

What we think

The hour draws near

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To judge from Wilson's Commons speech on Tuesday, there is no doubt at all that the Don Quixotes of Toryism would long ago have impaled themselves on the windmills of working-class militancy if it weren't for the Sancho Panzas of reformism.

Mr Wilson is obsessed with two things: the gigantic power of the working class and the arrogant and intoxicated refusal of the ruling class to see the dimensions of the approaching storm and its oblique complacency in treating its outcome as a foregone conclusion.

Speaking on the Bill he warned the Tories:

'The biggest indictment of the Bill was its almost complacent irrelevance to the most significant development in industrial relations in their lifetime—the growth of shop floor power. The Bill was not relevant and reflected a Maginot mentality to what was going on in British industry.' ('The Times', December 16.)

Mr Wilson's greatest worry is here clearly enunciated. He accuses the Tories of unleashing forces which they will not be able to control and when they turn to the Labourites for help—as they inevitably will—it will be too late.

50 years before Wilson, the most astute leader of the British capitalist class, Lloyd George, summed up this dilemma in an unforgettable speech in parliament: 'In France the population is agricultural and you have a solid body of opinions which does not move very rapidly, and which is not very easily excited by revolutionary movements.'

'That is not the case here. This country is more top-heavy than any country in the world, and if it begins to rock, the crash here, for that reason, will be greater than in any land.'

Commenting on Lloyd George's speech Lenin, in 'Left-Wing Communism', predicted that the bourgeoisie had got themselves hopelessly entangled and were 'committing acts of irreparable stupidity' and that these acts would 'bring about their downfall however, Britain, like Tsarist Russia, but more briefly, will undoubtedly experience its own Kerensky regime, standing like a ghost between two epochs.'

Mr Wilson is not oblivious to this possibility. But he would prefer to play Kerensky without a Kornilov or the spectre of Bolshevism to threaten him.

Hence his evocative reference to the 'Trots' Charter and, even more significantly, his ominous reference to past historical analogies: 'What we have to face here in this Bill is that the court of Conservative MPs shows as much understanding in the revolutionary situation as the court of Louis XVI or Nicholas II or even King Farouk.'

If Mr Wilson thinks he can alter the course of history by frightening the Tories with the spectre of Nicholas II or even Charles I, whom he respectfully refrained from mentioning, he is hopelessly mistaken.

The crisis of world imperialism and Stalinism and the balance of class forces in Britain is such that the Tories have no alternative but to plunge this country into civil war.

The task for the working class is to learn the lesson of Nicholas II, build the Socialist Labour League and the Workers Press and sweep into limbo every potential Kerensky and Kornilov who shows his head.

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A complete curfew is in force between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m.

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Ruthless

Gomulka and the Stalinist bureaucracy will follow the deaths and hundreds of serious injuries they have already inflicted with the most ruthless repressions.

These bureaucrats are fighting for their privileged caste existence. They face a working class which refuses to be intimidated by the long years of betrayal and disaster to which they have been subjected by Stalinism.

The official Stalinist newspaper 'Trybuna Ludu', appealing to the shipyard workers to return to work, warned: 'Those responsible for murders, arson, and looting must suffer deserved punishment. The authorities... will react with full determination against all infringements of public order and against all anti-state actions.'

The English bourgeois, in the shape of 'The Guardian's' commentator Victor Zorza, expresses his hope that authority will prevail:

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She also spoke of her fear of threats from 'foes and from friends'. Wigoder said that since Dutschke had been in Britain he had had 'many conversations with many people'.

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'It was on October 29 in parliament that for the very first time there was ever mentioned in this case the words national security and the suggestion that Mr Dutschke was an undesirable because of grounds of a political nature.'

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—CBI

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The CBI wants industry-wide agreements to be made legally enforceable—

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BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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This means meagre celebrations next week for 27 out of every 1,000 workers because during Christmas 1970 they will have no money and will be chasing a job.

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In Ulster male unemployment is now 9 per cent. In other words almost one in every ten bread winners will only have social security to

offer their wives and children.

In N England unemployment reached a 30-year record of 4.7 per cent during the month and the same percentage was recorded in Scotland where an extra 10,600 workers have joined the queue at the labour exchange since September.

The trend, say experts, will continue to climb. The increase in the wholly unemployed between November and December was 17,742; normally the figure rises by only 7,000.

For those out of work the chances of getting employment become more and more remote.

A feature of December's figures was the sharp decrease in the number of vacancies which were 16,787 less than in November. This means that three workers are chasing every offered job.

In all the decrease in the numbers of vacancies has doubled over the three months September to December compared with the previous six.

The mid-winter unemployment now seems certain to exceed the last peak recorded in the hard winter of 1962-1963. A figure of over three-quarters of a million in late January or February is not inconceivable.

FROM BOB ARCHER

STRIKING turbine-blade polishers from Rolls-Royce's Derby group of factories meet today to consider next steps in a six-week-old grading strike.

Despite company threats against their jobs, the 170 men are determined to win.

Members of the strike committee emphasize that the strike, which arose out of attempts to impose a job-evaluation and Measured-Day Work scheme in the factories, involves defence of rights and status the men have enjoyed for many years.

Polishers have to be able to use sophisticated engineering machinery and have always been classified as skilled men, although they have not necessarily served apprenticeships.

New class

Now that job-evaluation and Measured-Day Work have been introduced into the group, the men are to be classed as semi-skilled and face a drop in wages of up to £8 after a period of 21 months.

'We understand that we can never be called time-served men, but under the 1966 agreement we have skilled status in our own right', strike committee member Mr J. Gilmore told Workers Press.

'Now under job-evaluation they want to pay us as "other skilled"—but the grading is not there.'

'Men at Coventry doing the same work as us are classed

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Airport unions boycott talks

AIRPORT workers are to continue their work-to-rule after yesterday's decision by their unions to boycott pay talks until there is an improved offer from employers.

The unions said after yesterday's meeting of the

national joint council for civil aviation that the ban on casual overtime would now be extended to rostered overtime as the employers had refused to go beyond their offer of a 4½ per cent pay increase.

Nixon warned on Indo-China cash

A LENGTHY military aid programme along with economic assistance will be needed if the United States is to shore up the crumbling Cambodian regime of Lon Nol, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was warned yesterday.

The warning came as National Liberation Front forces renewed their attacks on US and puppet troops in several parts of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Two Senate staff investigators highlight the weakness of President Nixon's vaunted Vietnamization programme.

If the programme is tied to the Cambodian government staying in office, as Nixon has said, the report asks, could the programme continue if the Lon Nol government fell?

The report concludes that a major programme of military and economic aid will be needed if Lon Nol is to be kept in office and the Vietnamization programme continued.

Campaign

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American jets were reported to have used bombs and napalm to support Cambodian troops against an estimated 3,000 NLF force.

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TOMORROW Latest Charter interviews—page 4

All Trades Unions Alliance

Second Annual Conference

Discuss

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

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REFLEX ACTION?

SECRETARY of State William Rogers has told journalists of an informal exchange with Presidential adviser Henry Kissinger.

Rogers asked Kissinger for his opinion of the Indianapolis 500 (the famous motor race).

Kissinger's reply: 'They're all guilty.'

MOVING WITH THE TIMES

THE PLUMMETING morale and stiffening resistance to discipline and combat amongst US Army draftees is forcing the Pentagon to make concessions which would make John Wayne turn purple.

As this column reported two weeks ago draftees got killed in Vietnam at nearly double the rate of enlisted men and react every day in refusals to engage the National Liberation Front forces and by dealing ruthlessly with over-eager officers.

All-volunteers

The Pentagon's cherished hope is to achieve an all-volunteer force by mid-1973 — volunteers who are more amenable to the war than present combatants.

But this enlistment drive takes place in face of unprecedented antagonism to the war. So

military chiefs are trying to bend to the times.

Army Chief of Staff General William Westmoreland has issued an unprecedented series of directives to ease the soldiers' lot.

He ruled that most reveille formations—often held at 5.30 a.m.—should go, along with travel away from base restrictions.

Most unprecedented of all, he sanctioned the serving of beer in mess halls and the installation of beer-vending machines in barracks.

At Fort Ord in California sergeant-major style discipline has been replaced with a 'merit system'.

Trainees collect points on 'merit cards' and trade them in for cinema and off-post privileges.

At Fort Carson, Colorado, Fourth Infantry Division soldiers not only have go-go girls in their service clubs but a five-day week and the services of a 'Halfway House' for drug addicts and an

enlisted men's council for airing grievances.

The Army is, in any case, following in the footsteps of its main rival for recruits—the Navy.

New Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt is conducting a highly-publicized campaign against 'Micky Mouse' regulations.

'Z-grams'

In four months Zumwalt has sent out more than 50 'Z-grams' detailing measures to improve the 'quality of Navy life in all respects and [to restore] the fun and zest of going to sea'.

Zumwalt has sanctioned beer and spirits in barracks and in his most well known Z-gram (or 'Marks of Zorro' as sailors call them) he ordered no sailor should have to queue for longer than a quarter of an hour for anything.

Zumwalt has also gone one up on the Army on regulations against long hair and beards.

The Army is lax on the former, but stops at beards. Zumwalt went all the way and commented:

'I have yet to be shown how neatly-trimmed beards and sideburns or neatly trimmed haircuts contribute to military delinquency or detract from a ship's ability to carry out its combat function.'

Maybe. But haircuts and beards are more than optional hairstyles and in the context of anti-war moods among troops become symbols of revolt against Nixon's war or simply symptomatic of general discontent.

So when the Army lifts restrictions and relaxes discipline it is ducking out of a confrontation which could completely undermine its forces.

The Calley trial reminds us that the Pentagon and the White House want an Army able to implement imperialism's genocidal war strategy with as little questioning in the ranks as possible.

THE REFUSAL of the United States Communist Party to sponsor the Juan Farinas Defence Committee is very much in the tradition of this Stalinist-led organization.

After nearly a month of deliberation the Communist Party has refused to sponsor the Committee because it is 'not broad enough'.

Juan Farinas, a young worker at Columbia and supporter of the Trotskyist Workers League, faces frame-up charges of violation of the military conscription law—the Selective Service Acts.

A very broad list of sponsors are willing to defend Farinas as a class-war victim for his opposition to the Vietnam war.

Among the sponsors are leading trade unionists; in the Spanish community the Young Lords Party and the Puerto Rican Student Union; New York Regional SDS, Student Mobilization Committee, Black Panther Party, American Servicemen's

Union and even the Communist Party's youth wing, the Young Workers Liberation League.

The Communist Party stands alone with the Pabloite Socialist Workers' Party and its Young Socialist Alliance in refusing to sponsor Farinas's defence.

The Communist Party does this because of hatred of Trotskyism. During the last war 200 unions supported the 18 Minneapolis Trotskyists—the first victims of the anti-labour Smith Act.

The Communist Party not only refused to support the case but actively endorsed the prosecution.

Stalinists scab on Farinas

And again during the McCarthy witch-hunts hundreds of unions backed the Trotskyist and legless war veteran, James Kutcher, in defending him against government victimization.

The Communist Party refused to support the campaign. The life imprisonment threat to farm workers' leader Chavez is the latest warning that all trade unionists and militants face long jail sentences during the coming struggles.

The Stalinists have shown they will scab on the principle of working-class solidarity in face of attacks from the enemy class.

They are tied to reformist, Popular Front-type politics which leads them into support for so-called liberal Democrats, such as Shirley Chisholm, in elections.

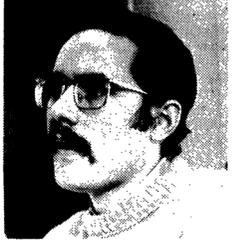
The Stalinists propose to work with her and the Black Panthers on liberal protests against repression and not on a class basis. The results of such a policy were clearly seen in the case of the New York Tombs prison inmates.

Chisholm broke her promises

of no reprisals once Mayor Lindsay moved against the prison rebellion leaders.

The Socialist Workers' Party agrees with the Stalinists on insisting on the liberal-protest character of the defence of class-war victims.

On the contrary, Farinas's defence is part and parcel of the fight against the Indo-China war and all the anti-working class policies of the Nixon Administration.



FARINAS

US Round-up COLLEGE CRISIS

US CAMPUSES face their 'greatest crisis in the 330 years since the founding of Harvard because of a crippling shortage of money', says Clark Kerr, head of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.

The Commission has reported evidence that the financial squeeze is becoming worse. At least 21 colleges and universities have

recently gone out of business or been absorbed by larger institutions. The report estimates 540 campuses are cutting back while twice this number may soon follow suit.

They have been hit by rising costs which have overtaken income from gifts, grants and government finance.

Among the institutions either 'headed for trouble' or 'in financial difficulty' are such eminent places as Berkeley, Harvard, Michigan and Stanford.

Many colleges have stopped trimming their hedges and washing windows. Others are cutting scholarships.

St Louis University has scrapped its aeronautical science and dentistry schools and cut down on 40 academic staff.

As a member of the Carnegie Commission put it: 'most US campuses face serious problems of retrenchment and readjustment'.

But retrenchment is going on in more than one sense. Much more significant than dirty windows and straggling hedges is the cut-back at Berkeley. Berkeley has for years been the scene of violent clashes between student militants and authority.

Many a bourgeois has thought he detected a correlation between the teaching of the social sciences and militancy.

It, surely, cannot be accidental that at Berkeley authority decided that the best way to save a few dollars was to axe the social science research institute.

IMPORTANT READING

NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS

STALINISM IN BRITAIN

A TROTSKYIST ANALYSIS
BY ROBERT BLACK

Available from New Park Publications 186A Clapham High St SW4 Price 24s post paid

'Problems of Socialism Today' by Santiago Carrillo Lawrence and Wishart 15s

THIS BOOK has little to do with the problems of socialism. Written by the General Secretary of the Spanish CP it is a lengthy justification of the opportunist policies of Carrillo's leadership.

Carrillo's main argument, which he returns to repeatedly is that there must be no struggle for socialism in Spain.

He insists that the goal of the anti-Franco movement must be a democratic, capitalist Spain. Everything else—the alliance with the Catholic Church, the capitalists and sections of the military flows from this perspective.

Carrillo's programme is based on the 'Popular Front' policies applied during the 1936-1939 civil war.

Then, following the line laid down by the Seventh (1935) Congress of the Communist International, the Spanish CP formed a coalition with capitalist parties on a programme of democratic reforms.

Far from deepening the spontaneous workers' revolt against Franco, the Stalinists steadily helped the 'Popular Front' to whittle away all its gains.

As a result of this counter-revolutionary policy Franco's victory was inevitable. So was the murder of revolutionary workers by Stalin's GPU agents in Spain.

Though he claims to oppose Stalinism, Carrillo serves up the same policy that betrayed the Spanish workers to Franco more than 30 years ago.

Man of reaction

Carrillo's 'Popular Front' goes under the name of 'National Reconciliation', a policy which recommends unity with sections

Certain ruling class groups are

Carrillo's strategy for defeat

BOOKS

and will move away from Franco, only to prepare a new capitalist regime to replace him when he dies or is overthrown.

And this is what Robles is doing. Carrillo acknowledges this when he quotes from Robles:

'The alternative is plain: either a radical transformation by an evolutionary path, or else violent revolution.'

Here is the common ground shared by the old clerical-fascist Robles and the leadership of the Spanish CP: they both fear revolution.

Carrillo, tactfully silent on the



SANTIAGO CARRILLO

massacre of the Asturian miners carried out under the Robles regime in October 1934, merely reproaches him as belated convert to democracy:

Fascist rebellion

'The evolution of Gil Robles' positions is considerable, so much so that if in 1934 the right-wing force which he headed had taken up the stand he now upholds, then there would have been no revolutionary movement in October of that year, nor would there have been a fascist rebellion in July 1936...' (p. 17).

In other words, if only fascists were not fascists, the working class would not be provoked into revolution. This is the theme of the book.

Dealing with the Church, he attacks 'diehards' in his own ranks who still insist that religion and the church are forces of

chops Marxism up into separate compartments — its dialectical-materialist world outlook, which Catholics will naturally reject, and other 'zones' where total agreement is possible.

Philosophical developments, instead of being one of the main springs of revolutionary practice, are treated as secondary.

If thoroughgoing idealists of the Catholic hierarchy can arrive at the same political and ideological positions as dialectical materialists, what then is the function of philosophy?

Carrillo's position is the antithesis of Marxism. This is all the more spectacular in that he makes his approach to the longest established bastion of idealism—the Catholic Church.

Spain is on the brink of a revolutionary crisis. To fight its way to power, the working class and its allies in the countryside need, above all else, a party based on Marxist theory, a party clear on the philosophical issues slurred over by Carrillo and company in their 'dialogue' with the Church.

That is why Carrillo's book is so important. The programme he advances can have only one effect. That is to contain and betray the working class to its enemies just as his party did in 1936-1939.

Nothing would suit the Spanish capitalists more than to have an alternative to the Franco regime waiting in the wings, with deep roots in the working class as well as firm links with the Church, the army and, of course, the political spokesman of the more 'liberal' trends in the Franco's own party.

Greater repressions

By providing these groups with radical and even socialist credentials, the Stalinists aid the capitalist class can do on its own.

This is why, as Carrillo observes with unconscious irony, 'The near-collapse of the Franco dictatorship, the proximity of political change, means that various sections of the bourgeoisie are beginning to view the communist phenomenon more calmly.' (p. 94.)

Carrillo's policies are tailor-made for such a development. Robles said it is either evolution or revolution.

But there is no future for a 'democratic' capitalist regime in Spain. Along with more-advanced imperialist countries, the world crisis will drive the ruling class towards greater repressions. That is the meaning of the Burgos trial.

The 'liberal' alternative to Franco is a carefully-baited trap for the working class.

And the Stalinists, whether pro-Moscow or 'liberals' like Carrillo, are leading the working class right into it.

At the end of his book, Carrillo justifies his opportunist turn towards many of Franco's old allies, and observes:

'Look what is happening in our country; even the Falangists [the Spanish fascist party] are beginning to call themselves socialists! So did Hitler's National Socialists.'

Marxism chopped up

In the style of anti-communist, bourgeois, sociologists Carrillo

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SECOND OF TWO ARTICLES

Bernard Franks analyses power industry productivity

IN THE 1890s most major towns in Britain had an electric power source either privately or municipally owned. By 1900 it was clear that electricity would be a fundamental source of power.

It was soon realized that in place of the local stations there must be a national standardized system generating at a standard frequency and the 1926 Electricity Supply Act set up a Central Electricity Board and began the building of a national grid.

Following nationalization in 1947, the present system of a Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) bulk-supplying 12 local area boards and presided over by an Electricity Council was devised.

Since the 1950s development of electric furnaces, a wide range of electric hand tools and of mechanization and automation has brought a whole range of industries not previously electrified into heavy dependence on electric power.

These include building, steel-making, postal sorting and office work. The electrification of farming, in particular of mass production of livestock and of the dairy has brought even this, apparently independent industry under its sway.

Other systems of power, oil-firing and gas, are often electrically monitored and controlled and the advent of control computers has completely cemented the reliance of hundreds of industrial processes on the national grid.

But even with the massive increase of dependence on electricity, the amount of generating plant began in the late 1960s seriously to outstrip demand and a situation of 'over-capacity' occurred.

Fewer workers

While on the one hand 'too much' plant was created, on the other hand millions have been spent on new equipment to make generating more economi-



cal — to produce more power with fewer workers on the job. Some of the recent developments which contribute both to increased output and to loss of jobs include:

- A higher capacity grid

Following the recent completion of 7,000 miles of 400,000-volt supergrid the experts are considering the problems of erecting a million volt transmission system.

- Development of bigger generating units

In 1948 the individual generators were on average 60 megawatts. Recently 500 megawatt sets have been put into service which require considerably less manpower per unit for operation.

An example of this reduced manning was given in the electricians' union magazine 'Contact' last year by the late President Leslie Cannon.

'The average manning level for the 50 megawatt stations is in the range of 80 to 120 members of the industrial staff, while for the 2,000 megawatt stations it is of the order of 580 members, which means in effect that the old stations require 160 to 240 men per 100 megawatts of capacity while the new stations are being manned with 29 men per 100 megawatts.'

- Use of remote control

Monitoring and control of a distribution network from a central control point via telemetry systems has been in use in Britain since the 1930s. It has since been developed to a high level with introduction of solid state electronics technology and computers.

The area boards operate a number of advanced computer systems and the CEGB claims to run the most powerful computer in Britain.

- Live-line working

The system of carrying out maintenance on overhead high-voltage cables without switching off the supply is being introduced throughout the electricity supply regions and is reckoned to have increased productivity enormously wherever it has been used.

The 'hot-stick' method involves using special long-handled insulated tools from insulated platforms on the pylons.

The 'bare hand' method requires that the worker handles the live cables. Each linesman has to wear a special wire-mesh

ment: 'Certainly, the pickings are substantial enough.'

Repression of unions and of strikes, break-up of nationalized industries and public services, elimination of free social services, utilization of development in science and automation to eliminate jobs and create mass unemployment, deliberate inflation of prices to conform with Common Market standards and a blockage of wage increases are all part of the monstrous attacks being prepared and carried out by the Tories.

Many of their proposals—government-controlled labour courts, government control of registration of workers' organizations, legally enforceable agreements—are strongly reminiscent of the corporate state laws and decrees laid down by Mussolini when he took power in Italy in 1922.

In this situation 'protest' politics are worse than useless. Action is needed now on the Charter of Basic Rights issued by the All Trades Unions Alliance and a concerted drive must be made to force the union leaders to call a General Strike which will make the Tories resign.

The power workers' leaders have ignominiously retreated, but the power workers themselves can play a decisive role alongside the rest of the working class in such an action.



Millions have been spent on new plant like the atomic power station above with the intention of producing more power with fewer workers

Cannon was not warning or condemning the elimination of jobs. In the same article he wrote of 'over-manning and ineffective use of labour due to previous mismanagement'.

Experiments and discussion are now centred around the problems of a future 1,000 megawatt set, and the CEGB is working on designs for turbo-generator units of 1,300 megawatts.

- Development of superconductors

In 1911 a Dutch physicist discovered that some metals, when cooled to 460 degrees Fahrenheit below zero, conduct electricity with no resistance whatsoever.

The phenomenon, called superconductivity, is being developed in the USA as a method of carrying power from generating stations to population centres.

He reaches the live line along an insulated glass-fibre ladder and becomes charged up to the working voltage when contact is made.

Cable car

To examine spacers and cable away from pylons the linesman can use a cable car supported on the live line.

In the United States some technicians use this method at 750 kilovolts. Combining these developments with a stepped-up campaign to extend productivity deals and their methods, the electricity bosses hope to cut back still further on both industrial and clerical workers.

The section most likely to be denationalized if the Tories get their way is retailing and contracting work. Up to the year ending March 1970 the 12 regional boards sold £80 million worth of electrical appliances through their 1,000 showrooms. At present they account for four-fifths of all electrical-cooker and of storage radiator sales, one-third of refrigerator and of water-heating business and a fifth of all washing machine sales.

Attacks

A 'Financial Times' examination of the possible hiving-off of this sector of the industry com-

Back-door productivity involved in teachers' pay talks

THE FIRST meeting of the working party on teachers' salaries takes place today and coincides with yet another document from the teachers' leaders, carefully explaining the justice of the union claim.

What 'Campaign Brief 7' makes clear is the National Union of Teachers' leaders are prepared to retreat before the Tories on the fight for a decent basic wage scale and to give substantial productivity concessions to management.

The NUT is claiming a 37-per cent rise, but even so the basic pay scale would only be £1,250 to £2,200 rising to £2,375 for those with graduate allowances.

The document goes into some detail on teachers' pay and conditions:

'Compared with average wages, the minimum used to approximate to the average wages. Now there is a short fall of 30 per cent . . . the average salary and wage earners have IMPROVED their purchasing power by between 25 per cent and 40 per cent.

'On the other hand, the purchasing power of all teachers has been REDUCED by up to 30 per cent.' (p. 5.)

As the document rhetorically inquires: 'Is it surprising that the teaching profession is getting restless?'

FAR REMOVED

However, the NUT leaders are taking part in a working party whose job is far removed from giving teachers a decent living wage . . . and they know it.

' . . . the Burnham Committee decided to set up a working party to consider the structural proposals in the Teachers' Panel claim and the management's proposals.

'A guarantee was given that the concept of the basic scale plus allowances, would not be ruled out(!) in the working party discussions.' (p. 27.)

The management are insisting on a restructuring of the teach-

EDUCATION REPORTER

ing profession, designed to limit wage mobility and keep down the wages bill.

It is clear they are fully in line with the Tory government's proposals to fight 'inflation' by attacking living standards.

Management negotiators will face NUT secretary Edward Britton and his colleagues with added confidence in the light of the union leaders' retreat on wages and the fight against the anti-union Bill.

Management envisages an initial rise in the basic rate for all teachers of only 7 1/2 per cent and suggests five pay scales.

The minimum starts at £1,055 rising by increments to a maximum of £2,090 after 18 years. These five pay scales would replace the present system of 75 above-rate payments.

OTHER SCALES

The rates for the other scales are: Scale 2, £1,195 to £2,130 over 18 years; Scale 3, £1,420 to £2,280 over ten years; Scale 4, £1,850 to £2,710 over ten years and Scale 5, £2,229 to £3,005 over eight years.

Under the employers' proposals all teachers on the basic scale will be on Scale 1 and all graded posts will fall into one of the other four.

So the vast majority of teachers will be on the lowest scale.

This is clearly a back-door productivity deal, in which speed-up is introduced by forcing teachers to compete for a limited number of graded posts in order to get pay increases by moving onto another scale.

The management plan is plain, yet the document complains that it 'has not declared its reasoning behind these proposals' (p. 25.)

It is also plain that not only the right wing, but also the Stalinists are unwilling and unable to fight the Tories.

In a letter to the 'Teacher' of May 1 this year, Max Morris, Stalinist member of the NUT executive, wrote that he was satisfied with the 'assurances' given by the EC that a future working party 'would function only on any specific questions . . .'

DETAILS

Indeed! But the 'specific' details up for discussion are how teachers are to be hamstringing by the Tories.

The NUT executive already accepts the principle of grading and its retreat on the interim pay claim is now to be followed by a rout in the anti-Tory fight.

The fear of betrayal was expressed in the Young Teachers' Conference resolution in September which demanded priority for the basic scale in the pay talks.

Teachers must demand that the NUT withdraws from the working party immediately.

There must be complete rejection of the employers' proposals and all-out action for a substantial increase on the basic scale.

Teachers must mobilize their forces, along with all other unionists, to force this Tory government to resign.

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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)
 NEWCASTLE: Hotspur Hotel, Haymarket, 7.30 p.m. Sunday, December 20.
 BRISTOL: Building and Design Centre, Colston Ave., Bristol 1. 8 p.m. Thursday, December 17.
 Lectures by G. Healy (national secretary of the Socialist Labour League)
 SOUTHAMPTON: Polygon Hotel, the Polygon, 7.30 p.m. Sunday, December 20.
 BEXLEYHEATH: Roberts Hall, Christchurch, Broadway, 8 p.m. Tuesday, December 22.
 ACTON: Oddfellows Hall, Fletcher Rd, W3. 8 p.m. Thursday, December 17.
 Lectures by M. Banda (Editor of Workers Press)
 BIRMINGHAM: Digbeth Hall, 8 p.m. Monday, December 21.

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Insulated

In this system metal cables are surrounded by a coolant of liquid nitrogen or hydrogen enclosed in a specially insulated casing. Such a cable has many times the capacity of a similar cable which is at room temperature.

Laid below ground, this system would replace overhead high-voltage cables.

It has been estimated that a single such cable could carry one-

He reaches the live line along an insulated glass-fibre ladder and becomes charged up to the working voltage when contact is made.

Cable car

To examine spacers and cable away from pylons the linesman can use a cable car supported on the live line.

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Explain
 In question time, he was asked to explain how collaboration between the governments of E and W Europe aided the struggle of the Basque people against Franco, the Ulster workers against the Tories and the Czechoslovaks against the Kremlin occupation.

Neither had there been any mention of socialism in the professor's talk, a questioner added. Would not European security result in the stifling of the class structure and the fight for socialism?

Sheidin rather tartly informed his questioner that he was mixing up two entirely separate questions: the class struggle, which could not be stopped, and the struggle for collective security.

Open to all
 Franco Spain—along with all the other capitalist regimes of W Europe—would have to take part in the projected conference, which was open to all 35 European nations, plus the USA and Canada.

Together with his remarks on the occupation of Czechoslovakia, his frank admission helped to clarify his completely middle-class audience on the real meaning of European security.

This — as the questioner suggested is an agreement between Stalinist bureaucrats and European capitalists to maintain law and order throughout the continent.

First victims of this strategy were the French and Czech workers in 1968.

Preservation
 Now it is the turn of the working class in Spain and Poland, whose struggle against Franco fascism and Stalinist bureaucracy headed by Gomulka must be beaten back if 'collective security' is to be preserved in Europe.

Every day this counter-revolutionary policy becomes clearer.

No wonder Professor Sheidin boasted that the majority of capitalist powers today welcome the Moscow plan for continental class-collaboration.

Piecework dispute at CAV
 MANAGEMENT at CAV's Acton, London, factory have hit out at trade union organization on the site by clocking out and sending home two workers over a piecework dispute.

The two men are now being paid by a levy on the wages of members of the machines and switchgear department.

Certain jobs are paid at rates fixed by a piecework vetting committee.

Management would not allow the two men to move to alternative work, and they were working on time-rate before they were clocked out.

ATUA conference tomorrow Fight for the Charter! Force the Tories to resign!

TOMORROW hundreds of trade unionists from almost every industry and occupation in the country will gather in Birmingham to discuss how their rights as workers can be defended and advanced.

The centre of the debate will be the All Trades Unions Alliance's Draft Charter of Basic Rights. It is the Tory government—now out to destroy all the rights listed in the Charter—can be defeated by the working class. From the tremendous response and interest shown by workers everywhere the Alliance feels sure that the campaign around the Charter will

be strong enough to bring the Tory government down, despite all its power and wealth.

Today we publish fresh confirmation of this view with three contributions, one from a NE draughtsman, the other from a London railwayman and the third from a Sheffield engineer.

In addition we have heard that the Newcastle West branch of the Draughtsmen's

and Allied Technicians' Association have endorsed the Charter as have the Croydon Trades Council.

Support also comes from the important quarterly meeting of the Swindon AEF shop stewards who backed the Charter and agreed to have delegates at Birmingham.

Swindon No. 10 branch of the AEF will also be sending an official delegation.

West Ham Trades Council also decided unanimously at its recent meeting to call on affiliated members to fight for the Charter.

Again we urge all workers to come to Birmingham as visitors or delegates. The ATUA above all wants a real discussion of their Draft Charter and welcomes all amendments.

THE ONLY purpose to which every British worker and his family should be firmly committed today is the resignation of the present Tory government.

Even the most apathetic must realize the consequences of Tory attacks made on the working class so far, with a hell of a lot more to come.

It doesn't need me to spell out the effects of their mini-Budget and the proposed anti-trade-union Bill. This, in my view, is only the beginning of a long series of cuts in the living standards of the working class.

One of the first aims of the Tories will be to create mass unemployment. If they are allowed to continue in office, the present figure of 600,000 will look minimal against the alarming propor-

TOM McBRIDE has been a shop steward at London's Paddington station for ten years and is secretary of the station's cartage committee. A delegate to the influential N London district council of the National Union of Railwaymen, he has represented his area at the union's national conference, he told Workers Press:

tions they are prepared to go to in order to defeat workers into submissive acceptance of their policies.

Among Tories this high pool of unemployed is an ideal situation, their belief being that where you have vast numbers unemployed those who are in work will

become too afraid to participate in any form of action that may leave them open to dismissal.

This is the type of fear that will be driven into the average worker.

The Tories boast it succeeded in the 1930s and it can and will succeed in the 1970s.

Well, I don't think so. The British worker today is a far different proposition, even though his trade union leaders are not prepared to fight. All the signs are that he is more willing and anxious to fight than ever.

Proof is evident by the willing response to the call for December 8.

I believe the Charter of Basic Rights contains all the points that every British worker and his family should regard and demand as their basic right.

So what is the answer to the attacks of the Tories? The workers are showing the way at present by the stand they are taking and have taken dustmen, miners and Post Office workers.

This, I must add, without the blessing of their so-called trade union leaders.

But I feel that the message is getting through despite all the denunciations of the Tory press.

I was pleasantly surprised to hear my own union executive voted 11-9 in favour of supporting December 8. But alas, as the NUR constitution lays down there must be a two-thirds majority for any strike, the position remained unaltered.

The Eritrean Liberation Front has been demanding independence from Ethiopia, and the movement has attracted backing from Arab states to the North.

The position of the TUC is deplorable. Their whole opposition to the anti-union Bill so far is pathetic.

All moves for an urgent re-call immediately of the TUC conference have fallen on deaf ears. They now suggest January 12 as a day when meetings at lunch-time and after work outside factory gates should be undertaken by shop stewards to inform and enlighten the membership of the terrible things contained in the anti-trade-union Bill.

State Banks? Not yet says Perera

THE Ceylon Bandaranaike government, a coalition of bourgeois nationalists, Stalinists and renegades from Trotskyism, has deferred its plans for bank nationalization. Finance Minister Dr N. M. Perera, a leader of the Ceylon revisionists until his entry into the 1964 Bandaranaike coalition, announced this to parliament on Wednesday.

Only days earlier his election victory earlier this year, the coalition told a delegation of union leaders from the plantations that tea firms would be left in private hands.

This was soon followed by a government statement endorsing Ceylon's existing trade relations with S Africa.

Hospital demo

FOR THE second time in 24 hours, Grenada police used tear gas and hoses on Wednesday to beat back demonstrators outside the Health Ministry in the Caribbean island's capital of St George.

Their only fear is the workers' reaction to their policies. The opposition team against the anti-union Bill is to be led by none other than Barbara Castle, MP.

In case you've forgotten, she was the one who thought the whole thing up and pushed it through, never mind anything else.

Someone once said: 'You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time'. Barbara Castle please note.

'Loyalty' marches as Burgos sentence delayed

SPANISH fascists were yesterday planning an afternoon rally in Madrid as a further delay in the verdicts at the Burgos court-martial of 16 Basque nationalists kept tension in Spain at high pitch.

WEATHER

ALL BRITAIN will be cloudy at first, with rain at times but N Ireland, Scotland and N England will have sunny periods and scattered showers later.

S England the Midlands and Wales will have generally cloudy day, with rain at times. It will be mild.

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Rather cloudy with some rain at times.

Nigerian strike ban renewed

THE decree banning strikes and lockouts throughout Nigeria has been renewed for another year by the Federal government.

Major-General Gowon has asked trade union leaders to 'exercise patience' over their demand for an interim pay award, and called on journalists 'to use their skill and calling to advise the masses on the need for national unity and solidarity'.

Ethiopian emergency

A STATE of emergency was proclaimed yesterday in the N Ethiopian province, Eritrea.

The emergency order said 'foreign-sponsored bandits' were attempting to undermine Ethiopia's 'sovereignty and integrity'.

The emergency order affects areas enclosing a six-mile belt along the sea coast and the border with Sudan.

The Eritrean Liberation Front has been demanding independence from Ethiopia, and the movement has attracted backing from Arab states to the North.

Support for Polish workers

class. Reporting Monday's shipyard meeting, they comment: 'Unfortunately instead of peaceful and businesslike discussions between the workers' leaders, irresponsible calls, abandoned work, and went into the streets.'

Ready

All the Stalinists' talk about 'anarchy' and 'hojings' cannot alter the fact that the E European working class is once again showing itself ready to fight for the political revolution, to overthrow the Stalinist bureaucracy and place the nationalized industry under workers' management and a government of workers' councils.

Only the revolutionary leadership is lacking.

Behind the haste of the Russian and Polish bureaucrats to conclude a 'European Security Pact' and their treacherous assistance to the Franco regime against the Spanish miners, lies the great

Australian radio men win rise

INCREASES of up to £138 a year were granted yesterday to Australia's overseas telecommunications staff.

The award followed Tuesday's strike vote by 1,000 members of the Professional Radio Employees' Institute and came only hours before the strike was due to begin.

Union leader Laurie McGowan said the terms and conditions his members had been demanding were now conceded by the management.

All increases are back-dated to May 9, 1970.

Government specialists investigate toxic tuna

THE RESULTS of a government investigation into possible mercury contamination of certain tinned fish were expected yesterday, following the withdrawal of some stocks of canned tuna and swordfish in the United States.

Very low doses of this poisonous metal can disrupt the nervous system and yet there is no internationally accepted danger level.

Mercury is particularly dangerous because it persists in the environment and can be concentrated to a high degree by living organisms.

It is now known that heavy mercury compounds poured out as industrial wastes don't sink harmlessly to the bottom of lakes and rivers. Instead, bacteria convert them into highly toxic forms—especially methyl mercury—which can be absorbed by fish and concentrated up the food chain.

ROLLS

FROM PAGE ONE

as skilled fitter-polishers—and we trained most of them' ached Mr W. Lamb.

The men did not resort to strike action until every stage of the industry's disputes procedure had been exhausted and the strike was declared official by the Transport and General Workers' Union and by the National Society of Metal Mechanics.

Nerve damage

In 1959, 111 people living near Minamata, Japan, died or suffered serious nerve damage because they ate fish caught in an area massively contaminated by mercury from a nearby chemical factory.

Among the 111 were 19 congenitally defective babies born of mothers who had eaten the fish.

In Sweden, the use of exceptionally heavy doses of various mercury compounds as seed dressing was pinpointed several years ago as the cause of drastic declines in bird populations.

Scientists estimate that even if all mercury pollution were halted now, toxic compounds would persist for up to a century.

Despite the warnings, it was only in August this year that a special inquiry was set up in Washington and one Senator proclaimed that in mercury and other heavy-metal pollution 'we may now be experiencing the greatest environmental crisis in our history'.

Senility

Scientists reported that low doses of mercury can lead to senility, madness and death and that man's intake has multiplied tenfold over the last 35 years.

The concentrations in fish detected by the New York authorities—between 0.3 parts per million and one ppm—are high compared with the unofficial level of five parts per 100 million suggested recently by the World Health Organization.

In Britain, no danger level is laid down and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries assured us that it was 'all a matter of opinion'.

All tuna consumed in Britain is imported with Japan as our biggest source, followed by Peru, Canada and the Soviet Union.

Nearly 10,000 tons of tuna are sold in Britain every year.

Support for Polish workers

FROM PAGE ONE

class. Reporting Monday's shipyard meeting, they comment: 'Unfortunately instead of peaceful and businesslike discussions between the workers' leaders, irresponsible calls, abandoned work, and went into the streets.'

The bureaucratic privileges and the suppression of proletarian democracy in these countries make impossible the development of the planned economy in a way which meets the needs of the masses, and so the masses must suffer repression.

Food increases are only the latest and most severe in a whole series of sharp rises over the last two years.

The capitalist press means the 'bad timing' of the announcements, but the fact is that this timing must have been forced on the bureaucracy by the insolubility of their crisis.

It is now clear why Gomulka flew last week to Katowice to promise increased meat rations to protesting miners.

Reform

It must never be forgotten that Gomulka was welcomed as the 'new' type of Communist Party leader who, after the 1956 uprising, would lead his country along peaceful and tolerant roads to 'reform' without the bloody consequences of a Hungary.

The experience has proved conclusively that there is no reform of the Stalinist bureaucracy. The interests of the working class demand a political revolution to overthrow it.

Instead of revolutionary solidarity with the struggles of the working class in the capitalist countries, the Stalinist bureaucrats prefer agreements with crisis-ridden capitalist Europe and America.

They stand in the way of the only course which could resolve Poland's economic problems—the spread of the socialist revolution to the advanced countries.

Every day the identity of interest of the workers in the capitalist countries with those in the countries ruled by the Stalinist bureaucracy becomes clearer.

Heroic

The more we mount the offensive against the Tories here, the more we need the building of alternative revolutionary leadership and the clearing out of the Stalinists.

By striking their heroic blows against the bureaucracy, the Polish workers join in the same international struggle.

Long live the working class of Poland!

The counter-revolutionary bureaucracy which betrayed the Spanish miners now turns its guns on the Polish workers.

Down with the Stalinist bureaucracy!

For the political revolution in Europe and the USSR, and the social revolution in the capitalist countries!

Forward to the United Socialist States of Europe!

A DELEGATE to both the Tyne and Blyth Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions and Sunderland Trades Council, ALAN JACKSON is a member of the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association. He says:

I FEEL that the draft Charter of Basic Rights is a programme which can unite sections of the working class in Britain, when we are facing the most vicious attacks by the Tories, through all their media of communication, assisted by the reactionary leadership of the trade union and labour movement.

The present crisis in Britain is the most severe since the 1930s. Every family is facing price increases which threaten to pauperise workers.

Since the war we have faced regular inflation at a rate of about 3 per cent per year. Last year inflation was causing a rising cost of living of 9 per cent and no one can be certain what inflation will accelerate to by next year.

The solutions to inflation are put forward by capitalist economists as either a squeeze on money lending to higher unemployment (most certainly one million, maybe even two million, by next year) or a rigid incomes policy which will again push down workers' standard of living.

Neither of these policies is acceptable to us. The policy for workers to defeat inflation and unemployment is given in the Charter of Basic Rights. We must achieve a sliding scale of hours worked, to eliminate unemployment, work sharing before any redundancy and no redundancy until every worker is provided with alternative employment.

There must also be a sliding scale of wages, to defeat the effects of inflation. Wages to be tied to the cost of living with the right to negotiate general increases over and above this.

The Tories' proposed solution to the crisis is for the state control of unions. At present in this country we have legal trade unions under the 1906

Trades Disputes Act; what the Tories propose are 'illegal' trade unions.

Collective bargaining at present depends on the power of both sides to negotiate, on the one side the (biased) power of the employer to offer work and on the other side the power of workers to withdraw their labour. What is being proposed is not only the weakening of workers' power, but its destruction.

During the campaign for the December 8 strike, I have become more convinced than ever of the treachery of the present trade union leadership.

They refuse to fight for industrial action against the Bill and for action against the Bill on January 12 by demonstrations during meal-breaks and after work. Who's kidding whom?

Victor Feather has further assured capitalism that the true strength of workers will not be unleashed upon it by declaring 'We will fight this Bill all the way. But we will work within the limits of the law'.

Perhaps he forgets that unions will be outside the law when this Bill is introduced, or more likely, perhaps he intends to bring us within the law and succumb to this repressive legislation.

If the Industrial Relations Bill does become law the only way to defeat it will be by forcing the Tories out of office.

I for one cannot see the present TUC leadership leading the fight.

The Draft Charter of Basic Rights and the ATUA provide the basis of organization for trade unionists to force the leadership to fight and get rid of the Tories (for good).

The issues of unemployment, housing and cuts in welfare benefits cannot be divorced from the fight against anti-trade union legislation.

There are fundamental issues at stake. What the Tories are proposing is

TORY anti-union plans open the way for large-scale victimization of militants. Engineering union steward ERNEST McCOURT works at Sheffield Twist Drill, which was recently forced to return to work by the union's district committee after a three-day strike in defence of its sacked convenor:

I CANNOT find anything to disagree with in the Charter; I don't believe in Measured-Day Work. I think unemployment should belong to a past era and I feel every worker has a right to a job.

As for the Tory legislation on trade unions, it's such as myself—as a shop steward—who will get the fines.

Shop stewards have to defend the basic right to strike. We cannot have that taken away.

At our district committee we called for the immediate recall of the Trades Union Congress on this; the TUC wants re-calling long before March.

There are fundamental issues at stake. What the Tories are proposing is

much more stringent than 'In Place of Strife'. The movement must call for the resignation of the Tories.

It is a scandal the way the Tories are hitting school-children with the increase in school meal prices. They pay more than workers pay in works canteens!

Barber ought to hang his head in shame, taking away the basic rights of children.

In my factory, a 19-year-old youth has been moved to another department. He's not getting the bonus every-one in this department's on.

We're approaching management on Monday for at least a percentage of the bonus—that's his basic right.

I support the Charter, and I'll be supporting it amongst other stewards in this area.

WITH one day to go before the All Trades Unions Alliance's Birmingham conference to discuss the Draft Charter of Basic Rights we publish an interesting criticism of the Charter's demand for a sliding scale of wages, pensions and prices.

It comes from a militant engineering worker who was active in a recent and successful strike of engineers in Kent.

He says that the concept of a sliding scale of wages and prices 'acknowledges that the division of wages and profits is in a correct ratio'.

MOST agreements already reached along the lines of a sliding scale have been between the less class-orientated unions and employers—particularly in the civil service.

Any such national agreement reached in industry would preclude local and factory struggles because it would foster the illusion that a 'fair' ration had been agreed and any demands outside of it were 'unreasonable'.

The idea that the shop stewards' movement can and must fight outside national agreements is an important principle.

This kind of successful fight has created the wage drift much attacked by employers, governments and economists.

Wage drift accounts for almost three-quarters of all pay increases won on average. Hence the absolute need, expressed in the Tory and Labour anti-union laws, for the employers and the government to attack and destroy the shop floor in order to make capitalism work.

Anything therefore that shifts the emphasis away from the organization and strength built up by the rank and file weakens the struggle at the point where the ruling class most feel it.

It is precisely here that the trade union leaderships are most vulnerable and

exposed on their inability to deliver the full fruits of trade unionism.

So I think that the demand for sliding scales—with housewives and trade unionists—will be a demand for increase [the Charter demands that the sliding scale of wages should be fixed by trade unions in collaboration with housewives—Editor] is neither feasible nor desirable for the working class.

Apart from the complications of arriving at figures and then challenging the official index for the cost-of-living rise, the sliding scale is an acceptance of the position of 'status quo' and all the philosophy involved in that acceptance.

It will shift the emphasis of the struggle towards demands for 'fair' increases and will mislead the workers.

In a situation where capitalism and the ruling class are in crisis, straight wage demands and action sharpen the conflicts.

That is why we must use the organizations already built up to fight on demands that can be seen to offset the Tory offensive and that do not sow illusions.

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LATE NEWS

FALL-OUT COUNT UP

Radioactive fall-out in Britain's air and rainwater has risen since the middle of 1969 for the first time for several years, the UK Atomic Energy Authority says in a report published today.

ULSTER COUNCILS AXED

Most important local-government decisions in N Ireland will be taken at central government level in future, it was announced at Stormont yesterday by Prime Minister James Chichester-Clark.

In deciding on sweeping changes in Ulster's local government (county councils are to be axed and the number of district councils cut from 68 to 26), the government has followed almost to the letter the findings of a report drawn up by Unilever executive Patrick Macrory.

NO ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS

Italy was without newspapers and radio and television broadcasts yesterday as journalists continued their second 24-hour national strike in a week for more pay.

XMAS LEAVE STRIKE

According to reports reaching Moscow there has been a successful strike by foreign workers at the giant 'Togliatti' car plant recently built by FIAT on the Volga. 250 technical workers from W Germany, supported by 60 workers from Britain and France, staged a 24-hour strike at the beginning of this month for the right to return home for Christmas.

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