But his education at the hands of the TUC, General and Municipal Workers' Union and the Tory government had taught him differently.

'I'm very sceptical of forcing the leadership to fight,' he said. 'You can't reform a multi-millionaire and you can't reform Lord Cooper [G&M general secretary].'

'The only alternatives are the Socialist Labour League and the Workers Press,' he said.

Tony Sweeney, chairman of the London council workers' liaison committee, spoke of the victorious seven-week council strike.

'Heath and Carr went out to take us on. But they were the ones that retreated first,' he said to loud applause.

'Carr has eight "pillars" in his Bill. Let's smash them and looking back on a heap of rubble we can say: "This was our finest hour".'

WIDE SCALE

'We are the only organization which comes forward now with a programme to workers and says discuss it, amend it, suggest alterations, but let's have a programme for this fight.'

Trade unions must begin the fight. But a broad movement was needed to take the fight further.

It must embrace and mobilize widespread sections of impoverished workers who were not in unions, and middle-class sections who would otherwise fall prey to Powellism.

'The English revolution of 1640 began this way. When Charles I convoked the "short parliament" to raise money for war against the Scots, representatives of the East Anglian peasants entered parliament who brought in problems that could not be answered.'

Certain Communist Party members had said the Workers

Stalinists cut Miss Devlin's speech

STALINIST fears of the ever more popular demand for a General Strike to force the Tories to resign are the only possible explanation for the evasive report in yesterday's 'Morning Star' of Tuesday's SOGAT Division A Central Halls meeting.

The meeting, following Tuesday's London march and lobby, was addressed by Mid-Ulster MP Bernadette Devlin.

Her call for a General Strike received a standing

ovation from the 600-strong audience.

Miss Devlin said when the Commons' vote on the Industrial Relations Bill was taken everybody knew what the result would be.

Only a General Strike would stop the Bill, she went on.

'But that means preparing for the next step. To replace the Tory government with a socialist one,' she said to applause.

The 'Morning Star', and certainly not for lack of space, only credited Miss Devlin with saying 'the anti-union Bill was all part of the Tories' anti-working class offensive' (1).

The omission of Miss Devlin's most important remarks was not the result of a sub-editor's copy-cutting.

The same ironing-out process of any comment contrary to the Stalinists' desperate efforts to cover up for the union leaders was again evident in the 'Star's' selection of another speaker's remarks.

DIFFICULTIES

SOGAT (Division A) general secretary Vincent Flynn told the meeting:

'The Tories may have difficulties with the national unions, but they can live with them. And, by God, if we look at some of the so-called leaders of the trade union movement, they can live with anyone.'

But for the 'Star' Mr Flynn's most significant remark — for this was the only one the paper reported — was: 'We will lose the rights our forefathers fought to gain and keep.'

Workers Press will unceasingly expose the attempts of the 'Morning Star' to suppress any criticism in the labour movement of its leadership and to hold back the fight for a General Strike to force the Tories out.

WEATHER

MOST parts of England and Wales will be dry with hazy sunshine. There will also be widespread fog and frost early and late.

In some places there will be freezing fog, dense at times which may persist all day.

N Ireland and S Scotland will be dry with sunny intervals, but there will be fog patches, dense in some places.

S Scotland will be mainly dry with bright intervals. N and W Scotland will be rather cloudy but with some bright intervals.

It will be rather cold in the South, but mild in the North. Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Dry fog and frost.

PERSIAN students, protesting 40-strong against political repressions, barricaded themselves in the Persian Embassy in Vienna yesterday.

SOVIET moonprobe Lunokhod has survived the 14-day lunar night and begun sending 'good strong' signals back to earth, the Bochum, W Germany, tracking station announced yesterday.



Mersey demand for Gen. Strike

DESPITE DESULTORY reports of Merseyside's massive and remarkable display of class solidarity on December 8 in the local press, the reverberations of industrial war must have also filtered through to Merseyside employers as they inspected their docks, sites and factories, immobilized by the 100,000-strong walk-out.

Workers Press accompanied the demonstrations and these are comments from some of the many delegations of workers on it.

JOHN SMITH, national executive committee member of SOGAT Division A, who led the union's delegations on the march:

'After this demonstration we must get the TUC to organize a general strike against the Bill. So far they have let the workers down badly. They should do a lot more than they are doing at the moment, because at the moment they are doing nothing!'

Off fence

JACK RIGBY, AEF convener at Vauxhall Motors, Ellesmere Port, where 14,000 workers struck against the Bill:

'We are demonstrating today to destroy the Bill and kick the union leaders off the fence. The next step must be a General Strike organized by the TUC. Only this kind of leadership will mobilize the whole of the working class.'

JAMES DARWIN, a construction worker from the Unicom's site at Kirkby, one of the many NW sites shut by the stoppage:

'The fight should be directed towards kicking out the Tories and getting a Labour government back to pass socialist policies.'

JIMMY BURNS, a shop steward at Girtings, Bromborough, who carried the factory's striking anti-Tory banner on the march:

'British workers can bring this government down. This was nearly done in France and we can certainly do it here. We must kill the Bill by forcing the TUC to organize a General Strike against the Tories.'

LES BROOKES, convener of the body plant at Ford's, Halewood, where 13,000 car workers supported the strike:

'The next step must be to force the TUC to fight against the government and the Tories as a whole.'

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

JOHN NELLETON, one of the many seamen in port who joined the demonstration:

'We have been under penal clauses all our working lives and some of our members have been jailed for taking action. Now the Tories want to do this to the whole of the working class and we must stop them. If the workers get together they can bring this government down.'

DORIS HOLT, a laundrette worker and a housewife:

'After this march we want no more half measures from the TUC. It's a General Strike or nothing now. This government has got to go.'



Women workers with an unmistakable message after Tuesday's two-hour strike meeting in Nottingham (below). Delegates from seven local pits after a march with a similar purpose through Swansea (above).



All Trades Unions Alliance

Second Annual Conference

Discuss

THE CHARTER OF BASIC RIGHTS

The right to a job, to strike and organize, to retain gains made, to fair prices, to welfare benefits and to decent housing.

Defend and maintain these rights in a fight to force the Tories to resign.

BIRMINGHAM

Sat. December 19

Digbeth Civic Hall,

Digbeth 10.30. am

For delegates' or visitors' credentials send 5s to Alan Wilkins, ATUA secretary, 53 The Hiron, Styvechale, Coventry.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Discuss the proposed draft of the Charter of Basic Rights

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

LIVERPOOL: Thursday, December 10, 7.30 p.m. Royal Institution, Colquhoun Street. After December 8, The fight to bring down the Tories.

LUTON: Friday, December 11, 8 p.m. AEU House, 396/398 Dunstable Rd.

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. Aricho pub, Church St. Camberwell Green.

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LATE NEWS

AIRCRAFT SACKINGS

About 200 workers at a BAC factory at Hurn airport, Bournemouth, are to lose their jobs, it was announced yesterday, as a result of government decision not to go ahead with the BAC-311 aircraft.

EEG COUNTRY CUTS BANK RATE

Belgium yesterday cut its bank rate from 7 to 6½ per cent.

DEATH PLEA AT BURGOS

(See page one)

Military trial of 16 Basque nationalists in Burgos concluded yesterday afternoon with the prosecutor confirming his request for six death sentences and prison terms totalling 754 years.

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