

Third plank of reactionary platform Powell urges fresh attack

Pilkington's send consignment to Hull Glass 'blackening': Test case for union law

WORKING-CLASS solidarity will go on trial tomorrow with the arrival at Hull dock gates of a test-case consignment from the Pilkington glass monopoly.

The St Helens-based company has threatened to divert all future shipments to other ports if Hull dockers uphold their present policy and declare the shipment 'black'.

Glassworkers' leaders sacked by Pilkington's from their St Helens plant will be anxiously watching the outcome of a meeting of Hull port stewards tonight, at which Transport and General Workers' officials may attempt to break the ban.

The 'black' was imposed in support of their fight for reinstatement after being sacked defending the right to strike.

Prepare ground

Speaking from the headquarters of the glass men and - File Committee yesterday, chairman Gerry Caughey told Workers Press that it was not just their futures that were at stake.

'If the officials are trying to get the "black" lifted then they're preparing the ground for the Industrial Relations Bill with all its clauses against this sort of action,' he said.

Hull stewards to whom members of the St Helens committee spoke by telephone yesterday stressed their disgust with T&GWU regional secretary David Shenton's statement that the ban was 'absolutely ridiculous', and had been condemned by his union.

I understand they intend to oppose moves to force through the consignment and fight for a reaffirmation of the 'black'.

'This'd put the ball firmly at the feet of the dockers in Liverpool and London,' commented Gerry Caughey.

'Are the unions going to allow glass "blackened" at Hull to be transferred to another port?'

A Pilkington's spokesman confirmed yesterday that a shipment of St Helens glass was due at Hull tomorrow morning, and that the company will consider transferring its cargoes to another port.

Two re-routed

Two have already been re-routed.

Rank-and-File Committee secretary John Potter said attempts were being made to get the matter raised on the national committee of docks stewards at its next meeting.

He made the point that T&GWU general secretary Jack Jones had assured him in a letter on December 17 that 'if we can do anything further to assist, then we will'.

'Who's out of line, Jones or Shenton?' he asked.

The glass men remained sacked and blacklisted after 23 weeks and needed every possible scrap of assistance.

Although they had filed application forms to get back their membership of the Gen-

BY DAVID MAUDE



Pilkington Rank-and-File Committee leaders John Potter (above) and Gerry Caughey (below)



HEATH ON FIRST LEG

TORY premier Heath left London's Heathrow Airport yesterday afternoon for Cyprus on the first stage of his journey to Singapore for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference later this month.

He will also visit Pakistan, India and Malaysia before arriving in Singapore on January 13.

The main issue at the Conference will be the Tory proposal to sell arms to the S African Vorster regime.

POST OFFICE union secretary Tom Jackson yesterday demanded an answer to the union's 15-per-cent pay claim on behalf of 205,000 postal workers.

Gierek-Vatican relations improve

POLISH-VATICAN relations continue to improve with yesterday's comment by the Warsaw Catholic daily 'Slowo Powszechne' on the publication of the 1971 Vatican Year Book.

It no longer refers to the areas annexed in 1945 as coming under its German

on wages

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ENOCH POWELL made further demands on the government last night to slash public expenditure and cut money supply.

With crude nationalism and passionate belief in 'free enterprise', his demand for economies in public spending has now become the third big plank in the Powellite campaign.

And the aim, as he revealed in his 'Sunday Express' article this week, is to create unemployment and some bankruptcy as a basis for attacking the working class.

Speaking to Young Conservatives in his Wolverhampton constituency, Powell said that money supply was now at the centre of the economic debate since the pace of inflation had quickened to a point where it was causing alarm.

'Mr Heath's first six months have not been without their excitement for the student of inflation: yet the most significant event has been the "dog that didn't bark",' he said.

'There has been a scrupulous silence about money supply and about the relevance of it to government expenditure. The autumn budget of Mr Barber came and went... but so far as inflation is concerned, it was, in its author's own word, "neutral".'

But there is something more sinister beneath this apparently stuffy debate about monetary supply and government's economic options.

Repeat

To answer this, it is worth repeating Powell's 'Sunday Express' remarks about inflation and government spending.

'There is no soft option,' he wrote, 'if the shock of ceasing to inflate causes bankruptcies and unemployment, that is how it has to be. The idea of slowing down so smoothly that nobody notices is a pipe-dream...'

'The day has to come when faced with higher prices the government says: "I won't pay; I shall cut down".'

'And people will scream: "You're cutting health; you're cutting education; you're punishing the old; you're running down the public services." Just so—that is why no government has done it yet, but where there is will, there's hope, and honest money is to be had at no other price.'

These arguments are now finding an increasing audience among Tories and in the City. People in these circles have been jolted by the effects of the sharp increase in monetary supply to an annual rate of 17 per cent during the three months prior to the June election.

This was allowed by a Bank of England scared by talk of possible bankruptcies due to

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Stalinism is responsible for Devey

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

MR T. DEVEY, an ex-leading member of Sheffield Communist Party, is now being used as a whipping boy by the Party leadership.

They want to avoid facing up to the political implications of his acceptance of a £3,000 compensation payment for calling off a strike.

A recent meeting of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers' executive committee condemned acceptance of the payment.

In doing so they have, in fact, condemned one of the most prominent district committees of the union under the control of CP members.

Devey was secretary of the Sheffield Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions.

He was a member of the Sheffield Communist Party district committee.

The Party must therefore accept full responsibility for what he has done.

The plain truth is the Party is only fighting the anti-union laws with 'left' words.

They do not intend to carry

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Foreign Minister Mohammed Riad at yesterday's conference

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

EGYPT is ready for a 'package deal' Middle East peace settlement negotiated through the United Nations, with the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union playing a major part and if necessary guaranteeing the deal.

The main obstacle was Israel's continued refusal to accept the 1967 United Nations Security Council resolution on the Middle East, sponsored by Britain after the June war, Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Riad told a London press conference yesterday.

Israel must accept withdrawal from occupied territories as the basis for a settlement, said Mr Riad, speaking on the eve of the resumed talks in New York under the UN's Dr Gunnar Jarring.

If the Israelis were not prepared to withdraw, he said.

'The international community and the UN have the responsibility to do something. It is the responsibility of the big powers. We expect the first move to come from the UN and the big powers.'

No suppression

Egypt was not prepared to accept the *status quo* in the Middle East, and was not prepared to see Israel continue occupying territories captured in June 1967. Riad denied that any 'package deal' peace would

£1,250 Jan Fund stands at £95 5s

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London, SW4.

BIG POWERS SHOULD SETTLE MID-EAST CRISIS —RIAD

Free



Angela Davis

BY A WORKERS PRESS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

ANGELA DAVIS, Black militant, told a court on Tuesday: 'This is a political frame-up'.

Appearing before a San Rafael, California, court to face charges of murder, kidnapping and conspiracy, she told Judge Wilson:

'I am innocent of all charges.'

Davis, a 26-year-old Philosophy instructor at California University, and Communist Party member, is accused of supplying guns for last August's attempt to release Negro militants from Marin Civic Centre court house.

Attack

Davis has consistently declared that her arrest and extradition from New York to California were part of an attack on the rights of black militants and other opponents of the Nixon Administration.

Her chief lawyer, Allen Brodsky, moved during the hearing that the case be dismissed on grounds of insufficient evidence and inability to get a fair trial in San Rafael.

(The judge killed in the release incident had many friends in the local judiciary.)

A foratoste of the trial Miss Davis can expect was provided by the savage treatment meted out to a fellow accused, Ruchelle Magee.

Chained

Because of his protest at previous hearings, he was chained to a chair throughout Tuesday's proceedings.

Everything must be done to free Angela Davis and her comrades, victims of Nixon's chauvinist, ruling-class justice.

Sales up, profits down

BRITISH-LEYLAND yesterday reported that last year's profits slumped to £3,920,000—less than a tenth of the £40m profit in 1968-1969.

First reaction on the Stock Exchange was for shares to rise as even worse results had been anticipated.

Dividends are slashed from 11 to 3½ per cent.

Sales for last year increased from £970m to £1,021m, an all-time record.

Company chairman Lord Stokes blamed lower profits on strikes and 'an excessive rate of cost inflation not fully recovered in selling prices'.

He confirmed earlier reports that the Austin-Morris division had lost nearly £16m.

The profit fall will intensify the combine's haste to push through Measured-Day Work at its Cowley group factories.

Oil supplies halted

OIL deliveries throughout SE England were stopped yesterday when Shellmex and BP drivers refused to deliver supplies to back their demand for parity with distributors' drivers.

The company said the men acted against the advice of the transport union.

Deliveries were sent home and all work stopped at a number of Shellmex and BP terminals in the London area.

Authorized distributors are independent companies which usually make small deliveries of oil to homes, schools and small commercial premises.

No more 'protests'! Force Tories to resign!

Mobilize for all-out strike on Jan 12

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

A FURTHER Stalinist bid to discredit the Socialist Labour League's consistent campaign for General Strike action to force the Tories to resign came yesterday from Communist Party industrial organizer Bert Ramelson.

In a new pamphlet entitled 'Carr's Bill and how to kill it', Ramelson says that 'if enough pressure is exerted on the [TUC] General Council to make it threaten a General Strike and begin action preparations to make that threat credible', the government can be forced to back down on its Industrial Relations Bill.

Nowhere does Ramelson raise the question of forcing the Tories to resign.

With January 12 only five days away, Ramelson's call for 'a relentless mounting campaign culminating in actions of General Strike dimensions—the coy formula arrived at by the CP-led Liaison Committee for Defence of Trade Unions—is only a prescription for more widespread protest action.'

'THREATS'

The Socialist Labour League insists that the Tories will not be shifted by threats, but only by the mobilization of the working class through its organization to replace the Tories with a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Ramelson and his political co-thinkers—already deeply compromised by the notorious Devey affair—have done nothing to challenge seriously the TUC's inaction programme for January 12. Liaison committee chairman Kevin Halpin writes in this month's 'Labour Monthly' that December 8 was 'only the forerunner of many further actions... but has no proposals to carry the campaign further and does not refer to January 12.'

The Socialist Labour League has supported every proposal for action next Tuesday, and will continue to fight for the widest possible strike on that day, while insisting that this is only a preparation to force the union leaders to swing the organized working class into action against the Tory government.

Dangers in pay standstill at Bathgate

By an industrial correspondent

SERIOUS warnings for trade unionists are contained in the six-month pay standstill agreed at British-Leyland's Bathgate factory, W Lothian.

For delaying a £3 a week pay claim, 4,500 Bathgate workers are guaranteed a five-day working week and a chance to restore bonus earnings after recent cuts.

The factory, which produces trucks and tractors, has been on short time for several months.

Leyland management believes the Bathgate agreement is a reaction to the company's plans for 5,000 sackings in its Austin-Morris division.

On top of this, 550 Bathgate men were sacked last October.

The lesson is clear.

Heavy blows

While workers confront the government in wages strikes, the Tories and the employers create unemployment to deal militancy heavy blows from the rear.

It is therefore no surprise that premier Heath was reported to have left for his Far East tour convinced that his stand against the power workers' pay claim marks the start of a slow-down in wage demands.

Leyland chairman Lord Stokes commented on the Bathgate deal:

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YOUNG SOCIALISTS

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DANGER

scientific
WORLD

LEVEL

BY MARTIN ZARROP



THE CASE of the contaminated tuna which hit the headlines over the Christmas period has predictably sunk once more into oblivion.

For a few weeks millions of people became aware that pollution is not just a problem experienced by those who live in smoky cities, but that industrial waste products from factories thousands of miles away could render toxic food consumed in Britain.

'Common good'

Perhaps the greatest shock to many of those who read the headlines was the realization that contaminated food was being sold by the ton despite the vast bureaucratic apparatus of the capitalist state supposedly watching over the 'common good'.

Yet both in America and Britain, the mercury contamination caught the authorities completely unawares. Indeed, according to the 'New Scientist', the investigation that triggered the crisis started as a joke!

At the beginning of last December, Professor Bruce McDuffie of the State University of New York at Binghamton took time off from investigating the mercury content of fish from the Susquehanna River and — at the suggestion of his students and wife — examined some tinned tuna.

Serious turn

'But what started out as a joke soon took a serious turn when they discovered mercury content of over 0.5 parts per million in a can taken from the kitchen

shelf of the professor's home.' ('New Scientist', December 24, 1970.)

Such a level of contamination is actionable in the US and both the Federal Drug Administration and the New York State authorities have the power to confiscate food containing 0.5 ppm or more of mercury.

Yet it is clear that there had been no official check for contamination, particularly of tuna, which is extremely popular with Americans.

The FDA then proceeded to test canned tuna and confirmed McDuffie's results. Some samples showed a contamination level of 1.12 ppm.

Nearly one million cans of tuna were withdrawn from circulation and destroyed.

However, Professor McDuffie and his students went on to examine other types of fish, available to the public in large quantities.

They soon discovered that some swordfish steaks notched up a mercury level of 1.3 ppm and the FDA was informed.

Once again the FDA analyses confirmed McDuffie's results.

Consternation

Of course, this sudden spate of embarrassing revelations caused some consternation in government circles and the FDA soon announced that everything was under control. There was no danger, you see, provided you didn't eat too much tuna!

Such naive conclusions are not peculiar to the US.

In Sweden, a 1 ppm level is considered safe, provided fish is not eaten more than once a week.

Despite the fact that 5,000 tons of mercury a year, out of an annual world production of 9,000 tons, finds its way into the oceans, there is relatively little cash spent on relevant research and no internationally accepted

danger levels.

The main sources of mercury pollution are the chemical and mining industries and the widespread use of agricultural chemicals.

The consumption of large amounts of mercury can cause serious damage to the nervous system resulting in insanity, premature senility and death.

Symptoms of poisoning appear when the mercury content of blood reaches a level of about one thousandth of a gram per litre (1 mg/litre) and the safe limit has been estimated at about one tenth of this.

Cumulative

Mercury is a cumulative poison and it has been estimated that the limit can be reached by consuming 0.1 mg of the metal daily — equivalent to a 200 gram can of tuna fish containing 0.5 ppm of mercury!

McDuffie's findings were not altogether unexpected. The major source of imported tuna for both the US and Britain is Japan, where 43 people died from mercury poisoning between 1953 and 1960 and 68 others suffered serious injury from fish contaminated by industrial waste containing the metal.

The fish came from Minamata Bay and subsequent investigations revealed mercury levels of up to 50 times the accepted danger level!

More recently in Sweden there have been cases of mercury poisoning from eating fish from freshwater lakes heavily polluted by paper and pulp mills.

Such pollution — although understandably heavy in the vicinity of certain industrial plants — neither loses its lethal powers nor remains localized. Quite the contrary.

The mercury decomposes into the extremely persistent and deadly methyl mercury and finds its way into the natural food chain via the tuna — deep-sea inhabitant — and other marine life.

Investigations have shown that far from areas of major industry mercury pollution can reach high levels.

Sharks

Apparently levels of 1 ppm are common among tunas and sharks in the Indian Ocean.

It is clear even on the present evidence that only the tip of the iceberg has been revealed.

The extent of food contamination is plainly more widespread than governments would like to admit and manufacturers would care to have revealed.

In the US, the toxic tuna appears to have jolted the administration into introducing certain safety measures a little earlier than planned.

On December 23, Nixon signed an executive order requiring private industry to meet certain standards which will be laid down by the Environmental Pro-

tection Agency.

Firms will have to apply for permits allowing continued discharge of waste and will have to prove that their effluent does not significantly lower water quality.

Whether such measures can be enforced is doubtful. Many companies would rather pay a fine from time to time than to cut into their profits by taking anti-pollution measures.

Even under the permit system, it is clear that there is little the government would be prepared to do against a company threatening closure because of the detrimental effect of such measures on profit rates.

In Britain, the attitude of the Tory government — despite the new Environment Minister — appears in line with its overall political philosophy.

Its final decision on the contaminated tuna even astounded the supermarket chiefs, who had removed tinned fish from their shelves in anticipation of the Tories following the US example.

However, despite the detection of mercury levels as high as those found by the FDA, the fish was proclaimed safe to eat.

Safety

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries James Prior noted that the levels — between 0.1 and 0.7 ppm — were within the safety limits set in 'some other countries', including Sweden, and that there was no reason why the housewife should not buy it.

In any case, the argument continues, we eat only one-tenth as much tuna as the Americans.

However, Prior omits three important points.

Firstly, the Swedish government supplements its suggested danger level with a suggested upper level for total daily tuna consumption.

Secondly, although average tuna consumption is one-tenth of an American's intake, what happens to a Briton who eats above the average? It seems he must pay dearly for balancing out the abstainers, among which the Prior family numbers!

Finally, tuna is not the only food which is contaminated.

Other fish, for example, usually contain small amounts of mercury.

Satisfied

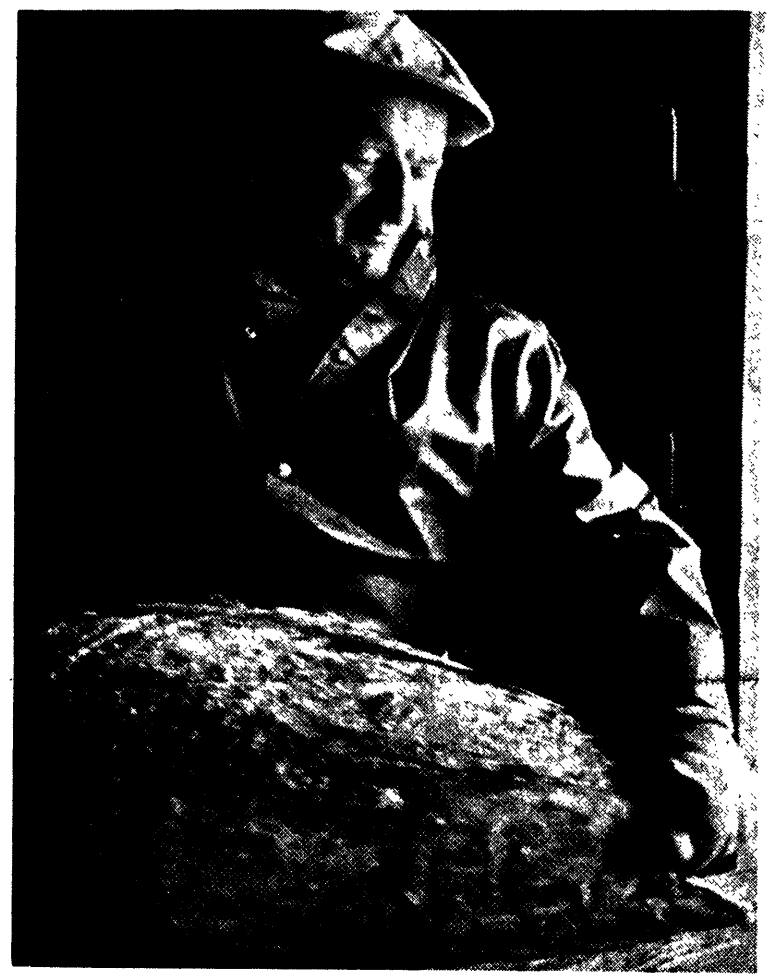
A 'safe' tuna intake supplemented by other contaminated foods could add up to a dangerous overall mercury level.

All of this does not give much confidence in Prior's assurance that 'intensive monitoring' in future of all possible sources of methyl mercury in all foods will add up to much.

Satisfied with the Tory decision, the supermarkets are now relying on short memories. Said one spokesman: 'Consumers may be affected by the scare for a while, but whether it will be a lasting effect remains to be seen.'

One Labour MP was even heard to say that he could not understand why the Tories had not withdrawn tuna from the shops, unless it regarded 'profits from sales as more important than human life'.

He could be right!



BY N. MAKANDA

CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

THE OUTCRY

AFRICA HAS no sympathy with the outcry from Israel and the West over sentences in the USSR against Zionists would-be skyjackers.

The sympathizers are restricted to the 'white' S African allies and the African agents of Israel.

Liberation movements against imperialism have no sympathy with anti-Soviet Zionists because they are opposed to the first workers' state. They are counter-revolutionaries and, as such, are the enemies of African liberation.

Israel premier Mrs Golda Meir said during Christmas that of those involved or likely to be involved in the Soviet trials most were Zionists.

Israel reported those sentenced as having cried 'Long Live Israel' after the verdicts. This is the cry of oppression. The cry for the defeat and colonization of Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the Lebanon by Israeli imperialism.

It has nothing in common with the fight against anti-Semitism in the imperialist world or in those countries deformed by Stalinism as a result of their encirclement by imperialism.

'Communist'

The hypocritical clemency 'protests' of the imperialists, Zionists, social democrats and social-chauvinistic 'communist' parties of Europe are drowning the cries of thousands of real victims of persecution.

These are to be found in Israeli-occupied Palestine, in S African jails, in the British-controlled torture prisons of Hong Kong, in the American-controlled torture pits of Saigon, in the CIA prisons of S America, in Spain, in the British-backed Portuguese colonies of Angola,

Mozambique and Guinea and throughout the British and French neo-colonies of Africa and Asia.

Egypt and other Arab states in Africa are as much a part of the continent as S Africa; and the struggle against Zionism is inseparable from the struggle for the liberation of Africa from imperialism as is the struggle against apartheid.

Indeed, British-based financial interests in S Africa form a formidable section of the world financial base of Zionist Israel.

It is not an accident that some of those military anti-Arab frontier fortresses called 'kibbutzim' in Israel are manned by Habonim, Poale-Zion, Hashomer-Hatzair and other 'Zionist-socialist' squads from 'white' S Africa.

'Injustice'

Their Zionist-socialism has as much in common with socialism as the 1948 Haganah and Irgun Zvai Leumi, or any other kind of fascist national-socialism.

The Zionists screaming about 'injustice' in the USSR are daily trampling upon the lands and bodies of the Arabs.

They lord it over an occupied territory — occupied not only to the East of the River Jordan, or in Gaza or the Lebanese hills, but throughout all the pre-1967 Israel as well.

In the occupied territory people carry passes; like the Africans in S Africa, prisoners are tortured, villages razed with bombs, women and children shot and hounded out of ancient dwelling areas.

Quisling Arab gauleiters are placed over the conquered with Israeli bayonets at their backs.

And this is the Israeli state whose historically illegitimate

occupation and existence is recognized by the Kremlin.

The state with whom, for the sake of managing imperialist investments in reopened canal shipping, cotton and oil, the Arab governments are being dragged around yet another Jarring Round Table.

The talks will centre on the demarcation of frontiers of an unjust, non-viable state which has, in the eyes of the liberation movement, no right to exist.

It was not Stalinism, but the existence of the USSR as a workers' state, which, in 1956, largely saved Egypt and still, today, largely saves Egypt and other Arab states from destructive absorption into Israel.

But it is Stalinism and not the existence of the USSR as a workers' state which helps US, British and French imperialism to maintain the continued 'right of Israel to exist' — a racist, imperialist state occupying and tyrannizing the Arab oppressed.

Lackey

This is the contradiction between Stalinism and the USSR as a workers' state, in the real context of Africa and the Middle East.

The aim of the present outcry against the Soviet trials of Zionists is to identify and confuse these two opposites, with the effect of turning the workers in the imperialist countries and in the semi-colonies not against Stalinism, but against the USSR, China and other workers' states.

And since these states are objective bastions of the world anti-imperialist struggle, the line marking off Stalinism from the workers' states has to be drawn all the more firmly and deeply the more the imperialists and their social democratic and 'Communist Party' lackeys try to blur it.



ARAB ARRESTED BY ISRAELI POLICE IN TEL AVIV

BBC 1

1.00 p.m. Swyn y Glec. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45 News. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Scooby-doo, Where are you? 5.44 The magic roundabout. 5.50 News. 6.00 NATIONWIDE, weather. 6.45 THE DOCTOR. 7.05 TOP OF THE POPS. Introduced by Tony Blackburn. 7.45 THE LIVER BIRDS. New series. 8.15 THE ANDY WILLIAMS SHOW. 9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 PLAY FOR TODAY. 'Alma Mater'. Ian Carmichael. 10.45 24 HOURS. 11.30 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except: Midlands, E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide, Midlands today. Look East, weather. 11.32 News, weather. North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North, 11.32 News, weather. Wales: 6.00 Wales today, weather. Nationwide, 6.45-7.05 Heddlu, 7.45-8.15 Week in week out. 11.32 Weather. Scotland: 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland, weather. Nationwide. 11.32 News, weather. N Ireland: 6.00-6.45 Scene around six, weather. Nationwide. 11.32 News, weather. SW, South, West: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide, Points West. South today, Spotlight SW, weather. 11.32 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 6.30 p.m. MONKEYS WITHOUT TAILS. Lecture. 7.30 NEWSROOM, weather. 8.00 THE CRAFTSMEN. 8.15 THE MONEY PROGRAMME. 9.00 LOOK, STRANGER. 9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK. 10.10 PEOPLE FOR TOMORROW. When you're 15 people don't take you seriously. 10.40 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.45 WORLD CINEMA, 'Les Parapluies de Cherbourg'. French musical.

ITV

2.10 p.m. Racing from Doncaster. 4.35 Origami. 4.50 Flipper. 5.15 Magpie. 5.45 News. 5.55 TODAY. 6.40 PEYTON PLACE. 7.10 NEAREST AND DEAREST. 'An Open-And-Shut Case'. 7.40 FILM: 'KID GALAHAD'. Elvis Presley. 9.30 WORLD OF WHICKER. In the Caribbean. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 CINEMA. 11.00 AVENGERS. 'Death's Door'. 12.00 midnight SHARE THE SECRETS OF MY SONG.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 2.00 London. 3.55 Origami. 4.05 Puffin. 4.15 Mona McCluskey. 4.45 Skippy. 5.10 London. 5.55 News, weather. 6.15 Farming. 6.15 Sports roundup. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00 Curtain raiser. 7.05 Film: 'Tarzan and the Slave Girl'. Les Barker. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 11.07 Man in a suitcase. 11.53 News, weather. My three sons. 7.00 Junkin. 7.30 Film: 'High Noon'. Gary Cooper and Grace Kelly. 9.00 Cinema. 10.00 London. 10.30 Dates with Barker. 11.00 News. 11.10 Seaway. 12.10 Weather. It's All Yours. HARLECH: 4.09 Moment of truth. 4.35 Once upon a time. 4.50 Forest rangers. 5.14 London. 5.56 Report West. 6.16 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Dates with Barker. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 10.30 Belles of Aberdovey. 11.00 Tom Jones. 12 midnight Weather. WESTWARD, As Channel except: 3.53 News. 4.05 Gus Honeybun. 5.55 Diary. 11.04 News. 11.58 Epilogue. 12.03 Weather. SOUTHERN: 2.00 London. 3.40 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.12 Plupp. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Forest rangers. 5.15 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30

tv

ITV (Wales) colour channel 41, HTV (Gwyn/Wales) black and white service as above except 5.15-5.45 Dbyndobyn. 5.56-6.15 Y Dydd.

ANGLIA: 2.00 London. 4.00 News. 4.05 Women today. 4.30 Rupert Bear. 4.45 Joe 90. 5.15 London. 5.55 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Proud Rebel'. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 11.00 Man in a suitcase. 11.55 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.30 Doncaster racing. 3.10 Houseparty. 3.25 Horoscope. 3.30 Women today. 4.00 Peyton Place. 4.30 Tree surgeon. 4.35 Wind in the Willows. 4.50 Sooty. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Young Doctors'. 8.50 Mr Magoo. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 11.00 Avengers, weather.

ULSTER: 1.30 Doncaster racing. 4.25 Romper room. 4.45 News. 4.50 Joe 90. 5.15 London. 5.55 UTV Reports. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Attack'. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 11.00 What's it all about. 11.20 Love, American style.

YORKSHIRE: 2.00 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Origami. 4.25 Mattinee. 4.50 Arthur. 5.15 London. 5.55 Calendar. 6.30 Arnie. 7.00 Film: 'Red River'. 11.00 News. 11.00 University Chit. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 11.00 Tom Jones. 12 midnight Weather.

GRANADA: 2.00 London. 4.05 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Origami. 4.50 Woodbinda. 5.15 London. 6.01 Newsday. 6.20 Beverly Hillsbillies. 6.50 Cartoon. 7.00 Film: 'Jason and the Argonauts'. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 11.00 Tom Jones.

TYNE TEES: 2.00 London. 4.00 News. 4.05 Women today. 4.35 Tuktuk. 4.50 Forest rangers. 5.15 London. 6.00 Date-line. 6.30 Police call. 6.35 Film: 'Dual Alibi'. 8.00 I Spy. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 11.00 University challenge. 11.30 Snooker. 12.00 News. 12.15 Waiting guest.

BORDER: 2.05 London. 4.03 News. 4.05 Nanny and the professor. 4.35 Film: 'Win in the willows'. 4.50 Moment of truth. 5.15 London. 5.56 News. Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Mr and Mrs. 7.45 Film: 'Serena'. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 11.00 Bracken's World. 11.55 News, weather.

SCOTTISH: 2.05 London. 4.05 Date-line. 4.15 Origami. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Skippy. 5.15 London. 6.00 Date-line. 6.30 High living. 7.00 Film: 'The Young Invaders'. 9.00 Nearest and Dearest. 9.30 London. 11.00 Tom Jones. 11.55 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 2.00 London. 4.05 News. 4.10 Origami. 4.25 Moment of truth. 4.50 Skippy. 5.15 London. 5.55 News, weather. 6.35 Win a word with Lesley Blair. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Nearest and Dearest. 7.25 Film: 'The Philadelphia Story'. Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn, James Stewart. 9.30 London. 11.00 Tom Jones. 11.55 Epilogue.

HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.07-4.09 Report West. 6.16-6.35 Sport West.

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GIEREK



Gierek and Moczar voting with party leaders in parliament



MOCZAR

POLAND and the crisis of Stalinism

Continued from yesterday

GOMULKA'S was a reform movement within the bureaucracy. It had this in common with Khrushchev in the USSR and the Dubcek 'liberals' of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

That is why, after a few days of hostility, the Soviet bureaucracy accepted the change-over in Poland and later came to be Gomulka's fervent supporter against his rivals on the Party Central Committee (the group led by General Moczar of the self-styled 'Partisans').

To solve Poland's economic problems—a backward industrial sector and an investment-starved agriculture—it was necessary to give full rein to the initiative of the working class and especially youth.

But it would also require a communist leadership weakened by the Stalinist strategy of 'peaceful co-existence' with imperialism, a leadership that saw the final solution of Poland's problems in the victory of the socialist revolution in the technically more advanced capitalist states in W Europe.

Tied as he was to Stalin's conception of 'Socialism in one country', there was never any prospect of Gomulka striking out along this road.

Step by step, leaning on the old, discredited forces in the bureaucracy (the remnants of the so-called 'Natolin' faction) he drove the working class back from the positions it had conquered in 1956.

Already the Polish working class had been grievously weakened by the crushing of the Hungarian workers' councils following the Kremlin invasion of November 4, 1956.

The installation of the puppet Kadar regime in Budapest gave new heart to the Stalinist diehards in the Polish party.

Soon they were forcing Gomulka's hand against the workers' councils in Poland. Gradually their powers were limited. The demand by workers for a national congress of councils was denounced as an 'anarchist Utopia' (it was this 'anarchist Utopia' that seized and held the power in the Russian Revolution of 1917).

Bureaucracy hits back

One year after the 'Polish October' the bureaucracy felt strong enough to hit back.

Strikes, which had previously been tolerated by the regime, were now crushed violently. In Lodz, the police were called in to break a strike of tramway workers.

The same month (October 1957) the left-wing student journal 'Po Prostu' was closed down. It had been most outspoken in its defence of the Hungarian revolution and was a constant thorn in the side of the Gomulka leadership, which hated to be reminded of its own sharp attacks on Stalinism during the heady first days of rule.

In the spring of 1958, the workers' councils, on whose backs Gomulka had come to power, were absorbed into the state apparatus through the so-called 'Plant Committees' and the trade unions, whose independence from the state bureaucracy was a mere fiction.

Gomulka's demise dates from this period, the period when he began to take back those rights, conditions and freedoms which the working class had won in struggle against the old regime. (This, as we shall see, is the link between the struggles of the working class in Britain and Poland.)

But for many party bureaucrats especially those whose whole existence was bound up with the political oppression of the working class and youth, the Gomulka regime remained at best a temporary stop gap. It was, they argued, too 'soft'.

The 'Partisan' faction (its leaders claim to have led the partisan struggle against the Nazis during the war) began to gather all manner of disgruntled and frustrated elements in the middle layers of the party bureaucracy.

Its main political characteristics reflect all that is backward and reactionary in Polish society. And it exhibited all of them in the Warsaw student demonstrations of March 1968.

The clashes of that month had been preceded by a series of



repressive measures by the Gomulka regime.

Left-wing student leaders had been jailed in 1965 and Marxist opponents of the bureaucracy shared the same fate a year later.

Student clashes

The student clashes of March 1968, saw the present Polish rulers in full cry. The immediate issue was the banning of a play with an anti-Tsarist Russian theme, but it rapidly broadened out into a struggle against Stalinist censorship and for political freedoms.

At all costs, the regime had to prevent the workers coming in on the side of the students (as they had just begun to do in Czechoslovakia and were about to do in France).

One example of the propaganda used to isolate the student and intellectual critics of the regime from the mass of the working class is an article by Andrzej Werblan in 'Miesiecznik Literacki' in June 1968.

'Why is it that a relatively large number of people of Jewish origin can be found among certain groups of intelligentsia . . . and in responsible posts in some central institutions (universities)?'

'Their number is not so large as is generally believed, but all the same it is much larger than one might expect on the basis of the percentage of Jewish population in our society . . .'

Already, on March 14 (only a few days after the student clashes with the police) the present party leader Gierek had weighed-in with his own contribution:

'The dirty scum which floated on the vortex of the October events 11 years ago has not been completely removed from the tide of our life.'

This is the same man who Shadow Foreign Minister Dennis Healey recently tried to present as a 'liberal' anti-Stalinist!

The 'Partisans', with whom Gierek is closely allied, have always been ready to make common cause with the Catholic Church against leftward developments in the working class, students and youth. Their main instrument is the 'Pax' organization, which publishes its own daily paper 'Slowo Powszechnie'.

Shady characters

This Catholic body, which enjoys political privileges denied to the Polish working class, has gathered a whole spectrum of shady political characters and trends under its clerical umbrella.

Its leadership is made up of priests and former aristocrats who decided to collaborate with the bureaucracy after the end of the war. They remain, as they were before 1945, bitter enemies of both the working class and communism.

A man who typifies this clerical ally of the new Gierek regime is 'Pax' founder and present leader, Boleslaw Piasecki.

Before 1939, he was the leader of a clerical fascist grouping, the ONR Falanga, which drew its political inspiration from Franco's fascist 'Falange' in Spain.

After Hitler's defeat of Poland in 1939, Piasecki's group sided with the Nazis in their terror campaign against Jews, socialists, communists and other resistance groups.

Captured by the Red Army at the end of the war, he was sentenced to death as a Nazi collaborator.

But this clerical fascist was never executed. Instead, he reappeared in December 1945 as the leader of the newly founded 'Pax' organization.

Since that date, it has loyally

SOVIET TANKS BURNT IN PRAGUE, 1968

THE FALL OF GOMULKA

By Robert Black

supported every repressive measure of the Stalinist regime against the working class.

In October 1956, it discredited itself in the eyes of many Catholic workers by its refusal to support the movement for political freedom within the factories.

While he looked for support in the working class, Gomulka kept his distance from 'Pax', and it only began to gain ground again after the March 1968 student clashes.

Its unbridled anti-Semitism then became very useful to those Party leaders such as Gierek and Moczar fighting to oust the Gomulka team.

Allegations made by the bureaucracy that the student demonstrations were motivated by anti-communism are easily rebutted by the Warsaw student manifesto, released on March 28, 1968. Its third and final point reads:

'The students' organization ought to be assured freedom of political action by, among other

working class revolt against the entire bureaucracy.

Together with the E German Stalinist leader Walter Ulbricht, Gomulka pleaded with the Kremlin to intervene massively against the anti-bureaucratic movement in Czechoslovakia.

Both leaders feared the impact of the Czech revolt on the working class in their own countries. The result was the Kremlin invasion of August 21, 1968, an operation in which Polish troops, along with E German, Bulgarian and Hungarian, were also involved.

Gomulka had now crossed the Rubicon. His sending of tanks and troops against the strikers of Gdansk and the other Baltic cities was a continuation of counter-revolutionary strategy.

The 'liberal' of 1956 had turned into the ruthless hardliner of 1968 and 1970, a man ready to rely on the most reactionary, anti-working-class

cracy stepped up its campaign to secure better political and trade relations with the European NATO powers.

Poland at once fell into line and began its own separate negotiations with Brandt, who finally initiated the Polish-W German treaty in Warsaw only two weeks before the strikes in the Baltic ports began.

Even more than the Kremlin, Gomulka needed his alliance with W German imperialism. It was his last attempt to get desperately needed investments for industry, still lagging chronically behind the West in quantity and quality of output.

Suppression of workers

The Kremlin is also seeking aid from various W German monopolies — notably Daimler-Benz — in an attempt to mod-



CRUSHED REVOLUTION, HUNGARY, 1956



POZNAN UPRISING, JUNE 1956

This is where the British trade unionist finds common cause with his brothers in Poland. Why?

Both are fighting to defend what has already been gained. In the case of the British worker, he is fighting to defend his trade union rights, won over more than a century of battles against the employing class and its state.

Everything else that he has won—decent living and working conditions, the right to a job—has been based on the power of his trade unions. In the last analysis, this is all a British worker can truly call his own.

But the Polish workers are also fighting to defend something. And it is every bit as important as the right to strike and belong to a trade union.

The Polish working class knows that whatever crimes may have been created by the Stalinists since 1945, the abolition of big business control of the banks, the industries and the land was an enormous step forward.

Neither in 1956 nor in the recent strikes did any group of workers demand the restoration of capitalism in Poland.

The struggle is not against the economic system, but against the bureaucracy and its refusal to allow the working class to establish its trade unions free from the control of the state, its own political parties, newspapers and other facilities which are necessary for the all-round development of the workers' movement.

In other words, the Polish workers are fighting to win the very rights the Tories are planning to take away from the working class in Britain!

And the bond between the two struggles goes even deeper than this. Unlike our Polish brothers, the British working class still lives in a capitalist society.

And while the banks and the industrial magnates continue to own and control the economy of this country, they will plan and in fact be compelled to attempt the destruction of the working-class movement.

They have no other way out.

So, as the Charter of Basic Rights adopted by the All Trades Unions Alliance conference on December 19, 1970, explains, these working-class rights will never be safe until the Tory threat is destroyed once and for all by the nationalization of the banks and the monopolies, the economic bedrock of Toryism.

The British working class will therefore have to carry through what Poland, even if bureaucratically, has already accomplished—the expropriation of the capitalist class.

So here again the problems, conquests and struggles of the Polish and British workers intertwine. Not a single step forward can be taken in either country without the most determined fight against the false leaders of the working class.

In Poland, the Party leaders pose as communists while they break strikes for Franco and collaborate with the most reactionary clerical and anti-Semitic forces at home.

Constant danger

Unless this bureaucracy is overthrown and genuine workers' democracy installed, there is a constant danger that capitalism will seek to establish a stranglehold on the economy by working through the most extreme right-wing elements of the regime.

And in Britain, unless the TUC bureaucracy is forced out into the open, either to fight the Tories or be exposed, every right the working class has ever won will be jeopardized.

This means, above all, in both countries, a fight to the death against counter-revolutionary Stalinism.

The Polish working class need no convincing on that score.

And in Britain, where, because of the post-war boom, CP leaders have been able to hide behind many illusions of the class, the sharp turn in the political situation since the return of the Tories has opened many workers' eyes to the real nature of British Stalinism.

Here again, the two struggles supplement each other. When the Gdansk workers took on Gomulka's tanks with almost their bare hands, they drove yet another nail into the coffin of British Stalinism, whose 'Morning Star' was compelled to describe the crushing of women and children by tanks as a 'discussion' between the working class and the bureaucracy.

Every blow struck against the bureaucracy in Poland, the rest of E Europe and the USSR is also a blow against the leaders of the British CP, whose ability and determination to push their counter-revolutionary line has always been based on the stability of the regimes in the Soviet world.

Underlying these common political tasks is the organic necessity for the revolution which began in Russia in 1917 and spread — bureaucratically — into E Europe, to break through into the most advanced countries of the capitalist world.

It is the immense economic, military and political pressure which imperialism exerts on the USSR, China and E Europe which is, in the last analysis, responsible for the bureaucratic distortions and repressions in these countries.

The overthrow of capitalism in Britain and W Europe is therefore a pre-condition for the building of a genuine socialist society in Poland and the rest of the Soviet bloc countries.

This is a fundamental axiom of Marxism. The construction of socialism requires the utilization of the international division of labour, based upon democratic planning under the control of the working class. This is the goal for which the Polish working class is struggling. It is ours too.

So every step forward we take in the struggle to build the mass revolutionary party in this country, the British section of Trotsky's Fourth International, will be of immense aid to the embattled Polish working class.

Above all else, they need leadership, equipped theoretically to take on and defeat the forces of counter-revolutionary Stalinism.

Only that was lacking in 1956 and again in 1970.

1971 must see even greater strides towards this goal — the defeat of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the East, and the overthrow of imperialist rule in the West. Only on this basis can we go forward to our common goal of a Socialist United States of Europe.

ARMOURD CARS PATROL THE STREETS OF SZCZECIN DECEMBER 1970



things, the creation of clubs and discussion centres.

'In view of the ideological and undeniably socialist character of the student movement, this freedom will be used within those limits that the socialist character of our state creates.

1968 was also the year when the Gomulka regime established diplomatic relations with fascist Spain. No doubt his allies in 'Pax' were helpful here.

Then, at the end of 1969, when miners in the Asturian coalfield in N Spain began a month-long strike against the Hunosa Company, Gomulka exported coal to Franco to help him break the strike.

Six months later, cement was exported to Ireland at the height of the cement workers' strike.

Here again, the 'clerical Stalinists' may well have been instrumental in establishing links between the two regimes.

More orthodox methods were undoubtedly used to further the Kremlin's overall strategy of 'collective security' in Europe—namely those of secret diplomacy.

Following the election of Willy Brandt's Social Democratic-Liberal coalition in September 1969, the Soviet bureau-

ernize backward sectors of the Soviet economy.

But the other side of this policy, which has as its aim the creation of an all-European 'peace-keeping force' is frankly political.

From the Stalinist 'Morning Star' to the White House, the breaking of the Baltic strike was hailed as the best possible solution to the crisis in Poland.

Yet the new regime's policies are very little different from those it replaced. If anything, the Gierek regime will be even more repressive, even more prone to outbursts of chauvinist demagoguery, than its predecessor.

From the very beginning, it faces a working class bitterly roused by the massacres of the pre-Christmas strike wave, determined to fight for its political rights and to improve its meagre living standards.

THURSDAY'S
INTERNATIONAL
CLEAR
youth
NEWS
PERSPECTIVES
IN CEYLON

ABOUT 7,000 young workers have been thrown out of work by the capitalist crisis in Ceylon and recently there has been a wave of strikes in the private industries and plantations.

Communist Youth is attempting to build a mass Trotskyist youth movement.

To defeat the government's bid to deprive the working class of concessions, social benefits and living standards won over decades, the Communist Youth have undertaken a sharp, uncompromising, struggle for Marxist theory.

Unity

When the revisionist and reformist leaders try to maintain divisions among students, unemployed youth and workers, the Revolutionary Communist Youth fight to lead a joint struggle by workers and the radical youth against the capitalist system.

Because the Trotskyist youth have been able to provide a clear perspective within these militant struggles, they have been able to build some strong cadres.

They have raised the circulation and enlarged the size of their youth paper.

They have fought alongside the Revolutionary Communist League to build the weekly paper and to establish it among workers.

During December and January the Revolutionary Communist Youth organized six federation meetings in most of the principal towns and industrial areas. They are preparing for the national conference in March 1971.

Two militant trade unionists have been shot dead by the police.

While the revisionist Lanka Sama Samaja Party and Stalinist Communist Party have accepted positions in the coalition cabinet, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's government is using brutal repressive measures to hide the causes of the strike wave.

But young workers in private industries are taking the struggle to a new and higher stage.

Not succeeded

The government knows this and it has started mobilizing, recognizing that it has not succeeded in holding back the struggles of the working class.

While the Stalinists, ex-Trotskyists and Social Democrats collaborate with the capitalists and the imperialists, trying to lead young workers into a strait-jacket, the Revolutionary

Fight the Race Bill in House

-NCCL call

AN ALL-OUT fight against the forthcoming Tory Immigration Bill has been urged on its 80 or so supporters in parliament by the National Council for Civil Liberties.

In a memorandum to the MPs yesterday, it stated that the Bill is likely to contain 'all the worst aspects of the present alien law, which will be applied to Commonwealth citizens and aliens alike'.

The memorandum says police registration may become compulsory for all immigrants and the right of dependants to enter Britain will be abolished.

The Bill, says the Council, is the government's last chance to change the existing structure.

Seat belts for US trucks and buses

A LAW requiring that all interstate bus and lorry drivers use seat belts through-out the United States is now in operation. The penalty for failing to install them is a fine of up to \$500.

This law follows a long campaign by workers in the 'Teamsters' Union for compulsory use of seat belts.

The trucking companies had previously opposed legislation on the basis that regulations were not clearly defined and that they need for seat belts had not been conclusively proved.

GERMAN authorities have appealed to industry and the people to conserve electricity and gas because the coal mines are facing serious difficulties caused by the intense cold.

In a front-page article the main Communist Party newspaper 'Neues Deutschland', reported on the difficulties in the main area of brown coal open-cast mining resulting from cable and rail breaks and frozen ground.

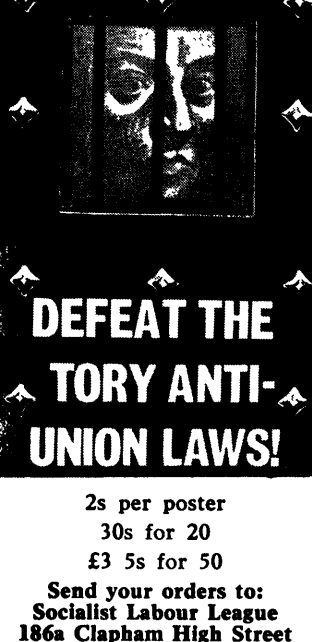
WEATHER

SCOTLAND will be mostly cloudy with rain or drizzle at times and extensive hill fog. The Midlands, E Anglia and SE England will be cloudy and misty with occasional drizzle and perhaps a belt of more general rain in the evening.

Ireland, Wales and remaining districts of England will be cloudy or dull with rain or drizzle at times, there will be widespread hill fog with some coastal fog patches. However, somewhat better weather will spread from the W to most of the east during the day with scattered showers developing in W coastal areas.

It will be milder than of late in all areas with any remaining snow continuing to thaw.

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SMOKING HAZARD SECONDARY TO PROFITS

BY MARTIN ZARROP

BRITAIN'S tobacco barons have so far maintained a discreet silence over the latest medical report on smoking.

They have declined to comment on the wealth of evidence brought together in the Royal College of Physicians' 'Smoking and Health Now', which places the responsibility for 34,500 deaths a year in Britain on smoking.

While silence prevails on the manufacturing front, Tory Health Minister Sir Keith Joseph is quoted as regarding the RCP report as 'authoritative confirmation on the health risks of smoking... These are risks which no one can afford to ignore'.

Meanwhile Sir Keith and the tobacco giants are in the midst of discussions on the best way of keeping the public informed on these risks.

Warnings

What is clear is that, while the tobacco companies can no longer brush aside the mountain of evidence on smoking hazards, they will now concentrate on castrating any

measures proposed in the wake of the report.

Printed warnings on cigarette packets will do little to reduce smoking as has been proved in the United States, and the Tory government is unlikely to go much further.

The government's friends in the tobacco industry can be assured that most of the RCP's proposals for a concerted attack on 'the habit' will remain proposals as they have over the last 20 years since the cancer-smoking link was discovered.

Since 1950, when the first evidence was published in the metropolitan countries and the Glasgow fund for cancer, bronchitis and heart disease has mounted—as have the efforts of the international tobacco industry to dismiss, ridicule and belittle such evidence.

At stake are the massive profits of manufacturers in the metropolitan countries and the stability of such regimes of repression as Ian Smith's in S Rhodesia.

With all this in danger, what matters the health of millions of workers throughout the world?

Sales

The three leading firms in Britain made £206m profit last year and pumped out £52m in advertising their wares.

Nearly 70,000 are employed on the manufacture of cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products and total 1969 cigarette sales were 124,900 million.

No doubt there are many conscious-stricken bourgeois who are now contributing to the Glasgow fund for the families of the 66 Ibrox dead.

At the same time they will applaud, as part of the desirable order of things, the booming coffers of the tobacco kings.

Yet if the Ibrox disaster were to take place every day of the year, the annual death toll would still fall far short of the total prematurely slaughtered by smoking.

Young workers, in particular, must heed the medical evidence.

The health of the working class is of no concern to the employers and their government, except in so far as profit can be made from it.

No capitalist government will implement an effective campaign to stamp out the smoking danger. To do so would mean the expropriation of the tobacco chiefs.

The RCP report certainly makes out a convincing case for such action.

RIAD

FROM PAGE ONE

with Britain, Riad said his recent talks in London with Sir Alec Douglas Home had been 'fruitful, constructive and satisfactory'.

Britain, he said, had shown readiness to see that the Security Council resolution was implemented and that peace was restored with justice [sic].

The new Egyptian government is shifting sharply to the right and trying hard to conciliate world imperialism, especially Britain and the United States.

Riad announced, for example, that an Egyptian delegation has already visited London to make final plans for compensation payments to British firms and individuals whose properties in Egypt were sequestered after the Suez invasion in 1956.

Restoration

This is in line with internal moves to restore property to capitalists whose goods and factories were nationalized.

Another indication of the rightward swing of Egypt's government came when Riad answered questions about his government's attitude to British arms for S Africa.

The Egyptian government preferred to work through the Organization of African Unity on this question, he said, implying that Egypt would make no independent criticism of the Tories' racist gun-running.

'Better education value' through cuts—Thatcher

By Gary Gurmeet

BETTER VALUE for money in education might be achieved by cutting the number of teachers entering the profession, Education Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher suggested yesterday.

Addressing an education conference in Buxton, she said it was questionable 'whether, in the second half of this decade, it will be right to continue the output

of teachers at the present rate and thus to pre-empt a very large share of the total resources available for improving the operational standards of the school'.

Yet a recent National Union of Teachers booklet pointed out that 40,000 more teachers were needed if a sharp and irreversible decline in standards was to be avoided.

And 10,000 children of university age now leave school at the age of 15 every year.

Mrs Thatcher went on to destroy any idea that the Tories

plan to carry on the half-hearted measures taken by the Labour government in introducing comprehensive education.

CONSOLIDATE

It would be a boon, she said, if all the education Acts on the statute book could be consolidated.

This would undoubtedly strengthen the class structure of the education system and provide security for public schools.

Increases in the student-staff ratio, further cuts in government spending (especially on comprehensive schools) and attacks on 'welfare' provisions (like free milk and meals) are presumably the Tory way to get 'better value for money'.

Powell and wages

FROM PAGE ONE

the high wage concessions won by the workers in the autumn and winter of 1969.

This weak policy of the Bank has allowed firms to continue to concede inflationary increases to their workers, argue Powell and the hard money men.

Spring crisis

They are further concerned, and last week the voice of the influential 'Economist' was added to the chorus that in spring this year the Bank will again meet another bankruptcy crisis by supplying more money.

They are saying to the Bank: 'Hold firm, even if it means bankruptcies'; they are saying to the government: 'Start now—begin a deflation, increase unemployment even faster than at present and slash spending'.

This, of course, is not exclusive of other policies, contrary to what hacks who fill the financial pages of our press would have us believe.

In its New Year business predictions 'The Economist' correctly stated that the government might change its policy line. Such a change would involve said 'The Economist':

'... restraint of the growth of money supply (even if this causes some firms who have given exorbitant wage increases to go bankrupt in the spring), a tight incomes policy over centrally-bargained wage increases, but with fixed industrial investment encouraged by a budget that gives away bigger tax reliefs than most civil servants in the Treasury would think wise.'

Balance

These three strategies, together with the anti-union laws, make up a full war policy against the working class and many Tories are clearly eager to follow Powell and launch the offensive without delay.

For one thing the external trade position is becoming serious.

If export prices are pushed up any further by costs, selling abroad will begin to become unprofitable and the old bogey — a payment deficit — will return.

Powell's role is to create great alarm around these issues by aiming his particular brand of demagoguery at the middle class who, of course, can be the most seriously damaged by inflation.

But his policies are not mutually exclusive of all the others now incubating in Treasury committees deep in the bowels of Whitehall.

A new approach towards an incomes policy is, for example, now well underway.

Steered by Sir Fred Catherwood, director general of the National Economic Development Office, the TUC and the

Confederation of British Industry are already exchanging views on the topic.

At yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, the TUC, the government and the Office swapped economic papers on cost inflation.

The Office maintains that the balance of power in industry has shifted in favour of the unions.

And the Confederation of British Industry, said Catherwood, was in agreement with the Office that time was running out and that there could be bankruptcies and higher unemployment before any balance of payments crisis.

Clearly the Tories are now out to restore the balance of power in favour of the ruling class.

Wages

They will do this by attempting to undermine workers' strength.

To do this it will use Powell to promote some aspects of policy it will back a frontal attack through the union laws and abide employment even at the expense of some bankruptcy, provided the drive for higher wages is halted.

More Soviet Jews for trial

MORE TRIALS of Soviet Jews are reported to be pending in Leningrad.

Vulf Zalmanson, brother of one of the 11 alleged 'hi-jackers' sentenced before Christmas, appeared yesterday for his alleged part in the attempt.

A Red Army lieutenant, Zalmanson, was under military training at the time of the alleged 'plot'.

Though arrested with the other 11 on June 15 last year, he is being tried separately in a military court.

Nine other Jews are also expected to stand trial in Leningrad on charges of 'anti-Soviet activity' within the next few days.

GUILTY ONES

Those really guilty of anti-Soviet activities are the leaders of the Soviet bureaucracy, who, by condoning and even encouraging a ginning anti-Semites, drive thousands of Soviet Jews to despair.

The Kremlin is, in fact, Dayan's best recruiting agent.

Dangers in standstill

FROM PAGE ONE

'I hope this is the beginning of a new awareness that common sense and sanity will prevail...'

'This is just the kind of co-operation the country could do with to get us out of this mess of inflation.'

On table
Bathgate men's demand for an immediate £3 increase will now lay on the table until pay talks in March on a deal to be implemented on June 1.

A shop stewards' spokesman said at the plant: 'We have decided on the postponement to give the firm an opportunity to recover from a recession.'

be made the scapegoats for the management's policies.

But this cannot be fought by the policies of the Stalinist and reformist leaders on the Leyland combine shop stewards' committee.

Committee joint chairman and Communist Party executive member, Dick Etheridge said after the threat of 5,000 sackings that the real issue behind the crisis was 'getting the company out of its mess'.

Policy

The combine trade union executive must be made to fight on its November six-point policy resolution linking wages and sackings with the fight for nationalization and against the anti-union Bill.

Complete ban on airports?



BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

AIRPORT stewards went to Transport House, London, on Tuesday night (above) to see John Cousins, national organizer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, for talks on the airport pay work-to-rule.

On the same night 400 delegates met at Heathrow airport and decided that if no progress is made at meetings with employers tomorrow collective bargaining will be abandoned.

'We are holding out an olive branch. If nothing happens on Friday a complete ban on overtime will be instituted. There will be industrial chaos,' warned Mr Cousins.

The men are believed to be claiming 7 per cent and have been offered 4½ per cent by BOAC and BEA.

THE FIRST ever trade agreement between the anti-Communist Thai regime and the Soviet Union has been signed in Bangkok.

would be asking specifically for the rapid despatch of helicopters and weapons.

His anxiety obviously reflects the growing crisis of his regime, which has been hit hard by guerrilla victories in recent months.

No collapse
There are at present 37,000 US servicemen in Thailand, most of them airmen.

Nixon can ill afford a collapse on this front, bearing in mind the desperate plight of his puppet regime in Cambodia.

5s 2d minimum
THE French cabinet yesterday approved an increase in the minimum wage payable to workers, a government spokesman announced.

The rise of 3.7 per cent brought the rate to 3.6 francs (5s 2d) an hour.

They affect privately-owned ships and those of the big Finnare shipping group.

Italian seamen strike for new contract
ITALIAN seamen yesterday continued a programme of strikes aimed at delaying the departure of ships from Italian ports by 24 or 48 hours.

The strikes were called by Italy's three big trade union confederations following a breakdown in negotiations with employers for a new national work contract and are due to last until January 12.

They affect privately-owned ships and those of the big Finnare shipping group.

TORY MP John Boyd-Carpenter said in Durban yesterday that demonstrations by anti-apartheid groups against the sale of arms to S Africa would not affect the British government's decision.

Boyd-Carpenter, MP for Kingston-on-Thames, is on a two-week trip to S Africa as a guest of the S Africa Foundation. He said: 'We allow demonstrations in Britain because this is the normal right of the individual. But it is very unlikely they will achieve any purpose at all.'

Poland wants bigger Japanese loan

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

DESPERATE for funds to boost Poland's lagging economy, the new Gierk leadership is negotiating a massive loan from three Japanese firms.

NATIONAL Union of Teachers' executive yesterday gave support to London headmistress Mrs Phyllis Clarkson who refused to take 16 children at her school because it was overcrowded.

She also refused to transfer children to a nearby Methodist church hall because of inadequate toilets, and because the children would have to cross a busy main road.

A spokesman for the three — Mitsui, Itoh and Nichimen — said the loan was for the purchase of plant making ethylene, micro-motors and nylon.

The deal was originally concluded last June under the old Gomulka leadership, when £41m was loaned to Poland at a 6.5 per cent interest rate.

NEW LOAN

Now the new regime has applied for a new loan totalling £205m, more than four times the amount originally agreed on.

The recently-signed Polish-German treaty also provides for far-reaching trade, economic and technical links between the two countries.

CASHING IN

Washington officials have already considered cashing in on Poland's economic problems by offering a trade deal with its new rulers.

The Kremlin, already burdened by its own economic problems, simply cannot afford to bail Gierk out.

Hence his turn towards imperialism.

Glass 'black'

eral and Municipal Workers, the union's Liverpool district office had done 'something unprecedented in the G&MWU constitution'.

Referred back

It had referred the applications back to its six St Helens branches, one of which had already passed the buck back to the union's district committee.

The works committee at Pilkington's Triplex plant, however, had voted 17 to 3 in favour of the men's re-admission.

Asked whether the company would reinstate the sacked men if the G&MWU admitted them, the company yesterday made clear that there would be a further hurdle.

'We would consider them on merit,' a spokesman told Workers Press.

'Suitability'

Their applications would be considered in the light of whether there were vacancies, and whether they were considered suitable for any there were.

Once again, the Pilkington glassworkers' fight becomes a key factor in the struggle against the anti-union laws.

If the union leaders cannot work back the jobs of the sacked men, their promises of a fight against the Industrial Relations Bill are proved worthless.

Postal pile-up

MORE than half a million parcels and letters piled up at Sydney's main postal clearing centre as New South Wales postal workers met to discuss whether to continue with their strike for higher wages.

The federal executive of the Postal Workers' Union has directed the workers to lift all bans on mail and withdraw their threat of snowballing strikes.

The union's general secretary, Mr George Slater, said talks on the NSW branch's claims had been arranged for January 15, and these could be prejudiced by industrial action in the meantime. But observers here believe rank-and-file union members may defy the union directive.

Elements of Marxism

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

ACTON: The Albion, Churchfield Rd, W3. (Opposite Acton Central Stn.) 8 p.m. Thursday, January 7.