The fight against Tory anti-union laws

L'pool Trades Council

What we think

There is no middle road

DESPITE the pressures from such disparate sources as Nixon's National Security Council, the Commonwealth governments and the liberal-pacifist-protest movement in Britain, Mr Heath's government is determined to supply the S African racialists

with arms.

When the Prime Minister leaves for Singapore today he will do so armed with a mandate from his cabinet which expresses clearly the class obligation of British imperialism to defend its interests and its S African janitors with every means.

janitors with every means.
Whether Mr Obote resigns from the Commonwealth or Mr Kaunda walks out of the conference will make little or no difference to Heath's decision to uphold the letter and spirit of the Simonstown Agreement.

The alternative to such a policy for Heath would be the collapse of the Vorster regime, the expropriation of the massive capital investments of British imperialism in gold and diamond mining and the ruin of Smith's apartheid ambitions in Rhodesia.

It would mean the rapid liquidation of the last remnants of Empire and would inevitably stimulate massive movements in Britain against the Tories.

As in Britain, so in the Commonwealth, the middle ground of 'concensus politics' has been rapidly transformed by the Tories into a no man's land where diplomacy, compromise and conciliation lie buried.

Mr Heath, as a very classconscious Tory, sees no separation of home and foreign policy.

That was why on the eve of his departure to Singapore, he reaffirmed his faith in Tory policy to curb wage increases, social services and trade unions.

For Heath this is just as important as the supply of arms to Vorster and Botha. No amount of protest will deter him from carrying through these measures which, for the Tories, are unpostponable and impera-

To the Bexley Supper Club and to the Singapore gathering of Uncle Toms, his message is brutally brief: 'Should we then turn back? Not for one moment do I believe that this is what anyone in this country would want to do. It is out of keeping with our tradition,

it is contrary to our destiny.'
Neither Soviet submarines in
the Atlantic nor Chinese
frigates in the Indian Ocean,
nor even colonial Prime
Ministers, but the giant
shadow of the British and
colonial workers is what
worries Heath.

worries Heath.

He has to build and cement every counter-revolutionary alliance against this threat to the power and wealth of imperialism.

imperialism.

As the man said: 'To turn back is to admit defeat'.

Or as Churchill put it: 'I was not made the King's First Minister to preside over the

liquidation of the British Empire.'
The only way to frustrate Heath's counter-revolutionary plans at home and abroad is to intensify the class struggle against Toryism on all fronts, force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government which will unequivocally abrogate the Simonstown Agreement and arm the Africans

and arm the Africans against Smith and Vorster. All workers and students who wish to smash this racialist conspiracy a gainst the African peoples must support the Alexandra Palace Rally against Toryism on

again shows

the way

BY DAVID MAUDE

A BIG ANTI-TORY demonstration has been called for next Tuesday by the Liverpool Trades Council.

The council's call contrasts sharply with the retreat from the fight a gainst the government's Industrial Relations Bill by the 'left' MPs, the union leaders and the Communist Party alike.

It reaffirms the demand — unanimously endorsed by 20,000 workers at Liverpool's Pier Head on December 8—that the Trades Union Congress call a General Strike to force the Tories to resign.

Speaking with some emotion to the Bexley Supper Club on Monday night, Tory leader Edward Heath pledged that there would be no turning back by the government from its anti-working-class policies.

The country had called too often in the past for relaxation of firm policies, he said.

Urgency

In a bid to screw up the courage of the fainter-hearted employers for what top ruling-class circles recognize must be a major confrontation, he insisted:

'This time I detect a sense of urgency.'

Yet after six-and-a-half months of Tory onslaught against every working-class right, the 'Tribune'-ite MPs can only summon up a call for . . . a petition to parliament.

Ever-thoughtful reformist Tottenham MP Norman Atkinson suggests that if this were organized on a factory-byfactory basis, each factory would no doubt wish to send people to London to associate themselves with the protest.

So he and his forelock-touching friends humbly suggest that the TUC organize a demonstration and lobby of MPs against the Bill, to which delegates can be sent from different parts of the country.

They specifically deny that

different parts of the country.

They specifically deny that they are calling for a one-day national strike.

Apology

Ignoring both the government's rapid-fire plans to push through the Bill and the massive erosion of living standards proceeding apace under Heath, they try to channel popular anti-Tory feeling into a worthless apology for a protest.

Needless to say the

Needless to say, the 'Tribune' statement — made by men who themselves refused to lift a finger against the Wilson leader-ship between 1964 and 1969, despite numerous demonstrations and lobbies urging such a course—was heavily boosted by yesterday's Stalinist 'Morning Star'.

Its front-page lead on their call contains not a scrap of comment, although Salford MP Stan Orme was quoted as saying the campaign should be stepped up.

Trade unionists are en-

Trade unionists are entitled to ask some questions at this point, since both the 'Star' and the Stalinist-led Liaison Committee for Defence

PAGE FOUR COL. 7

After the Devey affair

The silent men of King St

BY GERRY HEALY

THE DEVEY AFFAIR has once again revealed the Communist Party leadership as a shameful gang of political cowards, worthy representatives of the Stalin school of falsification.

During the lifetime of Stalin they not only supported every brutal deed which he organized, they went out of their way to falsify the teachings of Trotskyism by the foulest lies and slander.

On December 8 they returned once more to this vomit when Bert Ramelson, so-called industrial organizer of the CP, lyingly accused the Workers Press of having 'scabbed' on the one-day

When we gave him the opportunity to justify this lie publicly, he remained silent. But what are the facts?

Bolt

Whilst Ramelson was slandering the Workers Press, a leading industrial member of his Party, a man with whom he had the closest contact, a man who was the secretary of his Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions in Sheffield, like a bolt from out of the blue accepted a pay-off of £3,000 from one of the biggest groups of employers in the country, and a sevenweek-old strike came to an

basic principle of the Tory

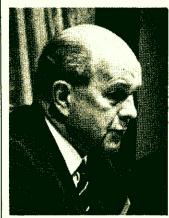
PAGE FOUR COL. 9

In doing so, he accepted a

Bank staff bears brunt of decimal change-over

BY MARTIN ZARROP

WITH LESS than six weeks to go to Decimal-Day, Britain's bank employees are calling for strong action to back their claim for adequate 'changeover' pay.



Brian Sharp, chairman of the banks' decimalization working party.

£1,250 January Fund

starts at £55

EVER-GROWING numbers of trade unionists are taking up the call for January 12 to be the start of a General Strike to make the Tory

government resign.

Our Make the Tories Resign rally at Alexandra
Palace on February 14
comes at a most decisive
time.

The Workers Press will

The Workers Press will go all out to mobilize hundreds of thousands of youth, housewives, OAP's and trade unionists everywhere to make this important political event an outstanding success.

We need all the support you can give us. We are raising an extra £1,000 which is needed for organizing the Rally. Help us by collecting the January Appeal Fund early this month. Take weekly collections at your factory or place of work. Raise support in your trade union branch. Carry the campaign far and wide throughout the labour movement. Post all your dona-

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

Would the banks' £8m changeover cost be passed on? 'This is difficult to quantify,' we were told.

Metrication was passed off as 'a separate problem'.

The bankers are remaining tight-lipped about the real

At their London press conference yesterday, which detailed the banks' massive

two-day decimal switch, representatives of the British

Banking Association refrained

Their comments on other

ssues facing workers after

D-Day were just as non-

of the banks' decimalization working party, said that 'there

is no reason to disagree with

the Decimal Currency Board'

that there should be no

general price rises.

Mr Brian Sharp, chairman

from commenting on

situation.

meaning of decimalization.

Their stand against the bank employees today reveals more of their class intentions than a mountain of explanatory literature.

However, a National Union

of Bank Employees spokesman told Workers Press: 'There is a great deal of feeling about it. There have been calls for further action.'

From closing time on Wednesday, February 10 until 9.30 a.m. on D-Day, February 15, bank employees will be working all-out to clear all £sd work and complete the changeover.

The main work will fall on Thursday and Friday, Feb
PAGE FOUR COL. 5

By an Industrial correspondent

HEATHROW

WORK-TO-

RULE

GOES ON

CLIVE JENKINS of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (left) seen with Transport and General Workers' national officer John Cousins (right) speaking to pressmen after toplevel joint union talks at Heathrow on the airport work-to-rule yesterday.

The meeting decided to intensify the work-to-rule following management's refusal on Monday to consider any increase on their 4½-per-cent pay rise offer.

The unions have not yet named the pay-rise figure they are demanding, but are believed to be seeking around 7 per cent.

Continuation of the 3½-week-old dispute is likely to cause further chaos at London's Heathrow and other airports, which are still recovering from the passenger log-jam earlier this week when freezing fog delayed thousands of passengers.

Robens' resignation official

THE RESIGNATION of Lord Robens as Chairman of the National Coal Board was officially announced yesterday.

Mr John Davies, Secretary for Trade and Industry, said Lord Robens had been invited to continue in office for a further five years.

But after 'full considerations' he had told Mr Davies he did not wish to serve. He was prepared to remain in his post for six months while arrangements were made for the appointment of a successor.

Robens is believed to have

told Coal Board members he took the decision, after 10 years as NCB chief, because he could not get satisfactory government assurances about future policy towards the industry.

set for all-out all-out strike

Firemen

LEADERS of 27,000 firemen may issue a national strike call over their pay claim at their delegate conference next week, militant members of the Fire Brigades Union told the Workers Press yesterday.

Militants expect that either resolutions for a national stoppage or selective stoppages in areas with big fire risks will be passed.

This will meet opposition from their 15-man executive who will meet on Thursday to discuss a possible escalation of their present emergency-calls-only protest.

I understand that overtime bans and bans on shift working will be considered, in preparation for recommendations for further action they will be putting to the delegate meeting on Tuesday next week.

100 PER CENT

But militants in the union claim that support for strike action will be near 100 per

They point out that firemen in Scotland, N Ireland, New-castle, Liverpool, Coventry and parts of London have already come out for a national or selective withdrawal of labour.

The firemen are demanding a substantial pay rise.

So far employers under government pressure have offered what amounts to a 35s increase on the present rate of £27 10s for 56 hours.

FEELING

Many militants however want the £38 a week earned by firemen in airports.

Ken Bonter, union secretary of London 'H' Division, which

BOAC's jumbos still grounded

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

THE HEATHROW meeting of BOAC pilots has rejected the Corporation's latest pay offer in the dispute which has kept the airline's jumbo-jets grounded for eight months.

Monday night's meeting endorsed the action of the pilots' council in rejecting BOAC's offer of £9,000 for senior pilots flying all aircraft, including the giant Boeing

The latest offer was about £4,500 less than the original demand for senior captains, first class, on the jumbos, and £2,400 less than an offer rejected by the pilots some months ago.

The Corporation offered to make the £9,000 wholly eligible for pensions and were prepared to accede to the pilots' request for three pilots on jumbo flight decks for a six-month trial period.

BOAC's three jumbos are

grounded at a cost of £18,000 a day and three more are due for delivery in March. FLIGHTS out of Paris on three airlines were again disrupted yesterday as pilots and cabin crew continued a strike which began on Monday.

Only about one-tenth of

Air France's international flights departed and these used planes chartered from other airlines.

The strikers are demanding a new contract governing pay and working conditions.

COMMUNIST Party member Mr Ken Brett was re-elected assistant general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers' engineering section yesterday. He polled 42,179 votes against Coventry rightwinger Harry Clarke's 25,502.

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

covers a wide area of SE London, said that men in his area were ready to strike.

We will be supporting the call for strike action on Tuesday. I am 100 per cent certain it will go through. I know the

it will go through. I know the feeling on the union's district committees in the provinces. 'We have the assurances from firemen's stewards on airports that they will support us in any action, they are very sympathetic with our

very sympathetic with our struggle for a decent wage for decent hours,' he said.

Newcastle firemen are the latest to call for full-scale strike action and in Liverpool off-duty men will march in full uniform to the town hall on Friday where they will hand in a petition on the

full uniform to the town hall on Friday where they will hand in a petition on the wage claim to the Lord Mayor.

Mr H. S. Burgess, secretary of the Liverpool FBU told the Workers Press that the Liverpool men 'certainly were not ruling out strike action.

'We will listen to what the

'We will listen to what the executive council has to say on Tuesday and make up our mind then, but we strongly feel that something more militant has to be done,' said Mr Burgess.

In London vesterday a

In London yesterday a spokesman for the FBU said that it was 'quite obvious' that the government had intervened to stop the employers awarding an 'inflationary'

INSTRUCTION

'The Home Secretary called the employers side of the National Joint Council for the service and I'm sure he instructed them not to offer what this government considers to be an excessive rise.'

He said the union has been

prepared to recommend a 10 per cent increase to its members, but not one that includes the already agreed two-hour reduction in basic hours as the employers were insisting.

At present provincial firemen earn £16 2s for a 46-hou week rising to £21 1s 8d after

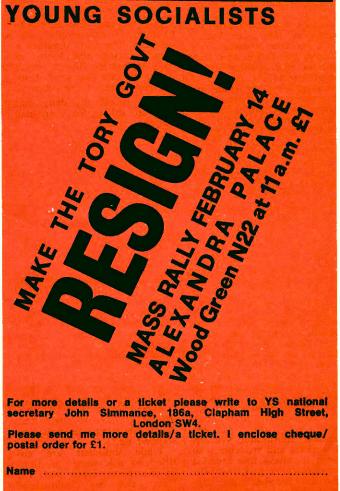
seven years' service.

In addition they receive £1 6s 10d for two hours a week compulsory overtime, plus £4 15s 10d for an eighthour-a-week bonus shift.

This means a fireman earns £22 4s 8d in his first year of service rising to £27 4s 4d

after seven years.

They have been operating the present emergency-callsonly service since the end of September.



POLAND AND THE CRISIS OF

STALINISM

PART ONE: 'POLISH OCTOBER'

THE RECENT STRIKES, demonstrations and bureaucratic repressions in Poland carry enormous political significance for the British working class.

To see why, it is necessary to go back to the great changes that took place in Poland at the end of the last

With the collapse of Nazi rule in E Europe, millions of workers and poor peasants looked to the advancing Red Army for political and economic as well as military aid in their struggle for a better

But standing behind the heroic Soviet troops, who battled their way at incredible human and material cost from the Volga to Berlin, was the Stalinist bureaucracy, which in the USSR had destroyed every vestige of the working-class democracy and control that had existed under Lenin and Trotsky.

Stalin had no intention of conceding to the Polish and Hun-garian workers the rights he had stolen from the Soviet working

So, even when the Kremlin was forced, in its own defence against imperialism, to nationalize the economies of E Europe, the move was made bureaucratically, over the heads of the working

From the beginning of post-war Poland, the working class felt alienated from the regime.

Its long traditions of struggle for socialism ensured that it would always defend the new nationalized property relations, which are essential for the creation of a genuine socialist democracy.

But for the bureaucratic caste that distorted and misused these new property relations, the working class had nothing but

On two occasions this has exploded with a wild, uncontrollable fury.

In June 1956, the workers of Poznan, a large industrial city in W Poland, staged a strike, taking to the streets in protest against starvation wages and the lack of

Unexpected explosion

The police could not cope with the movement, and finally the army had to be called in. Officially, 38 people were killed, but the real figure is thought to be much higher.

What caused this completely unexpected explosion? Was it the work of 'murky agents and pro-vocateurs', as the Polish press at the time alleged?

Three years before—on June 17, 1953, E German workers revolted against their Stalinist rulers. They too, had been denounced as stooges of imperialist agents', yet like their Polish (and later Hungarian) comrades in 1956, their demands had been for political, and not economic changes.

Great movements of the working class cannot be explained in terms of 'plots' and 'agents'. As Gomulka admitted on his election to the leadership of the Polish CP later that year:

'The clumsy attempt to present the painful Poznan tragedy as the work of imperialist agents and provocatuers was politically

'Agents and provocateurs can be and act anywhere, but never and nowhere can they determine the attitude of the working class.

If anyone can be said to have masterminded the Poznan revolt, it was Khrushchev. His speech to the 20th Congress of the Soviet CP cataloguing many of Stalin's crimes against the working class and the Bolshevik Party, sent tremors through every Stalinist party in the world.

None was more shaken than the Polish.

In 1938, Stalin wound up the Polish CP on the grounds that it

BY ROBERT BLACK

had been taken over by fascist agents (again the 'agent' theory).

Its leaders, exiled in Moscow, were shot, also as 'Fascist-Trotskyite agents'.

Several of the Party's future leaders, including Gomulka himself, owed their survival to the fact that they spent much of the 1930s in the jails of Poland's semi-fascist regime and not as Stalin's guests in Moscow!

The 1939 partition of Poland between Hitler and Stalin was also a bitter blow to the survivors of the Party.

Now that Khrushchev had de-

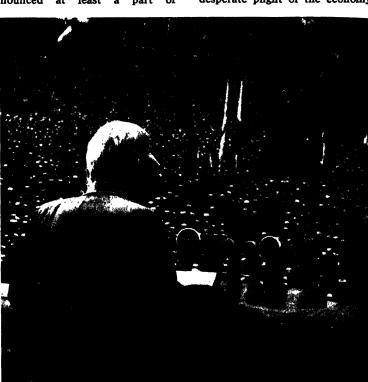
working class were risking a Poznan revolt on a national scale.

Gomulka's fight for the Party leadership ran parallel and, to a degree, merged with the ferment among advanced workers.

In and around Warsaw, especially, they began to elect their own workers' councils, bodies which vied with the bureaucracy for control of the

Millions of workers, youth and students thought that here, for the first time, was a leader who spoke the truth.

Gomulka certainly revealed the desperate plight of the economy,



Gomulka addressing a 240,000-strong crowd in Warsaw's Plac Defilad on October 24, 1956.

Stalin's crimes, these questions could be discussed after nearly 20 years of silence.

Poznan was, therefore, a turning point in this maturing of the

Stalinist crisis. For the first time, the working class entered the 'discussion', disrupting the old relations between the working class and the bureaucracy in not only Poland but throughout E Europe and the USSR.

The impact was also, inevitably, felt in the British CP, whose Stalinist leaders were engaged in a desperate rearguard action against a growing army of rankand-file critics.

After Poznan, events moved to a climax. Gomulka, who had not long been released from a five-year prison term (for 'national deviations') now began to gather around him a group of 'liberal' Party members, many of whom been excluded from the leadership since the anti-Tito purges of 1949-1952.

Their criticism of the most repressive aspects of Stalinism, while never going to its roots in the theory of 'socialism in one country', had a big appeal for rank-and-file worker members of the Party and to the Polish

Workers' ferment

Others in the Party to the left of Gomulka, joined with his group in an assault on the Stalinist hard-liners in the leadership, who by their refusal to

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which in many sections had a lower level of productivity than pre-war Poland!

against the repressions of Stalinism in Poland. This alone was sure to win him widespread

But at no time was the theoretical foundation of the Stalinist system challenged.

The session of the Central Committee of the Polish CP which saw Gomulka restored to

The tension at the Plenum was unprecedented.

very moment closing in on Warsaw, and the workers' councils were clamouring for arms.

'agents' stirr'ng up trouble in the

He was also very outspoken support.

Gomulka's team, however explicit their denunciations of Stalin's crimes (many had suffered personally from them), remained trapped in the reformist strategy 'national roads to socialism' which became the Polish version of 'socialism in one country'.

its leadership (the famous 'Eighth Plenum') was the scene of a bitter struggle between the hard-

The Soviet army was at that

Many of the old guard — the 'Natolin' group — continued to churn out the same old line of

Romana Granas, one of Gomulka's most radical supporters, taunted the old guard.

She said they were afraid of the workers once they moved independently of the bureaucratic

But the pro-Gomulka group drew their strength from the

them? . . . Warsaw which leads the whole country in the tempestuous movement-initiated in the factories-for workers' councils. Warsaw, whose youth with devoted enthusiasm searches for new roads . . . Warsaw, where the flower of our intelligentsia breaks through the darkness of the past . . . Warsaw . . . always faithful to her progressive revolutionary traditions.

'Some comrades,' she went on, 'see Warsaw as the breeding ground of that terrible plague that is now spreading over Poland. Yes, this "plague of democracy" has spread. Not only over Warsaw, but over Lodz, Katowice, Wroclaw, and today, it has already embraced the whole country in spite of those who wanted to guard their areas against this plague.'

Attack on old guard

This speech helps to convey the scope of the workers' revolt against the bureaucracy, an upsurge which made its power felt even inside the walls of the Central Committee buildings in

Others then joined the attack against the old guard. Artur Starewicz dealt with the Stalinist conception of planning which had choked the Polish economy

'Its greatest failure is not

simply the result of certain disproportions and serious errors due to the excessively centralized system of planning and control, but first and foremost of the unsocialist attitude to the working

'The working class was not master of its workshops, in its name control was exercised by the representative of the statebureaucracy often indifferent to the needs of the masses.

He also dealt with the problems of the countryside. Due to the bureaucratic way in which collectivization had been carried out 'a situation resulted in which the main line of battle ran not between poor peasants and rich, but between the united peasantry on the one hand and the bureaucracy on the other.'

Roman Werfel also attacked slanders that the working class and youth were being duped by anti-communist agents:

'I think that it is a sign of the sound class instincts of the popular masses, of the unconquerable strength of our socialist ideas, that when the popular masses take the initiative, their initiative is directed unambiguously to the left, towards socialism . . . '

Another issue that constantly cropped up in the Central Committee discussions was the Krem-lin's exploitation of Poland's mineral resources.

As was the case with Hungarian uranium, and more recently, Czech steel, the Soviet bureaucracy forced the Poles to sell their coal to the USSR at well below world market prices, while being compelled to buy Soviet exports at an equally inflated cost.

Stalin's milking of the E European economies had been one of the main factors driving the Tito leadership into opposition in Yugoslavia.



Gomulka casting his vote in the Polish elections of January 17, 1957.

A section of the cheering crowd It was made a central issue in all the show trials staged by the bureaucracy from 1949 to 1953.

> The so-called 'mixed companies' set up by the Kremlin in Poland, Hungary and elsewhere were little more than legal covers for the pillage of these countries' badly needed natural resources. In 1956, this naturally came up for discussion.

The three-day Plenum finished on October 21, 1956. Two days later, the Hungarian Revolution, triggered off by basically the same process that produced the ferment in Poland, began.

Then on October 24, Gomulka, now the General Secretary of the Party, addressed a mass meeting in Warsaw's main square.

His 'victory speech', cheered to the echo by more than a quarter of a million workers, ended with thunderous rendition of the 'Internationale'.

It seemed that nothing could dislodge Gomulka from his position of leadership. Yet 14 years later, Gdansk shipyard workers the 'Internationale' began the Baltic strike wave that swept his group out of their

party and state offices. From being the hero of the 1956 'Polish October' Gomulka had become the workers' most

bitter enemy.

Continued tomorrow

Smokers premature death_ report

JUST UNDER one third of all men aged 35 to 64 who died in 1968 were cigarette smokers who died prematurely, according to the Royal College of Physi-cians' latest report on smoking. In that year 99,082 men in that age group died, but if there had been no smoking, 31,000 would still have been alive.

At least half these excess

deaths were caused directly by smoking and the figure is more likely to be 24,000.

The report calls for action to contain and end what it describes as 'the present holocaust'—a fitting word, it declares, for an annual death toll of some 27,500 men and women aged 35 to 64 The report — 'Smoking and Health Now'—follows the College's 1962 report 'Smoking and

Health' and it is critical of continued government inaction over this health hazard. The group of eminent doctors, headed by Lord Blenheim, President of the College, who produced the report, infer that governments have been preoccupied with the loss of revenue

that would follow a drop in smoking.
The 1970 Finance Act even ensured that substances less harmful than tobacco would be taxed at the same rate if used for smoking, but there was no consideration of health aspects.

'The issue is, in essence, quite simple', they write.
'Government and parliament have to decide between an easy source of revenue and the pre-servation of the lives, health and productivity capacity of the people they serve.'

Unsound economics

In fact, says the report, the Treasury's economics may be unsound. Surveys in America and Canada have shown that elimination of smoking would result

in greater savings than losses. Sickness benefit and loss of production and earnings due to lung cancer, bronchitis and cor-onary heart disease, attributable to cigarette smoking, were esti-

mated at £270m a year.

The 150-page report's proposals include: a ban on cigarette coupons and adver-tising; no cigarette vending machines in public places, reduced life insurance premiums for non-smokers; more effective anti-smoking advertising coordinated through the government; and danger warnings on cigarette packets.

The mass of statistics on the dangers of smoking are impres-

The heavy smoker has only half the chance of a non-smoker of surviving to the age of 65. Giving up smoking means that the increased risks are negligible

after ten years' abstinence. However, it is unlikely that the Tories and their friends in the tobacco business will act on the report's recommendations any more than they did in 1962.

BBC 1

12.25 p.m. Nai zindagi-Naya jeevan. 1.00 Disc a dawn. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45 News. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Madly sad princess. 5.15 Screen test. 5.44 Magic roundabout. 5.50

News and weather 6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 THE DOCTORS

7.10 TOM AND JERRY. 7.20 STAR TREK.

8.10 SOFTLY, SOFTLY.

9.00 NEWS and weather. 9.20 INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS. Hospital doctors and their patients.

10.00 SPORTSNIGHT SPECIAL. The FA Cup.

10.45 24 HOURS. 11.20 WEATHER.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except:

11.20 News and weather.

Wales: 6.45-7.10 Heddiw. 7.20 I, a stranger. 7.40-8.10 Drosodd at Alun Williams. 11.20 Late call. 11.45 Midlands, E Anglia, North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland, SW, South, West, Scotland, N Ireland:

BBC 2

11.00 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 6.30 p.m. MONKEYS WITHOUT TAILS.

7.30 NEWS and weather. 8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED.

8.10 MAN ALIVE. Effect of firstborn child on two young couples. 9.00 PETS AND VETS. Feeding your dog.

9.20 'HASSAN'. An eastern fable. Ralph Richardson, John Gielgud,

Nyree Dawn Porter, Corin Redgrave and Anthony Ainley.

10.45 NEWS and weather. 10.50 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

1.30 p.m. Racing from Doncaster. 3.45 Yoga for Health. 4.15 Rupert Bear. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Sooty. 5.15 Sexton Blake. 5.45 News.

5.55 TODAY. 6.30 NANNY AND THE PROFESSOR.

7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 THE CHAMPIONS. Three Interpol agents commit suicide.

9.00 A FAMILY AT WAR. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 FATHER, DEAR FATHER.

11.00 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.

11.45 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. 12.00 midnight MANDY MORE SINGS.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 2.00 London. 3.55 Rupert Bear. 4.05 Puffin. 4.15 Short story. 4.50 London. 5.55 News and weather. 6.10 African patrol. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure Hunt. 7.30 London. 8.00 It Takes a Thief. 9.00 London. 11.40

SOUTHERN: 1.30 London. 3.25 Horoscope. 3.30 Women Today, 4.00 Houseparty, 4.12 Wind in the Willows. 4.25 Crossroads, 4.50 London, 6.00 Day by Day. 6.30 From a Bird's Eye View. 7.00 London, 8.00 Man in a Suitcase. 9.00 London, 10.30 Southern Scene. 10.50 News. 11.00 Wrestling, 11.45 Weather. WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.53 News. 4.05 Gus Honeybun. 5.55 Diary. 6.30 Horoscope. 11.45 News. 11.48 Epilogue. 11.53 Weather.

6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Hawaii Five-O. 9.00 London. 11.45 Weather. HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.07-4.09, 5.56-6.35 Report West.

HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 and HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 5.56-6.16 Y Dydd.

ANGLIA: 2.00 London. 4.00 News. 4.05 Women Today. 4.30 Romper Room. 4.50 London. 5.55 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 UFO. 9.00 London. 11.45 Music at Night.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.30 London. 3.10 Houseparty. 3.25 Horoscope. 3.30 Women Today. 4.00 Peyton Place. 4.30 Romeo in Rhythm. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.50 Fireball XL5. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 UFO. 9.00 London. 11.45 Weather.

ULSTER: 1.30 London. 4.25 Romper Room. 4.45 News. 4.50 London. 5.55 UTV Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Bracken's World. 9.00 London, 10.30 An evening with . . . The Taste. 11.00 London. 11.45 Weather. YORKSHIRE: 2.00 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.10 Ruper Bear. 4.50 London. 5.55 Calendar. 6.30 Hogan's Heroes. 7.00 London. 8.00 Mannix. 9.00 London. 11.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 2.00 London, 4.05 News. Peyton Place, 4.40 Enchanted House, 4.50 London, 6.01 Newsday, 6.20 Beverly Hillbillies, 6.50 This is Your Right, 7.00 London, 8.00 Marcus Welby, 9.00 London, 11.45 What the Papers Say, 12.00 Weather.

TYNE TEES: 2.00 London. 4.00 News. 4.05 Women Today. 4.35 Rupert Bear. 4.50 London. 6.00 Today at Six. 6.30 Wheel of Fortune. 7.00 London. 8.00 UFO. 9.00 London. 11.45 News. 12.00 Popular Negatives.

BORDER: 2.05 London. 4.05 News. 4.07 Tales from Dickens. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.50 London. 5.56 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Invaders. 9.00 London. 11.45

SCOTTISH: 2.00 Racing from Don-caster. 4.00 Dateline. 4.10 Rupert Bear. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.30 Jokers Wild. 7.00 Lon-don. 8.00 Man in a Suitcase. 9.00 London. 10.30 Silent Force. 11.00 Scotsport. 11.40 Late call. 11.45 Wrestling. 12.30 Weather.

GRAMPIAN: 2.00 London. 4.05 News. 4.10 Rupert Bear. 4.25 Moment of Truth. 4.50 London. 5.55 News and weather. 6.05 Grampian Week. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Mannix. 8.55 Police News. 9.00 London. 10.30 Room 222. 11.00 London. 11.45 Enlideur.



'On Reflection' LONDON WEEKEND Saturday, January 2

Reviewed by **ROBERT BLACK**



The 'Pearly docker' reflects on Marx

TO SPEND 15 minutes talking about the founder of the modern revolutionary movement without once mentioning the problems and struggles of the working class today is some feat.

Jack 'Pearly docker' Dash managed it without any difficulty in London Weekend's Saturday night programme 'On Reflection'. when the Communist Party veteran and former London docks' leader gave viewers his reflections on the life and work of Karl Marx.

Like all Dash's public performances, this one was specially tailored gently to disturb the consciences of the middle and ruling classes.

Dash presented Marx as a humane liberal, opposed to capitalism on moral grounds.

Pastimes

Scraps of information about his drinking habits and other pastimes were tossed in to complete the picture. No honest bourgeois could possibly take exception to such a man.

Neither do they. Dash has laid on just this act at businessmen's luncheons, public school open days, village fêtes and numerous other social functions' of the British ruling class and its soft, petty-bourgeois underbelly.

A good natured 'ticking off' by a real live 'dockers' leader' a six course meal and a glass of wine round off the whole thing in very good style.

After the feast comes the lecture on morality and the greed of the rich.

Meanderings

Far better than being sent to sleep by the inaudible meanderings of some platitudinous old vicar.

Dash's attempt to present Marx as the forerunner of present-day 'protest' move-ments met with about as much success as his brief summary of Marx's theory of capitalist

According to Dash, capitalism breaks down because the worker cannot buy back all that he produces.

In fact, this theory is demolished in the very book that Dash handled so lovingly at one point in his programme.

Marx's 'Capital' shows that capitalist crises are prepared, not by the poverty of the masses (this is a typical 'moralistic' distortion of Marx), but by periods when the working class, by dint of strong trade union organization and favourable economic conditions, is able to deny the employers a considerable slice of what had previously been going to the ruling class in the

Outcome

form of profit (surplus value).

A sharp fall in the employers' rate of profit is the inevitable outcome of a successful wages offensive by the working class.

Any attempt, such as we have seen over the last 25 years, to offset this process by the printing of paper 'money' unbacked by real value only

ders it even more devastating. All the processes Marx

postpones the crisis and ren-

analysed in his immortal works are now coming to fruition in the crisis of the British capital-

Yet this truly historic 'turn finds Dash distorting, misrepresenting and discrediting the theoretical foundations of

No surprise

And that should be no surprise. For despite his contrived proletarian' style—which has an old 'Music Hall' ring about it - Dash epitomizes middleclass 'protest' politics at their most bankrupt.

Stalinism has trained him to protest at the inhumanity of capitalism—and wine and dine with his declared class enemies while he is doing it.

Frank admission on Czech invasion

THE FRANKEST admission yet on the Kremlin invasion of Czechoslovakia was made on December 30 by Bratislava home

Of the mass movement against the old Stalinist leadership, it 'To oppose this unity in 1968

of society.' The broadcast then described in some detail how these 'outcasts' went about saving their bureaucratic skins:

was almost to become an outcast

Letters

'In the summer of 1968 . . . an increasingly powerful stream of letters and demands to save socialism [Stalinism] in Czechoslovakia were sent in the direction in which the hopes were directed-to the fraternal socialist countries, mainly the Soviet

The broadcast then went on: 'These were demands for help, written in a most difficult moment, a moment full of despondency, but also a moment of

The authors of these letters, old supporters of the ultra-Stalinist Novotny group ousted by Dubcek's 'liberals' in January 1968, were obviously utterly isolated from the working class in the summer of 1968.

Own demands

They were prepared to coexist with Dubcek's leadership, even with his dangerous policy of seeking extensive economic aid from the World Bank and other imperialist sources, so long as the working class remained

But in the summer of 1968, the workers began to forward their own demands, through the trade unions and factory organizations, for workers' control of production and the right to political freedoms.

It was at this point that the old guard turned to their allies in the Kremlin, as the broadcast makes very clear:

'. . . these were appeals and requests addressed to the Soviet people and their party asking them not to hesitate, but to help, even with armed force, as there was no other way out.'
(Emphasis added.)

The broadcast then lists the organizations whose members had sent such requests for armed intervention against the Czech

There is not a single trade union body on this list. overwhelming interventionists were drawn from bodies 'elected' under Novotny (the National Assembly, the Party

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Committee, etc.).
They knew that unless the of radicalization was halted, their political careers would be at an end. man imperialism.

This, and not any concern for the right-wing course of the Dubcek leadership, was the reason behind their appeal to the Kremlin. For the new Stalinist leadership installed under the Soviet

occupation has recently begun to carry even further the Dubcek policy of restoring 'normal' relations with W Ger-

Recognition

It has also extended diplomatic recognition to the fascist Franco regime in Spain, and generally proved itself a keen supporter of the Soviet bureau-cracy's policy of convening an all-European conference to maintain 'collective security' throughout the continent.

British Stalinists have absolutely nothing to say against the continued occupation of Czecho-

Even their mealy-mouthed protest at the time of the invasion obviously went further than

Gollan and company would have liked.

In view of the Polish crisis, it is all the more necessary to raise this question once again inside the British labour movement, and insist that all violation of working-class rights in Czechoslovakia be the subject of a trade union inquiry.

The fight for workers'_rights does not stop at the English channel or the frontiers of E Europe.



Productivity drive splitting Soviet bureaucracy

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

INEFFICIENT production methods were under attack in Monday's 'Pravda', official paper of the Soviet Communist Party.

The target of the criticisms were government ministries who ignored Party proposals on how to improve management meth-

The sharp tone of the article underlines the serious nature of the charges.

The issue involved is the adoption of a new productionboosting system pioneered at the Tula Shchokino chemical works, where a fixed wages fund is allocated between a reduced number of workers as productivity increased.

'Incentives'

This system, using the traditional Stalinist bait of 'material incentives' to break up workingclass solidarity, inevitably leads to small wage increases for a majority of the workers in a plant at the expense of those that are being sacked.

One factory, writes Moscow Party Second Secretary Viktor Paputin, has boosted output by 11 per cent, produced by 23.3 per cent and reduced its work force by 244 employees.

The Moscow Party was constantly drawing attention to the virtues of the new system, said Paputin:

'Surplus'

'However our proposals some-times fail to find active support on the part of ministries and departments.

Adoption of the new system involves giving plant managements powers to dismiss workers' 'surplus' to the plan requirements, and it is possibly this aspect of the problem that is creating divisions within the Soviet leadership.

The same article attacked the Ministry for the Chemical Industry and the State Committee on Labour and Wages for taking nine months to consider a proposal from a chemical fibre plant that it should boost productivity and sack a part of its work force.

Coming as it does so soon after the Polish strikes, this attack on high-level leadership in the Kremlin suggests that elements of the bureaucracy are very wary of provoking the working class at this particular

Speed-up

The widespread adoption of the 'Shchokino system' would lead to mass sackings and speedup for those still at work.

It would give even more

Draconic powers to plant managements than they already possess, and so heighten tensions between the mass of the working class and the bureaucracy.

The Kremlin also has the growing problem of the intellectual opposition, which is reaching out to embrace layers, such as musicians, previously regarded

The anti-Jewish campaign must

What predominates in the Soviet Union, as throughout both the imperialist world and the rest of the Stalinist states, is a mortal and growing fear of the power of the working class.

The bureaucracy desperately wants to boost lagging production, not just to satisfy its own indulgent tastes, but to buy off rising discontent in the working class against inadequate housing and living standards.

Poland was a warning the bureaucracy simply cannot afford to ignore. But the very methods it adopts to solve the crisis create even deeper problems!

This is the reality of 'socialism in one country'.

Do you believe in Fleet Street?

WHEN I was a child, they took me to see Peter Pan as a Christmas treat. I recall being terribly embarrassed when somebody asked us: 'Do you believe in fairies? If you do, clap your hands.'

Apparently, it was all to do with fairies dropping down dead if we expressed our disbelief. Guiltily, we clapped.

We are reminded of this by the annual review of the world's press issued by Mr Ernest Meyer, director of the Zurich International Press Institute.

Press freedom is in danger says Mr Meyer. Not, as you might have thought, because a handful of millionaires control all the main papers, but because of the Workers Press notebook

'credibility gap' between the mass media and the public.

Fellows like Spiro Agnew (are there any?) have engendered distrust of the press.

'If this disenchantment continues—and it is not within the power of the press itself to halt it, but rather in the quality of public leadership in the democracies—then the erosion of the foundations of the free world will begin.'

But there are even greater dangers.

'The virus of industrial unrest

in Britain' is worrying Mr Meyer sick. Worst of all was the 'extra-ordinary action' of the print-workers on the London 'Evening Standard', interfering with the right of the press barons to lie about strikers.

So, unless you want to undermine the foundations of the free world, from Formosa to Portugal, you must not only let Fleet St churn out any old stuff the newspaper owners want. You also have to believe everything they print.

Every time you refuse to believe a Tory paper, a Fleet St editor has a coronary. You brute!

Home and

NO DOUBT Franco was duly touched by the tone of the message sent by Sir Alec Douglas Home about the death sentences on the Basque nationalists.

It said that the Tories were confident the Spanish head of state will take humanitarian considerations into account'.

Perhaps the Spanish dictator

remaps the Spanish dictator remembered that the Foreign Secretary's father was one of the many Tories associated with pro-Franco organizations. The old Earl of Home was on the Committee of the United

Christian Front, whose chairman, Captain A. H. M. Ramsay, MP, once declared: 'The United Christian Front has fought to prove that General Franco was fighting the cause of

Christianity against anti-Christ. (This was in 1939, shortly before Ramsay's fellow Tories were obliged to intern him as too open a supporter of Hitler.)

'I recognize . .

Sir Alec Douglas Home was in those days called Lord Dunglass and was a Parliamentary Private Secretary to Chamberlain's government. He must have been intimately acquainted with all the many Tories whose sympathies with Franco were openly displayed.

The most famous phrase on this theme was delivered by Brigadier-General Sir Henry Page Croft, MP for Bournemouth. He told a meeting of the Friends of National Spain in 1938:

'I recognize General Franco to be a gallant Christian gentleman.' At the same meeting, Captain Victor Cazelet, MP, described

IT WAS a good week for Mr Peter Shea, London docks secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Last Thursday's Workers Press, you may remember, quoted him on the possibilty of action in support of the Burgos prisoners.

'They didn't take any action when these people (the ETA) murdered that police chief,' he declared. 'I happen to be a Christian and I don't want to

see anyone killed.' Monday's 'Financial Times' carried another statement from this chap, this time on the success of Devlin Phase Two in the Port of London. 'Things are getting better,' said Mr. Shea. 'It is no longer us versus them, it is just us and we are all in this

together.' There is something worrying him in this new paradise, however.

'If we are not careful,' he said, 'there will be more port em-ployers at the labour exchange than dockers.'

So, if the employers carry out their 'modernization' plans for which Devlin is only the prepara-tion, the thousands of sacked dockers should not feel too bad

There is a close connection between these two excerpts from the thoughts of secretary Shea. The theory of Franco's Falange party was precisely to 'unite' workers and employers.

But, before the Spanish workers could get a taste of the implementation of these 'theories', they had to be defeated in a civil war. However pleased Shea might be with the working out of the Devlin scheme, the dockers are still fighting fit.



Tory minister Home

Franco as 'the leader of our cause'. His friend Sir Arnold Wilson, MP, is quoted a year

'I hope to God Franco wins in Spain, and the sooner the better.' (He was already famous for his 1936 statement: 'I have met Hitler repeatedly. I believe him to be a great instrument for

peace in the world.') Lord Redesdale, Oswald Mosley's father-in-law, declared to another meeting of the Friends

of National Spain: 'General Franco is leading a crusade for all that we in England hold dear.'

Why should we drag up these memories of Sir Alec's old friends and relations? Because their admiration for Franco's battle to crush the Spanish workers tells would like to do to the British workers.

Two further Tory speeches about Spain may serve to under-line the class savagery of these

Basque devils

A special Spanish Children's Repatriation Committee was set up by the Friends of National Spain in 1937. Its task was to campaign for the children brought to Britain as refugees from the civil war to be sent back.

As Sir Nairne Stewart Sandeman, MP for Middleton and Prestwich put it:

'I don't mind telling you I am on the Repatriation Committee about these little Basque devils In the Tory circles in which which Home's father moved, this restraint on the murder of militant workers was unacceptable. The Earl of Glasgow put down a motion in the House of Lords stating that the message was 'un-necessary and not in the interests of the British Empire'.

and it is very difficult to get them

back . . . I want Spain under Franco.'

'confidence' in Franco's humani-

tarianism, another quotation is of interest. In February 1939, the

treachery of Stalinism had delivered the workers of Barce-lona into Franco's hands. When his army marched into the city,

The Chamberlain government,

having done all it could to help

him win, decided to send Franco a message asking him to 'abstain

'Confidence'

from acts of vengeance'.

In view of

began.

The parallel with Enoch Powell's criticism of Home's 'intervention' in the Basque sentences last week should be noted. So what price Stalinist stories of a 'peaceful road to socialism'? Has the British ruling class lessened its ferocious hatred for

the workers' movement in the past 40 years? No! Their 'confidence' Franco is just as strong today. If they can, they will carry out in Britain as bloody class actions as

Franco still does in Spain. Our job is to see they never get the chance.

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Pie in the sky from Nixon

BY JOHN SPENCER

UNITED STATES President Nixon predicted improved relations with the Soviet Union and increased prosperity at home in a television interview yesterday.

Fears for PO but no policy

FEARS that profitable undertakings run by the Post Office may be 'hived off' are causing widespread anxiety among workers in the service, says Post Office Engineering Union general secretary Lord Delacourt-Smith.

Writing in the current issue these fears originate from the recent sacking of the ex-PO called Lord Hall and have now been strengthened by the proposed sale of the state-owned travel agency. Thomas Cook travel agency, Thomas Cook, and the take-over of lucrative FEA-BOAC air routes by the private airline, BUA-Caledon-

Staff in the Post Office fear that the telecommunications service, which brought in a £50m profit last year, may be top of the denationalization list.

ord Delacourt-Smith rethe statement made by Minister of Posts Christopher Chataway when he said that

WEATHER

OST districts except NE Scotland and the central highlands will have milder weather than of late although it will remain rather dull and misty in most areas except S.V. England, S. and W. Wales and J. Ireland.

Snow is expected to continue.

Ireland.
Snow is expected to continue a times in NE Scotland and the central highlands. Rain is expected to reach SW districts of England and wales later.
Onlook for Thursday and Friday: Changeable with rain at times in most places. Milder than of late.

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claims, is quite capable of looking after itself against fair competition. The possibility of unfair competition was causing anxiety.

from the government's policy on nationalization'.

Yet the Post Office, he

Private telephone companies could only compete with the Post Office in urban areas, he if they were freed of the obligation to supply a service to remote sparselypopulated parts of the country.

He 'hopes' that the new chief of the service will have Hall's 'frankness and interest in the staff and their view-

He calls for 'further assur-ances' from the government and a 'closer clarification of their intentions', pleas that are unlikely to move Chataway, who has already proved his mettle by sacking Hall on the spot.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

MEETINGS

BIRMINGHAM: Wednesday January 6, 8 p.m. The Drover's Arms, Bradford St. Digheth 'Fight for

SHEFFIELD: Thursday January 7, 7,30 p.m. Hare and Hounds, Nursery St. 'Batchelor's and the future of the AEF in Sheffield'.

Miners and the Charter of Basic Rights

CASTLEFORD: Saturday, January 9, 12 noon. Ship Inn. Speaker: Sid Hinchcliffe (Glasshoughton Colliery). BENTLEY: Sunday, January 10, 12 noon. Bay Horse Inn. Speaker: Frank McCabe (Brodsworth Colliery). OLLERTON: Saturday, January 16, 12 noon. Ship Inn. Speaker: Ecki Barker (Ollerton Colliery).

Come to Alexandra Palace! Force the Tories to resign!

LUTON: Tuesday, January 12, 8 p.m. AEU House, 396 Dunstable Rd. WEST LONDON: Wednesday, January 13, 8 p.m. Prince Albert Balfe St, NW1.

DAGENHAM: Thursday, January 14, 8 p.m. Marsh Green School, New Rd.

SOUTH WEST: Monday, January 18, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, 47-51, Balham High Rd.

SLOUGH: Monday, February 1, 8 p.m. St George's Church Hall. Long Furlongs Drive, Britwell Eastate.

V

US Food and Drug Administration plans to test domestic and imported fish meal for DDT in addition to checks for mercury, a spokesman said yesterday.

The move follows the seizure of 6,000 tons of king fish caught off the West coast because of excessive amounts

More than 1,000,000 cans of tuna fish have recently been withdrawn because of high concentrations of mercury.

TALKS between the National Union of Journalists and the ciation over aspects of individual newspaper agreements are to resume tomorrow, it was announced in London yesterday after a meeting between

Representatives of unions who have members employed group were told by the man-

agement that several plans designed to overcome present problems were under active discussion.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

supports security conference

ARCH-PRIEST Pavel Sokolovsky of the Foreign Department of the Moscow Patriarch has called on the Conference of European Churches, to be held in April this year, to demand the convening of an all-European Security Conference.

The Kremlin proposal has already won the support of secular leaders in W Germany (Brandt), France (Pompidou and even the cautious approval

Now the other arm of the capitalist state is being brought into the act.

The interview is generally regarded as opening his bid to retain the presidency in the 1972 elections. '1971', he said, 'will be a good year and 1972 will be a very good year', adding that

be reduced and inflation controlled. All this is just pie-in-the-sky.

Despite all Nixon's efforts, US inflation is still raging, while unemployment continues

with a deficit budget and an activist

economic policy unemployment would

The only bright spot on Nixon's horizon is in the improvement of relations between US imperialism and the Soviet bureaucracy.

Gierek

strategy

outlined

Moscow vesterday morning.

They are to have top-

level talks with their

Soviet opposite numbers

—their first meeting with

the Kremlin bureaucracy

since the Gierek team

ousted Gomulka during

the Baltic strikes against

the pre-Christmas price

Gierek will give a detailed account of the December

crisis, which at its climax had the Kremlin massing its tanks and the Red fleet

along every Polish border.

explain his plans for hold-

ing off the challenge to the

bureaucracy mounted by the

Polish working class at the

The new leadership can-

not expect much in the way

of economic assistance, for

the Soviet economy is also

suffering from stagnation

and a shortage of invest-ment funds to boost its own

Following the Kremlin's crushing of the Hungarian

Revolution in November

1956, Khrushchev was com-

pelled to underwrite the Kadar regime's policy of

raising living standards in

This was essential for the

puppet regime to stabilize

itself in the wake of the

similar subsidies from Kosy-

gin today, so he turns to-wards W German capital.

Gierek cannot hope for

These are the hard facts

There will be very little

The policies it will adopt

continue to meet with the approval of the Catholic

Church, which, in its weekly 'Tygodnik Powszechny', says:

'It is obvious that faced

with the threat of lagging behind in the world race,

we must work better, faster

Of Gierek, these indus-

trious churchmen comment:

'A new tune, businesslike and understandable, can be

and more efficiently.

facing the Polish working

except demogogy, repression and calls for harder work coming from the Gierek

the working class.

Hard facts

November massacres.

consumer production.

end of last year.

No assistance

Gierek will also have to

increases.

in Moscow

POLAND'S new Stalinist leaders, Party

general secretary Edward Gierek and Premier

Piotr Jaroszewicz, left Warsaw by air for

FROM PAGE ONE

general public.

ruary 11 and 12, when the

banks will be closed to the

Throughout the Wednesday

ing houses will be dealing with

six million cheques and inter-

bank transactions in an

effort to complete the last

£sd paperwork by 10 a.m. the following day.

Last July NUBE claimed a

flat £50 payment for all staff on top of overtime pay, and a £75 payment for those not

working overtime, including managerial staff.

Following the banks' rejec-

tion in October, a new claim was submitted for overtime to

be paid at double-time throughout February — man-

agerial staff receiving the

maximum weekend rate of 56s

This claim was also rejected.

Even in the Middle East, which Nixon regards as potentially the most dangerous area in the world today, he is hopeful that Soviet co-operation will lead to a settle-

World imperialism relies heavily on the Stalinist bureau-

cracy in its present crisis. Arms

He singled out the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) and the recently - renewed agreement over Soviet weapons in Cuba as' examples of US-Soviet co-operation.

He said the SALT talks would eventually end in agree-ment and voiced his confi-dence that the USSR would not send strategic weapons or submarines into Cuba.

Nixon gave a firm pledge of support for Israel and said the US would do what was necessary to maintain the power balance in the Middle East and that Israel would have no choice but to turn for help to Washington if the Soviet Union continued sup-

plying arms to the Arabs. On Vietnam, Nixon said most American troops would be home by next May — a promise which echoes so many other statements by his pre-decessors in the White House that nobody takes it very

Vague

Behind the vague promises is the bitter reality of increasing unemployment, anti-union measures and repression at bloody Vietnam war.

No amount of presidential rhetoric will solve the US

Unemployment and inflation will not be talked out of existence, and while Nixon promises prosperity, he is preparing new attacks on workers and their organizations.

Nixon's speech is in marked contrast with the recent class-war statements of Heath—an indication that the US ruling class will try and load the brunt of their economic crisis on to their imperialist competitors.

The present crisis means an enormous intensification of the class struggle as European workers will be called on, in effect, to foot the bill for Nixon's campaign in the 1972 presidential election.

Church

of Heath.

heard in the pronouncements of the country's new leadership.'
Gierek's clerical and Kremlin allies will not save his regime from final defeat by the Polish working class.

Basque protest strikes against arrests

WORKERS in the industrial district around Bilbao, centre of the Basque country, downed tools for varying periods on Monday, in solidarity with 50 Basques still in police custody after protest strikes against the Burgos

death sentences.

About 2,000 workers in the town's naval shipyards stopped work for an hour, and at the General Electric branch factory, in nearby Sestao, 800 workers staged a four-hour strike against the detention of colleagues.

effect.

affairs.

The Israelis claimed Alami had shown hos-

tility, a lack of willing-

ness to co-operate with

the occupying authority

and inefficiency in

administering the town's

But Alami's sacking is almost certainly related to

Israeli forces and civilians in the Gaza area, where

• FROM PAGE ONE

of Trade Unions have been

noticeably dragging their feet even on the call for a further

protest strike on January 12.

Just about the only public

statement on the question from the Liaison Committee

since December 8 appears in

a small article by committee chairman Kevin Halpin,

carried in the latest issue of

the equally small circulation Stalinist periodical 'Labour

And even this says absolutely nothing of any note.

Kesponse

This is despite the big response of Birmingham trade

unionists to a Trades Council-

sponsored call to strike and

demonstrate on January 1.

Although it was widely reported elsewhere as a significant feature of the 5,000-strong demonstration, the

'Morning Star' chose not to

draw attention to the con-certed chant of 'Heath out!

Heath out!' taken up by the

majority of the 5,000 marchers.

A commission is now

studying the regime's

nationalization programme

to decide what will remain

in the public sector and

which enterprises can be

restored to private hands.

This move comes after pressure on the regime by overseas

investors and traders, who are

reluctant to channel funds into

Sudan without clear signs that

the regime intends to defend the 'rights' of private property.

Sudan regime is not confined

Arrests

the still illegal Sudan Com-munist Party (which neverthe-

less supports the regime)

were recently arrested, and there were reports that Party

supporters inside the armed

forces were also being de-moted and sacked.

do not trouble the Soviet bureaucracy however. A broad-

cast on New Year's day by Soviet Radio, on the 15th anniversary of Sudan's independence from Britain, said:

'The subsequent behaviour of the new leadership [since its coup of May 25, 1969] has confirmed the progressive line of the revolutionary regime.

'Recent reports from the

'Recent reports from the

Sudan about the nationalizing

of foreign banks and insurance

companies . . . as well as reports indicating that wor-

kers are taking part personally

in preparing the new labour legislation [under the regime's

present laws, strikes can be

punished by death!], all con-

firm the country's resolve to

consolidate independence and

carry out deep social changes.'

Boost

reports' of arrested commun-

ists and de-nationalizations.

Nothing about the 'recent

Here, as always, the Krem-

lin is following its policy of boosting regimes that are either taking, or about to

take, repressive actions against the masses on behalf of im-

perialism. Every day it becomes clearer

that the union of Libya, Egypt

and Sudan (and now Syria) is

for the purpose of reaching common agreement with the Israeli Zionists and their im-

it is receiving from Moscow.

This is the background to the rightward turn of the Sudan regime and the support

perialist backers.

These sinister developments

Several leading members of

to economic policy.

The rightwards turn in the

Monthly'.

owners.

In another General Electric plant nearby, 1,500 workers met and decided to hold daily strikes of varying length until all their detained workmates

Police have released 15-20 of the workers who were arrested during the Burgos

But they have powers to detain the rest of the prisoners indefinitely under emergency

Rome's traffic police strike

ROME'S traffic police struck yesterday in support of demands for higher overtime rates and more recruitment into the service.

It coincided with a rail strike called by Italy's three major trade unions as part of their campaign for compensa-tion for working during public holidays.

As a result of the two strikes, Rome traffic was practically at a standstill.

House prices double in ten years

THE PRICES of new houses have doubled over the past ten years, according to a re-port just published by the Building Societies Association.

The average price of a new house is put at £5,206, or £338 more than a year ago. At the same time, the decreasing number of houses being built inflates the prices of both new and old houses even

Builders predict that the number of houses completed nationally in mid-1971 will be nearly 20 per cent down on the 1968 figure.

The unpublished Greve Report is believed to show that Inner London alone has 7,600 people officially homeless and 1,300,000 living in such depressed conditions that they also should be classed homeless.

Soviet technical aid for **Indonesian** murderers

ARRIVAL of a Soviet technical mission in Djakarta has again been postponed for a technical reason, according to Indonesian foreign minister Adam Malik. Apparently the Indonesian

government is not prepared to pay the cost of a big Soviet survey mission and wants the USSR to send a ten-man team at most. The mission will resume the

economic aid to Indonesia which was halted in 1965 when the army overthrew President Sukarno and murdered at least a million Communists.

BUTCHERS

The Soviet government, which already gives economic assistance to the Greek colonels, maintains relations with Franco Spain and has diplomats in the besieged Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, is now preparing to do the same for the butchers of the Indonesian Communist Party.

The mission will lay plans for a steel plant at Tjilegon, 30 miles West of Djakarta and a super-phosphate factory at Tjilatjap in central Java. WAR strain on the Israeli economy continued to build

The balance of payments deficit for the first nine months of 1970 was 36 per cent up on the same period in 1969. The surplus of imports (mainly arms) over exports now stands at around \$850m as against \$625m in

British - Leyland's Austin-Morris factory at Longbridge, Birmingham, yesterday while workers considered the posi-tion of 60 men who defied a call to strike and demonstrate on New Year's day against the government's anti-union laws. Some workers are demanding that the 60 pay a day's wages into the union fund to prevent them gaining any advantage from ignoring the strike call.

PRODUCTION was halted at

herded into a narrow strip of land between the sea and

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

MAYOR of Gaza since 1965, Najib al-Alami, has had his appointment terminated by the Israeli occupation authorities with immediate

Al Fatah draws

back as resistance

is stepped up

At the weekend, for example, two families of Israelis were killed by a grenade lobbed into their car in the northern section of Gaza.

The resistance to Israeli occupation continues in Palestine, but the Palestine guerrilla organizations are drawing back. In what is officially de-

Every device, every trick, and every lie in the book

and every lie in the book can be expected from the Stalinists to divert the mass anger of increasing numbers of workers and even middle-class people away from the fight to

force the Tories out.

Directors.

the breadline.

Sudan regime

reducing

state firms

THE SUDANESE military regime is planning

to follow the example of its Egyptian allies by

returning nationalized property to its former

They want to give the Heath government time which

we can literally no longer

Breadline

placed by a Labour govern-

ment committed firmly to socialist policies long before

the working class will be on

The Liverpool Trades Coun-

cil's call is a significant con-tribution in the struggle to

transform January 12, make it

an irresistible lever to force the calling of an official General Strike and go forward

to a truly mass anti-Tory rally at Alexandra Palace on

Time-study

drive in

US offices

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

A DRIVE to establish clerical

time-study systems in offices throughout the United States

is being undertaken by lead-

ing firms of Management

According to Business

Week', analysts are claiming

office work is done at only 50

per cent to 60 per cent

Their aim is to increase output and reduce staff by at

Two examples of increased

The Aerospace Corporation

in conjunction with clerical

work measurement, in par-

ticular for storing data on all

Management also expect to

the information

'selecting and training per-

least a further 20 per cent.

efficiency are given.

\$2.4m on wage costs.

aspects of working.

sonnel'.

that high-volume repetitive

Consultants.

efficiency.

Unless the Tories are re-

L'pool shows the

scribed as 'retrenchment', Al Fatah has announced the closure of all its offices in the Lebanon except for its Beirut office.

Al Fatah, led by Yassir Arafat, is the largest of the Palestine guerrilla organiza-

TRIP

Arafat made a special trip to Beirut to inform Prime Minister Salam of this

Fatah officials claim the move is aimed at restoring the semi-clandestine character of their organization.

One official claimed it was an attempt to end 'bourgeois ostentation'. But, especially in view of Arafat's talks with Salam, it looks like a retreat under

Lebanese government pres-sure, which will restrict even further Fatah's operations against Israel.

FROM PAGE ONE

Buying power will be eroded by one third over the next five years if prices continue to rise at the present rate, according to the Institute of Directors anti-union laws and Ramelson remains silent, just as he did in the days of Stalin. His henchman Howard Hill, district secretary of the Sheffield CP, suddenly became wise after the event and denounced Devey for taking

the money.

Where was Howard Hill before the event and what did he have to say? As usual, silence on the part of both Ramelson and Hill.

Is the next step forward for the advocates of the 'peaceful road to socialism' to be the drafting of a scale of charges as guidelines for what a victimized steward or convenor is worth when a reactionary Tory employer kicks him out?
Perhaps the Communist
Party will now advocate this

in order to preserve peace in industry as part of the 'peaceful road'. Over recent years there has been a procession of betrayals on the part of CP members in

the trade union movement.

The most glaring of these was the Electrical Trades
Union ballot-rigging scandal. Ramelson and the CP leaders say they had no knowledge of this, but they have never explained politically how it arose.

No more than they explained politically how Will Paynter, a long-time member of the CP leadership and an official in the miners' union, suddenly accepted a job on the Commission on Industrial Relations under the Labour government.

Shameful

The reason for this silence is because the policy of the 'peaceful road to socialism' which was endorsed by Stalin, is nothing more than the most shameful class collaboration. It is a 'left' cover for betrayal and that is why it is paving the way for such

people as Devey. What is happening to sincere CP members in the trade politically destroyed and disorientated by this policy. The ETU case, the Paynter

and Devey affairs are not accidents. They are the outcome of a reformist mis-education carried out under conditions where the leadership of the opportunistically used these people then cast them aside while making them the whipping boys to cover up

their own mistakes.
What Devey has done is what he has in effect been taught to do by the politics of 'peaceful road Stalin, we repeat, was the

Los Angeles has spent architect of this policy. \$614,000 over the past five years on clerical work measurement and has con-

Pay-off

Ramelson, Gollan, Caborn, Howard Hill, Devey and company are simply engaged in They may not like what they see, but that is the pay-

serious trade unionist in all

leadership of the British Com-munist Party responsible for what Devey has done—their silence notwithstanding.

Elements of

Lecture by G. Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League

ACTON: The Albion, Churchfield Rd, W3. (Opposite Acton

sequently been able to save In Dayton, Ohio, a bank claims to have saved \$160,000 on wages in its first year of using a work-study system.

Special emphasis is being laid on the use of computers

off for reformism in the epoch of capitalist decline. That is why they have earned the contempt of every

parts of the country.

We politically hold the

Marxism

for

Central Stn.) 8 p.m. Thursday, January 7.