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Our sincerest thanks to all our readers for this wonderful effort.

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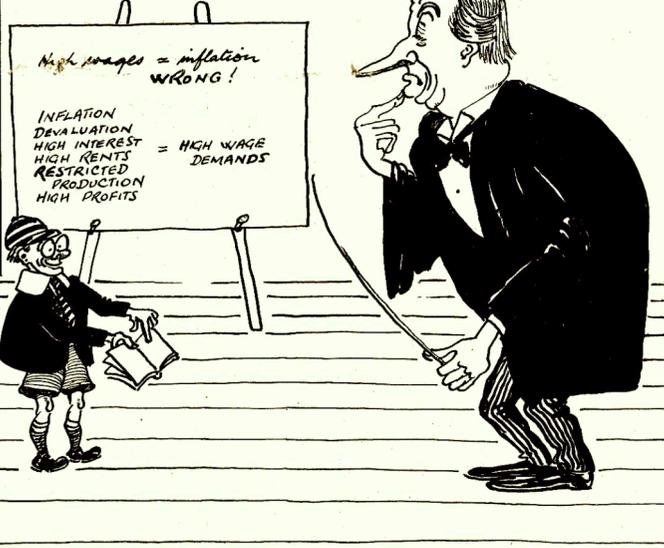
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Many of them—incensed by the employers' meagre 5½ per cent pay offer—are demanding more determined steps to win their claim for a substantial increase in earnings and reduction in hours.

Refused

Four stations in London's 'H' division—Orpington, Sandstead, Biggin Hill and Purley—have in fact been refusing emergency calls since last week.

Situated in Kent and Surrey, these are one-pump stations which should, according to Home Office specifications, be manned by five men before they can answer a call.

Leave and sickness have reduced watch strengths to between three and four men. Since the movement of stand-by firemen into stations

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

to make up a watch is banned under 'emergency-calls-only', two of these stations are intermittently 'off the run' and two permanently.

'Some two-pump stations will have to come out as well sooner or later', 'H' division Fire Brigades Union secretary Ken Bonter told Workers Press yesterday.

'It's got to escalate.'

Try-on

The men regard these appeals for amnesty as just a try-on, which they of course are. If you're in a fight, you're in it—that's their message to the executive.

The 'H' division men have been assured the full backing of the London brigade if any action is taken against those at the one-pump stations because of their action.

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They have refused a £2 4s 6d offer plus fringe benefits from employers.

Worst hit

Glasgow is the worst-hit area where the strike has shut Rank, Spiller and Weston groups' bakeries.

The United Co-operative Bakery Society's main Bridge-town works has not been involved in the dispute because it is outside the Federation of Wholesale and Multiple Bakeries.

But this will close for the New Year holiday. In this very bitter and determined strike the delivery men have had to battle with blacklegs and scab drivers. Their stoppage has caused over 4,000 bakery workers to be laid off.

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The City's shopping list is growing: the BBC's most popular station is now likely to be included whereas in the Queen's Speech Heath talked only of 'commercial local stations'.

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The men are also demanding the removal of a penal clause introduced by Ulsterbus in 1969, which stated that merit pay would be forfeited by anyone who takes part in unofficial strikes, who refuses to carry out his duties in terms of this agreement, who participates in ban of overtime or any action which does not have the official sanction of the appropriate trade union.

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'It is a breach of the law and they are liable to prosecution', he said.

Police are standing by to ensure the safety of scabs leaving the depots.

N Ireland's evening newspaper 'Belfast Telegraph' has been distorting the men's case, reporting the company offer as £1 8s for conductors, £2 for drivers and £2 15s for OMOs.

An editorial very reminiscent of the Tory press in Britain during the recent power workers' work-to-rule claims the busmen have 'miscalculated the public attitude to lightning strikes if they think they can win popular support by their action, and the employers will not be easily moved'.

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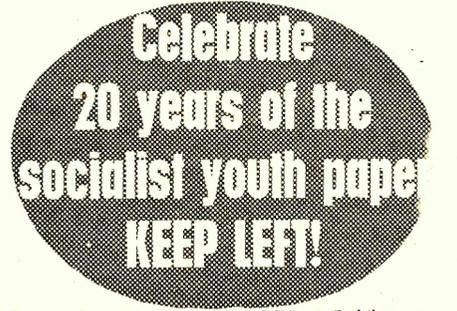
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Dance to 'the Uptights' in the evening

TICKETS 7s 6d

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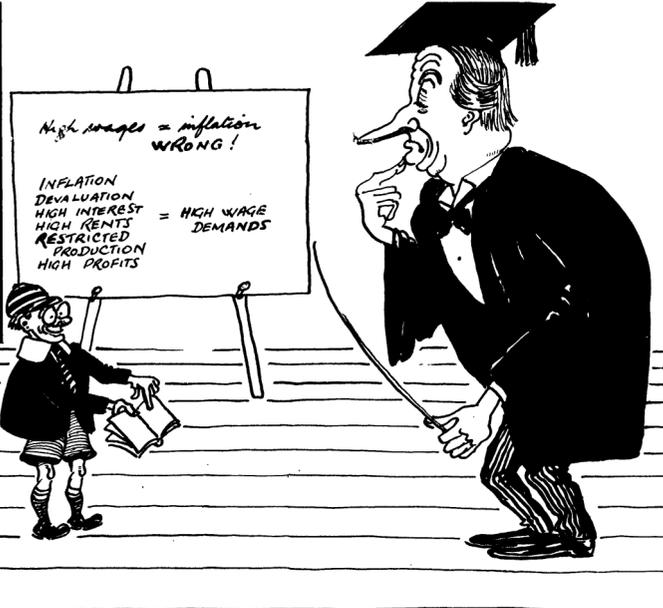
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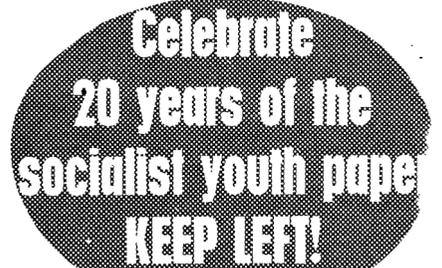
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BOOKS

LENIN: Collected Works. Volume 45 (the last in the present edition) Lawrence and Wishart 18s.

LENIN'S LAST VOLUME

SLAMS STALINIST LIES!

REVIEW BY ROBERT BLACK

THIS, the last volume of Lenin's 'Collected Works', was certainly worth waiting for.

For the Stalinist leadership of the British Communist Party, its publication could not have been worse timed! It is easy to see why.

Volume 44 (reviewed in Workers Press) on October 17 dispelled a number of hoary old Stalinist myths about Trotsky's relations with Lenin in the Civil War period.

This volume does the same for the last fateful years of Lenin's political life—and with even more devastating effect.

Myth

Before we turn to the documents in question, let us disentangle the myths they demolish.

Ever since Stalin's faction expelled the Trotskyist 'Left Opposition' from the Soviet Communist Party in 1927, the legend has run thus:

Throughout Lenin's lifetime, from the foundation of Lenin's party in 1903, to the preparation of the Revolution in 1917, the winning of the Civil War and the first steps towards the construction of socialism, Stalin was his closest collaborator, comrade and friend.

This myth has certainly taken some resounding knocks over the years, not the least of them Khrushchev's devastating revelations in his 'Secret Speech' to the March 1956 20th Congress of the CPSU.

But despite the contradictions in official Party history exposed by Khrushchev, both then and five years later at the 22nd Congress, Stalinists all over the world, 'Maoist', 'liberal' and pro-Moscow alike, have manfully fought to preserve the essence of the fictions first propounded under Stalin's rule.

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It shows how Lenin fought three major political battles in the last months of his political life. They can be listed as follows:

- Against bureaucracy.
 - Against the weakening of state control over the economy.
 - Against Russian chauvinism.
- In each case, Lenin was compelled, despite his declining health, to take issue most sharply with leading Party members on questions of basic principles. And each time his main opponent was... Stalin!

Ally

Volume 45 not only proves this to the hilt, it also establishes that, contrary to all the claims of the Stalinist myth makers, Lenin's main (and in fact only) ally was... Leon Trotsky!

Lenin discovered early in 1922 that a group of Central Committee members favoured a relaxation in the state monopoly over foreign trade.

Any weakening of this monopoly would both undermine Soviet industry by allowing far cheaper goods from capitalist countries to flood the market, and permit Soviet private exporters to bypass the state and establish direct relations with world capitalism.

Bukharin—later to become leader of the 'Right Opposition'



TROTSKY

—emerged as the main spokesman for this group. But also numbered among them was Stalin.

This can be established by reference to document 807 (pp. 602-603), which is a letter from Lenin to Stalin, which speaks of Stalin's retreat from his former position on this question.

That in itself is damning enough for our Stalin-worshippers. But the worst is yet to come.

In document 804 (p. 601) dated December 12, 1922, Lenin wrote to Trotsky:

'Comrade Trotsky:

'I am sending you Krestinsky's letter. Write me as soon as possible whether you agree; at the plenum, I am going to fight for the monopoly.

'What about you?'

Agreement

Trotsky must have given Lenin his reply at once, for on December 13, Lenin again wrote (Document 805, p. 601):

'Comrade Trotsky:

'I have received your comments on Krestinsky's letter and Avanesov's plans [which called the full maintenance of the state foreign trade monopoly]. I think that you and I are in maximum agreement...' (Emphasis added.)

Neither was it just a question of a formal agreement between Lenin and Trotsky. The sick

Lenin asks Trotsky to fight for their shared position:

... it is my request that at the forthcoming plenum [of the Central Committee] you should undertake the defence of our common standpoint on the unquestionable need to maintain and consolidate the foreign trade monopoly.' (p. 601.)

As I myself

This was no small question for Lenin. He was prepared, with Trotsky, to take the matter to the forthcoming March Party Congress, and even risk an open split with the Stalin-Bukharin group:

... I believe... that in the event of our [i.e., Lenin and Trotsky's] defeat on this question we must refer the question to a Party Congress.'

His bloc with Trotsky now secure, Lenin sent a letter to the remainder of the Central Committee members, informing them of his agreement with Trotsky (Document 807, pp. 602-603):

'I am now through with putting my business in order and am in a position to leave without worry [Lenin here refers to his departure—for health reasons—to the small town of Gorki outside Moscow]. I have also come to an arrangement with Trotsky to stand up for my views of the foreign trade monopoly.'

Lenin added a postscript to this letter which requires little comment:

'I am reasonably opposed to

any delay on this question of the foreign trade monopoly. If the idea should arise, for whatever reason... to postpone it until the next plenum, I should most resolutely object to this, because I am sure that Trotsky will be able to stand up for my views just as well as I myself.' (Emphasis added.)

The next letter (document 808, p. 604) is another to Trotsky, also on December 15:

'I consider that we have quite reached agreement. I ask you to declare our solidarity at the plenum...'

Lenin's anxieties on the outcome of this struggle are expressed not only in his letters to Trotsky, but in their very frequency.

Manoeuvre

This volume contains four notes dictated by Lenin and sent to Trotsky between December 12 and 15. The last of these (document 809, pp. 604-605) again returns to the crisis developing in the Party leadership over the question:

'If there are any fears that I am being worried by this question and that it could even have an effect on my health, I think that this is absolutely wrong, because I am infinitely more worried by the delay which makes our policy on one of the most basic questions unstable.'

The massive pressure brought to bear by Lenin on the Party leadership, together with the support given to him by Trotsky, was sufficient to rout the campaigners against the trade monopoly. For Lenin writes to Trotsky on December 21 (Document 811, p. 606):

'It looks as though it has been possible to take the position without a single shot, by a simple manoeuvre.'

A temporary victory had indeed been gained. The Bukharin-Stalin group had backed down from a frontal clash with Lenin and Trotsky on such a fundamental issue. But Lenin did not relax for an instant. His letter to Trotsky continues:

'I suggest that we should not stop and should continue the offensive, and for that purpose put through a motion to raise at the Party Congress the question of consolidating our foreign trade...'

... I hope that you [Trotsky] will not object to this and will not refuse to give a report in the group.'

Unification

That proved to be the end of the attack on the trade monopoly.

But another, and even more explosive crisis, was brewing at this very moment. This too can be traced through a document in Volume 45.

It is, of course, the so called 'Georgian affair'. An ardent enemy of Russian nationalism, Lenin insisted that the utmost care should be taken over the

unification of Soviet Georgia with the other Soviet Republics.

Stalin ruthlessly trampled on the national sensitivities of the Georgian Communists, and towards the end of 1922 became involved in a series of incidents that ended with one of his delegation striking the face of a Georgian Bolshevik leader.

Remove

When Lenin learned of this, he was furious, and at once drafted a postscript to his famous 'Testament', calling on the Party to remove Stalin from his post of General Secretary. He was, said Lenin, too 'rude' and 'disloyal' to hold such a Party post.

(This, and other documents pertaining to the Lenin-Stalin split, are to be found in Volume 36 of the Collected Works.)

Volume 45 has only one letter on the Georgian question. But it is quite enough:

'Dear Comrade Trotsky:

'It is my earnest request that you should undertake the defence of the Georgian case in the Party CC. This case is now under "persecution" by Stalin and Dzerzhinsky, and I cannot rely on their impartiality. Quite to the contrary, I would feel at ease if you agreed to undertake its defence.

'If you should refuse to do so for any reason, return the whole case to me. I shall consider it a sign that you do not accept.

'With best comradely greetings Lenin.'

(Document 812, p. 607.)

This is followed by the most sensational letter of all, one that was quoted by Khrushchev in his secret speech, but never before so much as acknowledged, let alone published, in an English edition of Lenin's works:

'Dear Comrade Stalin:

'You have been so rude as to summon my wife to the telephone and use bad language. Although she has told you that she was prepared to forget this, the fact nevertheless became known through her to Zinoviev and Kamenev [both later shot after the 1936 Moscow 'Show Trial' on framed-up charges of terrorism. They have never been officially 'rehabilitated' by the Soviet government and Communist Party].

Against me

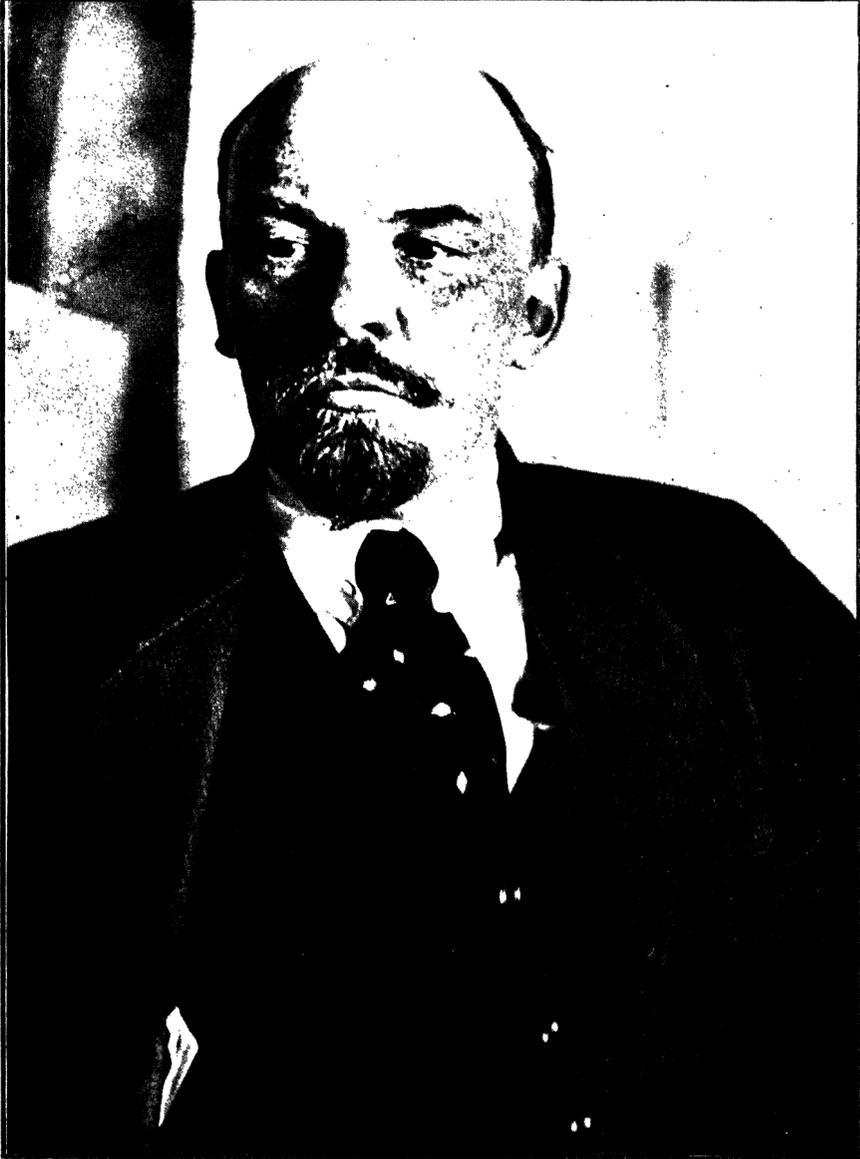
'I have no intention of forgetting so easily what has been done against me, and it goes without saying that what has been done against my wife I consider having been done against me as well.

'I ask you, therefore, to think it over whether you are prepared to withdraw what you have said and make your apologies, or whether you prefer that relations between us should be broken off.' (Document 813, pp. 607-608.)

Important reading



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This was almost Lenin's last letter. It exposes for all time the lies, cultivated by Stalinists and anti-communists alike, that Stalin was a loyal executor of Lenin's cause, or, as the gravedigger of the Bolshevik Party put it himself a 'worthy pupil of Lenin'.

Lenin's final political document follows this denunciation of Stalin. It too, burns with hatred for the future leader of the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy:

'To Comrades Mdivani, Makharadze and others [to the leaders of the Georgian Bolshevik Party]. Copy to Comrades Trotsky and Kamenev:

'Dear Comrades: 'I am following your case with all my heart. I am indignant over Orjonikidze's rudeness [it was he who struck the Georgian Bolshevik] and the connivance of Stalin and Dzerzhinsky. I am preparing for you notes and a speech.' (Document 814, p. 608.)

This, then, is how the last letter of the last volume of Lenin's works ends—with Lenin preparing, alongside Trotsky, a fight to the end against Stalin and his faction.

Refute these

How fitting that this volume, establishing beyond any doubt the real political relations existing between Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin in the last weeks of the Bolshevik leader's political career, should be published at this moment, when Stalinism plunges into its deepest-ever crisis.

We challenge the leaders of the British Communist Party—refute these writings of Lenin if you dare.

Just try to deny that it was Trotsky and not Stalin, to whom Lenin turned for support in his

fight for basic Marxist principles, against their perversion by nationalism, bureaucracy and sheer disloyalty.

Nothing will ever erase these truths, truths that were defended by Trotsky and his comrades against counter-revolutionary Stalinism in the teeth of world reaction and the most terrible purges, slanders and lies.

In a formal, literary sense, Lenin's 'Collected Works' end with this volume. But his real collected works, a life-time devoted to the building of a party, based on Marxist theory, to lead the working class to power all over the world, a struggle which we find reflected in his stupendous literary output, lives on.

Heritage

Not in the Fabian-style platitudes of the British Stalinist 'Morning Star', with its cringing appeals to the Tories to 'change their minds' about anti-union legislation.

Not in the tanks sent to crush the revolutionary struggles of the E. German, Hungarian, Czech and now Polish workers, nor in the hounding, baiting, jailing and mental torture of Soviet intellectuals struggling to find a road back to Leninism.

Lenin's life and works, from his great philosophical writings down to drafts for the smallest strike leaflet, lives on only where communists fearlessly tell the whole truth to the working class, about its history, its defeats as well as its victories, and struggle to arm it politically for power in the future.

Lenin's heritage therefore belongs to those who fight to build the Fourth International of Leon Trotsky, Lenin's comrade and ally in his last fight against Stalin and his bureaucracy.

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THE CHARTER OF BASIC RIGHTS

THIS IS the full text of the Charter of Basic Rights which was voted on at the December 19 conference of the All Trades Unions Alliance after several hours' discussion, which had been preceded by several months' discussion on the Draft Charter in the labour movement and pages of the working class. See page one story.

A HANDFUL of bankers, financiers, big businessmen and property millionaires directly represented by the Tory government has launched an onslaught on the basic rights which the British working class has established after centuries of struggle.

They are rushing to save themselves from the world economic crisis into which their system of society is plunging. They intend to solve this crisis at the expense of the working class.

To do this they must destroy all the basic rights won by the people, which allow them to defend and improve their conditions. We call on the working class to defend these rights:

1. The right of every worker to a job

FULL EMPLOYMENT is not a privilege, but a basic necessity of life, an elementary right. Unemployment is being deliberately created to divide the working class and weaken them.

We are not against new technology—we want to eliminate dangerous and unnecessary jobs. But every worker's right to comparable and continuous employment must be protected.

In the fight for higher wages we fight for the basic right to a living wage, for the right to improve our living standards. Only this consistent struggle establishes the right of the worker to the fruits of his labour.

Every wage settlement linked to a productivity deal means loss of jobs. We must demand:

- No Measured-Day Work, no intensification of working conditions.
- Full support for any group of workers engaged in wages struggles.
- No sackings; any firm which cannot give security to its workers must be nationalized without compensation and under workers' control.
- Women must have equal pay as a right.
- We oppose racialism. Every worker has the right to live and work in the country of his choice.

2. The democratic right to strike and organize

THE STANDARD of living and everything the working class has is based on the right to strike and organize.

No employer ever gave anything away, he sets out only to make the maximum profit. Without the right to force out of him what they are entitled to the working class have nothing.

The Tory anti-union Bill aims to destroy the unions and leave the working class defenceless. It threatens the independent trade union and political activity of the working class which is basic in their struggle.

The working class must never give up these rights, they must not allow the Tories to take the road of Hitler and Mussolini.

We must force the trade union leaders and the TUC General Council to mobilize the whole movement to defeat the anti-union laws. An Emergency Conference of the TUC must be called immediately, to organize a General Strike to defeat the laws.

3. The right of the working class to retain the gains they have made

THE TORIES are hell bent on taking away the gains of the past and the improved standard of living that the working class has won in struggle.

The working class has an absolute right to maintain these gains.

The power of the working class and modern industry have the capacity of providing continuously rising standards of living.

We cannot accept that living standards can be driven down simply because the system of private ownership—capitalism—is breaking up in deep crisis and cannot harness the forces of production for the benefit of mankind. Only a socialist society can solve the crisis.

4. The right to a higher standard of living

WE CANNOT stand aside while prices, rents and fares are allowed to rocket in order to maintain luxury living for a selected few.

The trade unions were formed to win a greater share of the wealth produced in capitalist society for the working class. It is through this struggle that the living standards of all working people can be raised, including those of pensioners, the chronic sick and the poorly organized.

Wage agreements which accept the status quo or include productivity deals are a betrayal of this principle and lead to greater exploitation and worsened conditions for the whole working class.

We call for trade unions to confront the employers and government in their attack against our living standards with straight wage demands, without the acceptance of any restrictive strings and conditions. Agreements must also contain clauses which increase wages automatically in line with rising prices, in order that gains once achieved are not eroded by price increases.

Trade unions must campaign for an immediate 50-per-cent increase in all pensions, and also for pensions to increase in line with any increase in the cost of living.



Delegates vote for the Charter at the ATUA's December 19 conference.

5. The right to welfare benefits

THE TORY government has taken the milk away from our children; they are threatening the right to a hospital bed when you are ill and the medicine you may need.

As a result of their action children will be less healthy and the working class will have to put up with ill health, bad teeth and eyeglasses, unless they can pay the price.

Any government which attacks these rights as the Tories are doing, endangering the health and life of children and bring death to old people, must be destroyed.

The Tory government has set out to deprive workers of their right to unemployment and supplementary benefits, which they have already paid for, and to income tax rebates, in order to weaken their struggle. These rights must not be surrendered.

The attacks of the Tories on school spending, on comprehensive education and on student grants are intended to deprive the children of the working class of the right of free higher education, and must be resisted to the end.

6. The right to decent housing

PROPER HOUSING is not a luxury—it is a basic necessity. People have a right to proper housing at a reasonable rent.

Working people have fought for this and paid for it many times over. Who builds the houses anyway? Who creates all the wealth of society? The working class.

Bureaucracy has to deal through strike committee

THE EMERGENCE of a strike committee in the Baltic port of Szczecin holds important political lessons for the working-class struggle against Stalinism throughout E Europe and the Soviet Union.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Broadcasts from the town of 310,000 people admit the workers elected their own committees independently of the bureaucracy and presented their demands to the regime through these new bodies.

'We inform listeners that the communiqué broadcast by the Polish Radio concerning the talks between the strike committee and the Party, administrative and trade union authorities of Szczecin has not yet been finally agreed upon.

... As we are informed by the strike committee of the Szczecin shipyards and of other enterprises, discussions between committees and representatives of factory staff in solidarity with the shipyard workers continue...

COMMUNIQUE

Last Monday, Szczecin Radio broadcast the text of the communiqué issued after talks between the strike committee and the local bureaucracy had ended:

'Problems of wages and prices, the causes and course of the disturbances, trade union activities with regard to the concern for the material conditions of workers [In these talks, the strike leaders were on one side, the 'union' officials on the other]... were discussed.

'These problems', the broadcast communiqué went on, 'were also widely discussed recently by the staff of other work establishments. The Szczecin authorities have passed on all those matters whose settlement was not within their terms of reference to the central authorities in Warsaw, requesting their support.'

But support against whom? Obviously, the city's strikers and their committee. So much for the new regime's 'dialogue' with the working class!

Just as in 1956, the Polish workers are attempting to create their own organs of struggle against the bureaucracy, formulating demands and compelling the regime to negotiate.

CLASSICAL

This is a classical feature of the political revolution against the bureaucracy—democratically elected workers' committees, without which there can be no development towards socialism in Poland or anywhere else.

The danger facing Szczecin workers and workers from other areas involved in the strike movement is a massive counter-blow by the new regime, backed up with the full weight of the Kremlin's armour and the political solidarity of world imperialism and Stalinism.

In 1956, Gomulka also came to power riding on the shoulders of a mass movement for workers' democracy which

established its councils in Poland's main industrial centres.

But today, an even deeper and much more explosive movement has ejected him, with no other 'liberal' Stalinist available to come forward as its leader.

DISCREDITED

The entire regime is discredited in the eyes of the working class. Not even Gierak and Moczar's closest friends would try to present them as in anyway sympathetic to the movement that has emerged in Szczecin.

The new regime has already offered its hand to the imperialist government of Brandt in Bonn, but it will refuse to 'peacefully co-exist' with its

own working class. There is no other way out for Gierak and Moczar other than to crush the independent movement of the working class in its most embryonic form.

Any demagogic promises made by Poland's new rulers are only a cover for further repressions against the working class. They—and we—must remain on guard.

The key question facing the Polish workers is the building of a revolutionary leadership which can take the movement on to the complete overthrow of the bureaucracy, the establishment of a genuine workers' democracy and, together with workers all over Europe, creation of a united socialist states of Europe.

Arab resistance fights Mid-East settlement

ARAB GUERRILLAS have blown up Israeli Ministry of the Interior offices in the occupied city of Gaza, causing extensive damage to files of the civilian administration in charge of the Arab population in the area.

BY A WORKERS PRESS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Israeli security forces, for some time unable to keep 'order' in the Gaza strip, immediately cordoned off the building, but were unable to make any arrests.

Arab and Palestinian resistance to Zionist rule cuts across the plans of the Egyptian and Jordanian governments, backed by the Kremlin Stalinists, for a peaceful settlement with Israel.

Opened fire

On Christmas Day Hussein's troops opened fire on Palestinian guerrillas' positions at Al-Salt and Um Jouza, to the West of the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Despite the retreats of the guerrilla leaders, this reactionary butcher presses on with provocations and shootings designed to weaken the guerrilla movement to the point where he can impose a betrayal of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Egyptian leadership is busy covering up for Hussein. Vice-president Aly Sabry, returning to Cairo yesterday after a week of talks with top Soviet leaders Brezhnev, Kosygin and Podgorny, declared that he had Hussein's assurance that he would not conclude a separate settlement with the Zionists.

If this is so, it is only because the Egyptian government firmly intends to equal Hussein's treachery to the Arab revolution.

He also backed Hussein's denial that he had held secret talks with Israeli deputy premier Yigal Allon, despite the fact that a debate on the talks in the Knesset (Israeli parliament) is known to have been censored in an attempt to keep the news secret.

'Settle problems'

Of the fighting in Jordan, Sabry said he hoped 'the problems between the two sides would be settled'.

Plans for a 'settlement' now hinge on the extension of the

Suez canal cease fire when it expires on February 5.

The Egyptian leaders have said they will not resume the talks under UN mediator Gunnar Jarring unless Israel withdraws from the occupied territories.

But there are reports that Sabry secretly met Jarring (who is also Swedish Ambassador in Moscow) during his visit with the Soviet leaders.

Burgos

● FROM PAGE ONE

including Foreign Minister Lopez Bravo, in charge of Franco's relations with Stalinist governments—would prefer to present a more 'lenient' face to the world.

German Consul UN German, was released on Christmas Eve by the Basque nationalists who were holding him hostage for the Burgos 16. They announced that they now support the Burgos 16. There can be no death sentences would be passed in the Burgos trial.

Back-to-work

● FROM PAGE ONE

tionary document and, as one worker described it, the 'Magna Carta' of the working class, because it openly claims the inescapable necessity and duty of workers to defend their rights with all means necessary.

The working class must drive this government out. It has the power to do so, only the hesitation of its leaders stands in the way.

'It is not enough to protest against this government, the working-class movement has every right to organize to force it to resign. There can be no question of having the Tories to their full term, merely recording a few protests.

'We have the right to bring them down.' We urge all militant workers to study this Charter and propagate its ideas not only for the revolutionary audacity, but for the political vision which alone will help build the new leadership and liberate the working class from the tyranny of Tory oppression and dictatorship.

WEATHER

OVER Scotland and N Ireland there will be showers of rain or sleet, with snow on high ground. The showers will be more frequent in exposed E districts, but there will be clear or sunny intervals in most places.

England and Wales will be generally cloudy with occasional snow, mostly slight, but moderate falls occur over E England and the Midlands and on high ground.

There will be clear or sunny intervals in W districts. There is a possibility of more continuous snow over southern England in the evening.

It will continue very cold with persistent frost in many places in the E, and other cold with night frost in the N.

Sydney, Dec. 16 — A 6 per cent increase in the national basic wage granted by the National Conciliation and Arbitration Commission has brought veiled threats and dire warnings for the future of the country from the employing class.

The Commission sits annually to consider claims from unions for wage increases—and what amount to pleas from representatives of the employers that they are much too poor to give anything.

An increase to those on the minimum wage (\$46 to \$47 (£21 to £21 18s) depending on the state) of a flat \$4 (£1 17s) has also been granted. The rise, considered a 'just' increase by the Commission is well below the \$9 (£4 4s)

Australian LETTER

sought by the blue-collar unions, and far short of the 16 per cent claimed by representatives of white-collar workers.

Nevertheless it has set the nation on the skids to inflationary disaster—according to the director of the Queensland Employers' Federation, Mr J James, who said:

'I think we can't last an-

other year without some form of restraint being imposed... we've got to go on until we come to a precipice.'

Exactly what Mr James considers to be the precipice he doesn't say, but one can have a pretty accurate guess at what he means by restraint.

He is no doubt considering wage freezes, and casting envious glances in the direction of Britain where Heath and company are carefully cultivating the noxious weeds of anti-union legislation.

Federal Treasurer Leslie Bury made it clear that now workers had received such a 'large' increase they were expected to be good boys and increase productivity and restrain themselves from making wage demands.

Backing him up is Minister for Labour and National Service, Mr William Snedden who explained that:

'Productivity is not just working harder... but... more effectively too'. He feels that the time has arrived for 'responsible trade union leadership to give strength of leadership in moderating this loss'. Echoes of Westminster?

Recognizable echoes are also likely to come from Australia's version of the TUC, the Australian Council of Trade Unions.



Its secretary, H Souter said the decision to pay the increase recognizes that wages have been eroded by climbing prices and... should also be adjusted by improvements in productivity'.

With statements like this can mass productivity deals be far behind?

After being told by the Australian press about the wicked work-to-rule by power workers in Britain—their action, we were told, resulted in motorway smashes, old ladies freezing to death, and sick people dying in hospital—it is now the turn of Sydney postal workers to be attacked.

They too are employing a work-to-rule over a pay dispute, and the press jumped in to tell everyone how terrible it would be for people not to receive cards and parcels in time for Christmas.

A savage sentence

● FROM PAGE ONE

crimes, the British CP supported a call by Italian CP leader Togliatti for the ending of the death penalty in the Soviet Union.

But after the savage repression of the Hungarian revolution later the same year, and the subsequent cold-blooded murder of Imre Nagy, British Stalinists relapsed back into silence.

The introduction of the death penalty for so-called 'economic crimes' in 1961 met with no opposition by the British CP, despite the fact that the main victims of the new law were Jews, selected, as under the Tsars, as scapegoats of the regime's unpopular policies.

The Leningrad verdict raises important questions of principle.

Socialists must separate themselves completely from the crocodile tears of the anti-Soviet brigade, who care nothing for the plight of Soviet Jewry, but use the trial to stir up hostility against the Soviet Union.

Any condemnation of the trial which panders to imperialism and its Zionist agencies simply plays into the hands of the bureaucracy, which can then present its repressions as being necessary for the defence of the Soviet Union.

British Stalinist leaders have consistently defended the Zionist state of Israel. The CP industrial organizer, Bert Ramelson, even makes a case for the Zionist's

'right' to hold on to certain Arab territories annexed after the June 1967 war.

Will they now condemn the Leningrad trial in terms that demarcate the CP from the apologists of Zionism within the British labour movement?

Ceylon appoints a censor

BY A FOREIGN REPORTER

THE BANDARANAIKE coalition in Ceylon has appointed a government censor to prevent publication of views which are 'harmful' to national security or likely to encourage civil unrest.

To appoint the censor the coalition—which is an amalgam of renegade Trotskyists, Stalinists and Mrs Bandaranaike's bourgeois-radical SLFP—mobilized emergency powers under a government public security act.

Not only can the appointed authority prevent publication of any offending article, but he can also seal a newspaper or periodical which does so for a specified time—a move clearly aimed at the left-wing press.

Arrests

This move by the coalition government runs parallel to its recent arrest

and equally important, will they speak out against all Stalinist repressions in the Soviet Union, Poland and the rest of E Europe?

Any statement or campaign which does not base itself on these class, internationalist principles is a fraud.

British CP members should insist that their leaders speak and act now, before the shootings are carried out.

of trade unionists for distributing leaflets in Nuwara Eliya attacking extreme rightists in the country. After their arrest and questioning by the police the men were released but their houses were later raided by police who searched through private documents without a warrant.

It is believed that the raids were made under special orders from Bandaranaike and the Inspector General of police.

It is further understood that they were influenced in their move by a member of the rightist United National Party which was defeated in the last general election by the coalition forces.

This is the latest in a series of reactionary and repressive measures by this

so-called 'leftist' regime.

Recent police shot two plantation workers on the Keenakalay tea estate and arrested other militant workers following a 100,000 strong strike against the shooting.

Now the coalition is challenging the basic right of left-wing groups and parties to distribute propaganda and attempt to organize the masses.

Witch-hunt

The government is in fact acting in the spirit of the ex-UNP regime which launched a witch-hunt against militants in the latter part of its rule. The only difference is that the Bandaranaike government is carrying out this same policy on a wider and more open scale.