

What we think

The fight against censorship

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Now, the most glaring example. A 'great telly debate' between the ruling class politicians and commentators scheduled for January 6 has been mauled by the Tory Cabinet and the Ulster Unionists. If it does make the screens, you can guarantee it will be in the finest traditions of BBC chat programmes — 'But, Sir Charles, you don't mean to say...'. Producers, reporters and technicians working in television, radio and the press have belatedly become 'concerned' about this censorship—the large meeting held last month at the ICA gallery in London proved that. But showing 'concern' is one thing. Taking some positive action is another. So what are the communicators suggesting? The BBC men have issued a circular 'demanding only that we are allowed to work in an open and free manner, disciplined by normal journalistic and BBC standards'. Hardly a revolutionary charter!

Workers who have been on strike will be very familiar with 'normal journalistic and BBC standards' of reporting. But how do they propose to get even these extremely dubious demands met? The circular issues an ultimatum that unless the BBC stops its 'pressure' on news and current affairs, the news department will refuse to go to Ulster from January 10. In other words they will boycott coverage of the Irish situation.

This, of course, plays right into the hands of the Tories. They will be delighted if the BBC 'trouble makers' and 'lefties' don't want to work in Ulster. Then the job can be given to 'safe' reporters like Keith Graves and the other right-wing elements. The contents of the circular completely fail to understand the origins of censorship.

These origins are the reactionary policies of the Tory governments at Westminster and Stormont.

As unpalatable as it may seem to the highly individualistic workers in the communications industry, the only way to end censorship and the other vicious manifestations of Tory rule (unemployment, the Industrial Relations Act, the social security swindle, etc., etc.), is to bring down the Heath government.

All other shouting about whether this film was slashed or that programme edited is impoverishing liberal protest. And liberal protest is loved and admired most of all by the ruling class itself, simply because it invariably fizzles out.

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He attacks the hypocrisy of 'those unhealthy fat ones who noisily pursued' the writer Tvardovsky when he was alive and then stood guard over his funeral bier in the writers' union headquarters.

These charges appear in a lament on the death of Alexander Tvardovsky, former editor of 'Novy Mir'. It was he who published Solzhenitsyn's story 'A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich' about life in the prison camps.

Circulated through the underground, Solzhenitsyn's poem has become widely known and obviously evokes sympathy from wide circles of the intellectual opposition. Pouring scorn on the bureaucracy's tame scribes who are utterly discredited, the novelist writes:

'They stood around the bier in a solid group and thought: now we have cornered him. They destroyed our only journal ['Novy Mir'] and thought they were victorious.' But, the poem warns:

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'Fools. When the voices of our youth ring out, then you will regret that you do not have this patient critic, whose soft, exhorting voice everyone heeded. You will want to grab up the earth with your hands to bring back Trifonovich [i.e. Tvardovsky]. But it is too late.'

In other words, Solzhenitsyn is saying, you hounded your liberal critic, now you cannot avoid the wrath of those, particularly the young, who will not stop until the bureaucratic regime altogether.

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Associated with Solzhenitsyn, one of them, Yevgeny Markin, had voted for his expulsion from the Writers' Union in 1969 but later re-got it and had circulated poems supporting Solzhenitsyn's stand.

Both writers were expelled for 'behaviour incompatible with the status of a Soviet writer'. ANOTHER SIGN of mounting opposition and the anxiety which this causes in the Kremlin is shown by a full-scale attack on Trotskyism by Boris Ponomarev, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which appears in the latest issue of its theoretical organ, 'Kommunist'.

Full of the usual Stalinist lies and distortions, it is interesting if only because it warns that Trotskyism is 'capable of turning into a major political movement' and finds its support 'primarily among the younger generation'.

Challenge

That an article of this kind should occupy the attention of a leading Soviet theoretician is a sign that the bureaucracy knows from which direction the main challenge to its rule will come.

Many Soviet youth, workers and intellectuals alike, who are contemptuous of the official ideology are turning to the historical record to find out where the bureaucracy came from and are drawing inspiration from the past. Of course, Solzhenitsyn is not part of this tendency. But he well recognizes the risks which the bureaucracy itself is running by hounding men like Tvardovsky, who tried to take a middle-of-the-road position.

PEASANT CHIEF TO CO-OPERATE WITH AWAMI LEAGUE



The Maulana (L.) being interviewed by Wall Ashraf in New Delhi

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He revealed that the issue of offsetting has not been completely settled. While the union insists it will not accept such a condition, the company position is that the issue has not yet been resolved.

What is more, £1.50 is to be paid within the terms of last year's factory pay agreement—which is felt by many workers to open the door for work-measurement and other speed-up techniques.

Earlier yesterday national officials of all six unions involved met the shop stewards to report their discussions

with the company in London on Wednesday. The two-and-a-half hour meeting split narrowly—by 57 to 49—in favour of accepting the revised offer.

But anxiety about the terms remains widespread, focusing on two main points.

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The Prime Minister is also a member. 'For the moment the

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OUR MANY, many thanks to you all. You not only completed the target a week early but money has continued to flow in since Christmas giving us the grand total of £1,600.48 — £350.48 over the top!

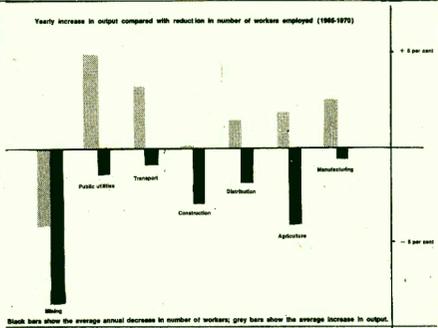
It is our best monthly effort so far and we thank you again and again for this great response.

Immediately, we are holding meetings all over the country to meet you, our readers, and discuss how you would like to see the new 12-page tabloid.

Your enormous support throughout 1971 shows us that Workers Press has really become your paper. In return, we promise you a paper to be proud of.

Let's make a great start for 1972 and go from strength to strength. Begin the campaign early for January's Fund and start today. Post all your donations to:

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Productivity up Shortest route to the dole

BY JOHN SPENCER

AN 'UNUSUALLY fast' rise in productivity since 1965 is blamed for today's mass unemployment in the London and Cambridge Economic Bulletin.

Edited by a panel of top university economists, it shows that hundreds of thousands of workers have been driven onto the dole queues following the Wilson government's intensive production drive, since stepped up under the Tories.

Their figures show that overall output rose by an annual average of 2.3 per cent under the Labour government, while six workers in every thousand saw their jobs disappear each year.

Production per worker has been going up rapidly while total output has grown more slowly since 1965 than in earlier years.

Put more crudely, Measured-Day Work, work study and productivity deals have destroyed hundreds of thousands of jobs.

'The rise in unemployment,' the bulletin says, 'is certainly not overstated by the official statistics.'

At least 200,000 male workers have 'disappeared' from the records in the past six years—many because they have given up looking for work.

Retirement ages are being enforced much more stringently, and some unemployment has been 'exported' to Ireland by the return of jobless immigrants.

ECONOMIES

Under Wilson, the productivity increase was largely concentrated in the nationalized industries, construction and distribution, the bulletin says.

'Large economies in manpower' were made in mining, public utilities (gas and electricity) and on the railways.

Selective employment tax was responsible for 'a real and quite abnormal increase in turnover per person employed' in distribution, while in the nationalized industries workers were driven out of their jobs by a series of sweeping productivity deals agreed by union leaders.

Since the Tories took office, the speed-up drive has been enormously intensified.

The quarterly figures available for 1971 suggest that in the last year a quite exceptionally large increase in manufacturing productivity has been achieved, despite further deterioration in the degree of utilization of capacity,' the report says.

IMPLICATION

They comment that: 'Although output has grown rather slowly since 1965, the fall in employment and the rise in unemployment have been larger than would have been expected on past experience.'

'The implication is that productivity growth has been unusually rapid and that if an increase in unemployment were to have been avoided, output would

have had to rise faster not slower than in earlier years. No such increase in output is contemplated.

Quite the reverse. The growing international slump and worsening trade war sparked by the collapse of the post-war international monetary system are already taking their toll of production in every major capitalist country.

The report itself points out that 'there are widespread doubts whether reflationary measures undertaken by the government will be sufficient to achieve a substantial reduction in unemployment in the coming year.'

It adds that: 'Looking further ahead, there are fears that we shall be committed to an overvalued pound and that the economy will not be sufficiently competitive to take advantage of the opportunities (and to meet the costs) of entry into the EEC.'

Workers Press has always fought productivity deals and Measured-Day Work as the shortest route to the dole queue.

This report is a damning testimony to the treachery of the Labour and trade union leaders who collaborated in the onslaught on jobs and paved the way for the Tories to create mass unemployment.

22 US airmen missing as raids end

FROM IAN YEATS

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Dental aid withheld from poor

POOR working-class families are not being told about dental charge exemptions and refunds, says a report published today by the Child Poverty Action Group.

A survey in Cambridge showed: 'In no practice was there anything prominently displayed explaining the existence of help with payment.'

The report says that the only way for the needy to obtain financial help

50 p.c. rise

OLIVER JESSEL, the city tycoon, has decided to give himself a pay rise of 50 per cent. This takes his salary to well over £30,000 a year.

Jessel heads the multi-million pound merchant banking empire, Jessel Securities. In his annual report issued yesterday he said a new broom was needed to clean away 'the inertia of generations of tradition'. Jessel was not, of course, referring to capitalism.

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But many workers fear the company's Tory-appointed board will use the settlement as a lever to establish a form of Measured-Day Work.

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He revealed that the issue of offsetting has not been completely settled. While the union insists it will not accept such a condition, the company position is that the issue has not yet been resolved.

What is more, £1.50 is to be paid within the terms of last year's factory pay agreement—which is felt by many workers to open the door for work-measurement and other speed-up techniques.

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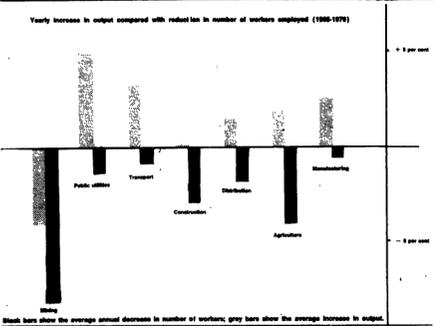
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Zinoviev



Bukharin



Trotsky



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BEHIND THE MOSCOW TRIAL

REVIEW BY TOM KEMP

FEW PEOPLE can be found today, even in the Communist Party, to defend the authenticity of the Moscow Trials or to uphold their verdicts.

Yet, when this book was written in 1936 stating that the trials were a fraud and a frame-up, it was distinctly a minority position in the labour movement.

Communist Party members who doubted the trials were expelled. Those like Shachtman who told the truth about them were vilified.

The Labour MP and King's Counsel, Dennis Noel Pritt, was a principal agent in re-assuring any members of the left in Britain who conserved any doubts about the fairness of trials, which depended entirely upon the confessions of the accused.

After the first trial, in 1936, there were to be two further show trials put on in Moscow. But these were only a small part of the massive purge which destroyed the Bolshevik old guard, cut deep into Soviet society and did not spare either the army command or the ranks of the bureaucracy itself.

Shachtman's book deals with the first of the Moscow Trials in which the principal accused were Zinoviev and Kamenev.

It was written as soon as the truncated version of the court proceedings became available. It is an amazingly clear and accurate analysis of Stalin's methods and aims.

It reveals the mass of contradictions and inconsistencies in which the evidence abounded and it showed the counter-revolutionary purpose behind the trial.

THE ACCUSED men were charged with conspiring with the Nazi regime to assassinate seven of the most prominent Soviet leaders and of having carried out the assassination of the Leningrad party boss, Sergei M. Kirov, in 1934.

As Shachtman says: 'Our investigation of the frame-up will...

BOOK REVIEW

'Behind the Moscow Trial' by Max Shachtman
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS 75p

establish that the real criminals were not the men in the dock, but the rulers of the Kremlin who sent them to their deaths.'

One fact which Shachtman could not know has now been established beyond all doubt. Although all the details are not clear, the assassination of Kirov was ordered by Stalin himself. Some of the circumstances were revealed by Khrushchev at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1956.

One of the first tasks of the prosecutor, former Menshevik Andrei Vyshinsky, was to pin the Kirov assassination on the accused. Zinoviev testified that he had ordered the preparation of a terrorist act against Kirov in 1932. Yevdokimov said that Zinoviev had given 'direct instructions to organize the murder of Kirov' in 1934.

Preparations for the assassination were apparently coming along pretty slowly. In fact, in reply to Vyshinsky, Kamenev also claimed responsibility for giving the order for the assassination.

At the same time, according to the testimony, the killing of Stalin was being prepared.

As for Leningrad, contact with the local terrorists who were to carry out the murder was not established until 1934, and then only after Kamenev had made a special trip to the city to check up that all was well.

Shachtman shows in detail how the story that the accused had plotted and carried out the murder could not be made at all plausible when we know, for a fact that it had been carried out by the NKVD, Stalin's secret police. They had given the assassin, Nicolayev, every facility in carrying out his task.

THE OTHER alleged plots were also thought up by the prosecution and prepared as a scenario for use by the defendants. All of them contain glaring inconsistencies.

There was the 'plot' against Voroshilov, variously dated from 1933, 1934 and 1935 in successive pieces of testimony. Instead of seizing on these discrepancies Vyshinsky lets the matter pass; obviously it was a flaw in the script of no actual importance.

But this 'plot' was dogged with ill-luck. According to the scenario this was organized by the Gestapo through its Moscow agent in co-operation with Moscow Trotskyists and a special emissary of Trotsky. There were three assassins, according to the story, all armed with revolvers. But in months of waiting they were never able to take even a pot-shot.

This is how they explain it when the President of the Court asks them about their lack of success.

Lurye: We saw Voroshilov's car going down Frunze St. It was travelling too fast. It is hopeless to shoot at a fast moving car; we decided there was no point in it.

President: Did you manage to see Voroshilov's car?
Lurye: I saw it and so did a second member of the group, Pavel Lipshitz.

President: Did you suspend further watching of Voroshilov's car?
Lurye: Yes.

President: For what reasons?
Lurye: Because we became convinced that there was no sense in shooting with a revolver.

President: What did you turn your attention to after that?
Lurye: To getting hold of explosives.

President: What kind of terrorist act did you intend to commit?
Lurye: A terrorist act with a bomb.

Needless to say, 'the terrorist act with a bomb' was never carried out, nor is the evidence for its preparation available in the record of the trial.

So Voroshilov, like Stalin's other henchmen, had a charmed life. With plots and assassins all around, none of them came to any harm. They did not even escape an assassin's bullet, because none was ever fired. The only victim was Kirov, who we now know was removed on Stalin's instructions.

PLOTS AGAINST Stalin himself were legion, according to the testimony. The terrorists are alleged to have had a fighting organization and were constantly recruiting more. They were all well armed and apparently could travel about without hindrance both inside the Soviet Union and between it and foreign countries.

In fact the Soviet Union had an internal passport system and all movements were carefully controlled. A person like the agent provocateur Olberg, who travelled on a Honduran passport, could not have made the journeys he made, or was alleged to have made, without the knowledge of the police.

In any case, they 'met' emissaries of Trotsky at non-existent hotels, at times when they could prove that they were elsewhere or landed at airfields when no flights had been recorded.

Shachtman makes mincemeat of such faults in the scenario due to the blundering of some police official preparing the frame-up.

No less than five men are named as being sent to Moscow for the one-and-only purpose of killing Stalin on the instructions of Trotsky and his son Sedov. There were also several other plotters not named.

As Shachtman puts it: 'With all these men at work, single-mindedly, some of them for as long as four years, with resources [Gestapo] at their command, such as the pre-war terrorists never dreamed of having, there was not so much as a scratch inflicted on Stalin.'

It is obvious that if men of the calibre of the accused had wanted to assassinate Stalin in these years, they would have done so, or at least they would have made the attempt.

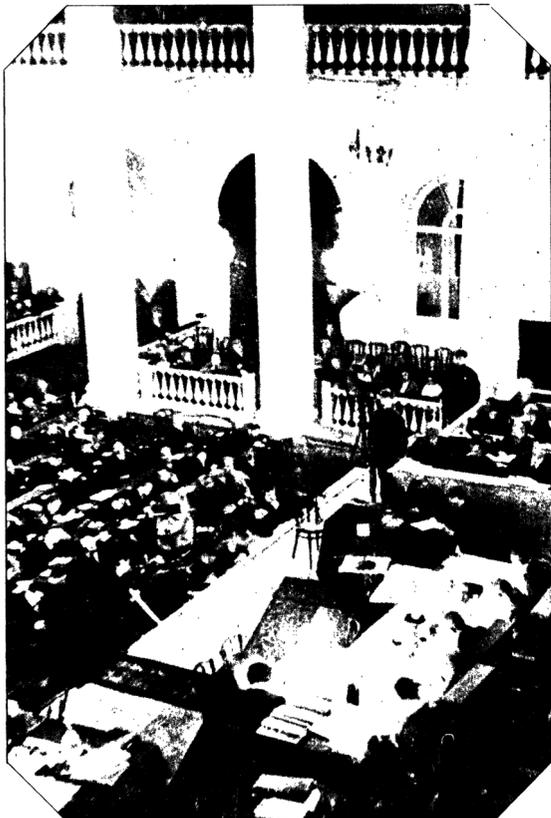
The evidence against the accused rested upon confessions by themselves and those they were alleged to have recruited as agents. No reference is made to how the plot was discovered. No independent corroborative evidence appeared.

Yet the accused confessed to crimes which they did not and could not have committed.

Tomorrow we shall see why.



Khrushchev with Voroshilov



Left: The Hall of Columns, scene of the Moscow Trials. Right: Idolization of Stalin

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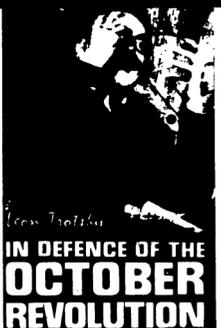
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Oh, to be in England . . .

OUT OF the sludge of Yule-time television emerged a preponderance of things British.

This 'accidental' programming came as a kind of grand dress rehearsal for the mind-shattering emptiness which hit us over the four-day festive season itself.

It was all there really, in the pre-Christmas week — that cultural madness which so often overlaps with the political and which, euphemistically, we call English eccentricity.

From these programmes one can only draw the conclusion that nationalism is on the up-and-up, aided by the 'unconscious' motivations of seemingly independent producers and directors in television.

First Dennis Potter's 'Casanova' who, in this fifth episode, came to London to find English hypocrisy shielding behind English good manners.

One couldn't help supposing that the Casanova series owed itself to that self-same hypocrisy. Would the BBC, one wonders, have allowed all that bare-faced (indeed bare-breasted) 'lecher' to have gone out to the homes of the nation had the hero been Bill Smith or Joe Bloggs rather than a well-known foreign lecher?

'You fool'

STILL, Potter managed to make some neat points about the English and these were unwittingly followed up by 'Man Alive' in a tender documentary on London's Hyde Park, which served rather as a eulogy, a hymn to the good, peaceful, idiosyncratic nature of England's green and pleasant land, or at least that tiny bit of it which has escaped the industrialists and property developers.

There, sheltering amid the car fumes, is the Paragon symbol of a nation's freedom and leisure.

And what do you find there? 'Man Alive' thought they found the true niceness, the eccentricity, of being English. What more dis-



'Casanova'

cerning viewers might have found was the national neurosis in all its facets.

Wellington Barracks, Hyde Park, with its guardsmen togging up in all that ludicrous gear to serve ludicrous purposes, being screamed at by the perennial ludicrous English sergeant-major. 'Top of the plume, you fool,' he belted, with the vocal chords of a demented dinosaur in full stereophonic sound.

Then there they were too, the businessmen and clerks, in the early hours of the morning, doing their hand-stands and knee-bends and dives into the Serpentine.

Frantic activity. Flab gone mad. This stamina.

This early morning heroism. This determination.

It's all there in the culture. All the elements which went to make up the great spirit of resistance.

It reminded one of that other

Christmas time in 1942 when the Japanese invaded Malaya, forcing British troops into one of the fastest retreats of history. An inept British military and political leadership lied and lied again to the retreating men. The defences on Singapore all facing in the wrong direction, the men retreating to suicide in the name of England.

And what were the leading spirits doing at the time? They were rising, drinks in their hand, at the Sea View Hotel, Singapore, to sing:

"There'll always be an England, And England will be free, If England means as much to you,

As England means to me."

With such sentiments are victims made, and it is not very much different really, the spirit which animates the amateur gymnasts limbering up by the lake in Hyde Park, ready to take on the civil service and business battle — for England, Elizabeth and St George.

And there in the park was Ernest Marples, jogging along on his early morning body-and-spirit building trot. He jogs for 55 yards, walks the equivalent, then jogs again, etc., but how does he know when to stop and start? Well, the park-keeper has helped out by painting a large white 'J' (for jog) on each appropriate tree.

Imagine the chaos if all the nation's citizens asked for special letters to be painted on special trees in the people's parks. They'd get short shrift from the park-keeper, without a doubt.

And all those other aspects of the national culture — the brass band (Fairey Engineering Works Band on that day of filming) — the dogs in all shapes and all sizes — the horse-riding enthusiasts of Rotten Row. The lady riding instructor lamenting past grandeur — 'people nowadays have very bad balance' she objected, 'before the war they would have been turned out' because that was the time of 'breeches and boots and hard hats'. Hard hats indeed.

tv column

by Anna Tate

'You cannot afford to be choosy now,' she complained, turning to shout 'look through your horse's ear' to her students. Quite appropriate for someone who seemed to be looking at reality through a horse's back-side.

And, of course, in Hyde Park is to be found the inevitable pets' cemetery, placed by cultural overlap in the garden of the Police Officer's Lodge. Grave-stones bear tender homage to the Englishman's love of animals. A Mrs Blyth regularly sends flowers to the grave of 'Ginger' whose headstone reads 'His little life was rounded with a sleep. (Shakespeare)'.
Then the upper-class lady with her pet duck murmuring 'come on my little precious. Cor luv a duck, I thought. Humanity out for a duck, caught and bowled by a demented system.'

Nor did 'Man Alive' omit the lovable British bobby, cradling lost children in his arms. Man alive! What a public relations job it all was, to be sure.

FROM BOBBIES to British troops in Ulster.

Cilla Black, the lovable Liverpudlian, little girl with a big heart and big accent, went off to N Ireland on Saturday evening to entertain those beautiful boys who bring you rubber bullets, CS gas and dubious interrogation methods.

Ironic it was, Cilla featuring 3,000 Welsh folk singing 'Silent Night, Holy Night' in Wales and being joined by television interlink to the hundreds of troops singing it in Ulster.

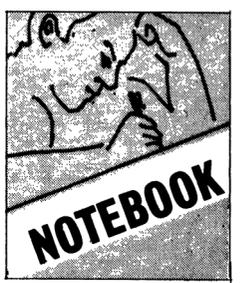
A point was not only being made, it was being hammered home. 'All is calm, all is bright' they chorused. Must have seemed unreal to Bogsiders, that line!

'Can I cum again?' appealed Cilla to the battle-dress clad audience, adding a thank you to them 'for making me so welcome'. (Not the kind of welcome they extend to Catholics down in Londonderry.)

But best of all, she gave her deepest thanks to 'the fellas from the BBC who made it all possible'. Those same 'fellas' who have made it impossible for some other folks to appear on television from Ulster.



BBC handout of Cilla Black



Jobs for the Ali Bhuttos

PAKISTAN'S new President, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, is a man whose word has got to be watched.

In one of his earliest announcements Bhutto deplored nepotism. He rampaged against the handful of families who have been giving jobs to their relatives for the past centuries.

Surprise, surprise to discover that one of the four new provincial governors is Muntaz Ali Bhutto, Bhutto's first cousin.

After his swearing-in ceremony, Muntaz Bhutto (36) paid homage at the mausoleum of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of modern Pakistan and an extreme reactionary.

Serving god and mammon

A MAN wrote a most unpleasant article for the 'Yorkshire Post' last week — that holy, holy person, Dr Donald Coggan, Archbishop of York, deputy boss of the Church of England.

His subject was the awful sin of materialism, which, as we all know, is spreading among the lower classes.

'The church is not against wealth,' wrote Coggan, who clubs at London's exclusive 'Athenaeum', 'but it holds that responsible use must be made of it as well as of people's time and leisure. Materialism puts greater emphasis on the verb "to have" than on the verb "to be".'

How very true — particularly that bit about the church using its wealth 'well'.

You may know that the holy men of Britain are among the greatest landowners in the land. But for years their kingdom languished and degenerated into the worst slums in the land.

But then they had an idea from God — why just exploit workers and force them to live in such depraved conditions? Why, there was much more money in things like office blocks and other enormous edifices that enhanced the spiritual welfare of mankind!

London's sharpest property men approached the holy men waving bunches of fivers.

We quote from the book, 'The Property Boom' by Oliver Marriott.

'The transformation of the church from a static, rather, passive landowner into a live-wire in the property business was the most dramatic revitalization of a great landlord.'

'In the process it has, in London, sold 300 acres of houses and flats and land... an area about half the size of the City of London and planned with skill into the arms and the profits of property developers. (Our emphasis.)'

Marriott explains that the sudden awakening to the value of their property was motivated by a keen desire to put themselves (i.e. the poor clergymen) more money each week for indoctrinating the working class with reactionary myths.

One of the many nifty deals of the church is described in the book on page 104.

King of the developers Max Rayne approached the Church Commission and suggested they should develop Eastbourne Terrace in London with him.

'The cost of building was £1,750,000 and the profit was £5.8m... But this was not all the church gained from Eastbourne Terrace. It opened their eyes to the possibilities of active co-operation with developers and not only on the land they owned, but on new pastures.'

Marriott goes on to describe how the church formed its own development company to make big killings in the halcyon of the property boom, when working-class families were squeezed out of central London to make way for those that needed living space like the New Stock Exchange, etc. etc.

One could go on to describe the full and glorious story of the church's fight against the crude thirst for profit — but surely Coggan sums the whole story up. He closed his article with these words:

'In the affluent West, the problem is vastly different. I am not saying that a man should not be a millionaire, but such a man has an appalling responsibility to answer for his wealth and to use it rightly.'

'Wealth is very dangerous. But take Lord Nuffield: he showed splendid ambition to become a multi-millionaire but he used his wealth responsibly and his money still benefits mankind.'

Surely we can say the same about the church? As the millions of clerks Scrooge away on the London skyline, think how nearer to God they are than their Church of England concrete slab.

US Round-up

The Yippies come home

JUST OVER three years ago in Chicago there was an enormous demonstration against the Democrats' Vietnam war policy. Mayor Daley met the protesters with stark, police violence which hit television screens all over the world.

Shortly after, seven people, including Black Panther Bobby Seale and Yippies Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin, were framed on a conspiracy charge.

During the trial Bobby Seale was bound and gagged and the defence lawyers received long sentences for contempt of court.

But radicals and protesters have the recurring habit of disappearing or moving to the right when the working class appears on the scene.

As the crisis of inflation and falling profits hit US capitalism the working class came in for attacks on its living standards.

Workers replied in long, bitter strikes, like that at General Motors last year and the recent dock strikes which may shortly begin again.

When it came to a question of organizing the American working class independently of the Democrats or Republicans, the radicals had no answer. To them the main question was one of pressuring for concessions.

Only a few months ago Abbie Hoffman announced that he had acquired a suit and a haircut and was on his way out of pro-

test politics. He had done his thing and now he was making his peace with imperialism.

But what about Jerry Rubin, the Yippie clown who once ran a pig for president and took delight in the Chicago bloodbath?

He's also been running recently — straight into the arms of the Stalinist-progressive Democrat popular front.

Apparently Rubin thinks that 'we're all in a heap of trouble' and that 'everyone's gotta work and unite, from Yippies and liberals to farther S liberals to defeat Nixon'.

Rubin plans to bring a million people to San Diego during the Republican convention to 'show up screaming "No! No! No!"'.

'Everyone should come sort of reviving the innocence, the beauty, the morality, the spirit, the naïveté of the early civil rights movement... a million people singing "We Shall Overcome" at the Republican convention,' declaims Yippie Rubin.

What? Defeat Nixon? Good. But how? You've guessed it — vote Democrat!

Well... it certainly is a short road from Chicago 1968 and protest against the Johnson regime of genocide in Vietnam to support of the same crew against Nixon's gang of murderers.

The degenerate American Communist Party has found a new ally.

Its policy of a popular front with 'left' trade union leaders, and, through them, 'progressive' Democrats, will make a nice, new suit of clothes for Rubin.

The Yippies are coming home fast.



September 1968, Daley sends in the police

by Philip Wade

Reaction to docks fight

THE 80-DAY cooling-off period imposed on W coast dockers in October by President Nixon expired on Christmas Day.

Officials of the International Longshoremen Workers' Union (ILWU) have so far failed to force a settlement of the dispute which shut down W coast docks for 100 days during the summer.

But the union leaders' constant retreat has brought a promise from them that there will be no official renewal of the strike at least until January 10.

Nevertheless, the rank and file are determined to win a guaranteed wage for 40 hours and the right to handle containerized cargo and have threatened another strike.

The American bourgeoisie fears the possibility of the dockers

regaining the momentum of their 100-per-cent strike which was joined by E coast and Gulf dockers.

Nixon would have to get special legislation passed through Congress if the government wanted to call a halt to the strike once more.

Fearing the spread of the strike to other sections of workers opposed to Nixon's wage freeze, the government and the capitalist press have launched a vicious campaign in the NW to smash the ILWU.

Playing on the frustrations evolving out of the clash between dockers and employers, the newspapers have blamed the workers for the plight of wheat farmers.

The growers contend that they were hurt by the loss of grain dumped on the ground and by the loss of Asian markets in Canada and Australia since the strike earlier this year.

The truth is that only 1 per

cent of the wheat was lost and few sales disappeared.

Nevertheless, the capitalist press is encouraging a hysterical campaign by big ranchers aimed directly at smashing the union.

Congressmen have been contacted and told to bring in legislation banning long strikes by requiring binding arbitration. The Oregon Farm Bureau Federation has called for state governments to open and run docks closed by strikes.

A Farmers' Political Action Committee has been formed. Leaflets issued by this sinister group have included demands for call to arms and a 'plunge into battle'.

Listen to the paranoid outbursts of the US far-right in this leaflet:

'Those of us on the parapet have tears of frustration streaming down our cheeks; we have the enemy in an impossible position, our siege guns are in place

and it is almost time for the first assault waves to go over. "AND WE HAVE NO AMMUNITION — get it to us, NOW!"

Despite these severe warnings, the union leaders have performed a criminal role on the question of moving the grain.

Three of them recently toured Asia with state government officials and grain growers to see the impact of the strike on eastern markets.

In doing so they accepted that the dockers were responsible for the situation and not the employers for refusing to pay a decent wage.

The longshoremen of both W and E coasts will learn quickly during the coming battles the real role of the union bureaucrats.

Already there is a strong rank-and-file movement for linking up their struggle with the fight to overthrow Nixon.

TODAY'S PROGRAMMES

BBC 1

12.00 Days of thrills and laughter. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45 News. 1.55 Out of school. 2.50 The Partridge family. 3.15 Playschool. 3.35 Jackanory. 3.50 The story of the silver skates. 5.30 Ask Aspel. 5.57 News, weather.

6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.
6.15 BRUCE FORSYTH AND THE GENERATION GAME.
7.00 THE VIRGINIAN.
8.15 TOM JONES.

9.00 NEWS and weather.
9.15 FILM: 'WHAT'S NEW PUSSYCAT?' Peter Sellers, Peter O'Toole, Romy Schneider, Capucine. 20th century man's obsession with sex.
11.00 TOP OF THE YEAR. Frankie Howerd sees in the New Year. Michael Aspel, the Variety Club Awards.

BBC 2

11.00 Playschool.
7.30 NEWSROOM.
8.00 THE FATHER OF EUROPE. Profile of Jean Monnet.
9.15 COME FISHING.
9.35 THE GOODIES.



ITV 7.30 p.m. The Persuaders

10.05 REVIEW. Musical on Lenny Bruce. Helen Bradley's paintings.
10.55 NEWS, weather.
11.00 FILM: 'THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE'. Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey, Janet Leigh. American officers released from N Korea.

ITV

12.40 Gurkha. 1.25 Country visit. 1.35 Film: 'Will Any Gentleman?' 3.10 Treasures of the British Museum. 3.40 Pinky and Perky. 3.55 Drive-in. 4.25 Matinee. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Atom Ant. 5.50 News.
6.00 RIPTIDE: 'ONE WAY TO NOWHERE'. Ty Hardin.
7.00 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.
7.30 THE PERSUADERS: 'A HOME OF ONE'S OWN'. Tony Curtis, Roger Moore.
8.30 THE FENN STREET GANG.
9.00 NEWS.
9.30 FILM: 'BUNNY LAKE IS MISSING'. Laurence Olivier, Carol Lynley, Noel Coward. Mystery of a missing child.
11.30 HAPPY AULD YEAR.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 4.05 Pinky and Perky. 4.20 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.25 Smith family. 4.55 Land of the giants. 5.30 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Channel report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 12.15 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun show. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 9.30 Film: 'Fanatic'. 11.15 Miss Westward. 12.05 News. 12.08 Faith for life. 12.15 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 3.35 Horoscope. 3.40 Women. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.23 Redheaded monkey. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Richard the Lionheart. 5.25 Get this. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Out of town. 7.00 London. 8.30 Dick Van Dyke. 9.00 London. 12.15 News. 12.25 Weather. It's all yours.

HARLECH: 1.35 Forever my love. 3.50 Women only. 4.15 Entertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Cowboy West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 London. 9.30 Film: 'See You in Hell Darling'. 11.30 London. 12.15 Weather.

HTV West as above except: 6.01-6.35 Report West.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 6.01-6.18 V Dydd.

ANGLIA: 1.50 Mr Piper. 2.15 Stars are singing. 3.55 Survival. 4.25 Newsroom. 4.30 Romper Room. 4.50 Bottom of the sea. 5.30 News. 6.00 about Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Buccaneers. 5.20 Secrets of the deep. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Fenn St gang. 7.30 London. 8.30 Jinty. 9.00 News. 9.30 Film: 'See You in Hell Darling'. 11.30 London.

ULSTER: 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 News. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 Theatre of stars. 8.20 Cartoon time. 8.30 London. 9.30 Film: 'Modesty Blaise'. Monica Vitti, Terence Stamp, Dirk Bogarde. 11.30 Hogmanay.

GRANADA: 3.45 All our yesterdays. 4.10 News. Film: 'Green Fingers'. 5.50 News. 6.00 Newsway. Police file. 6.20 Sylvester. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Lucy. 7.30 London.

TYNE TEES: 2.00 Pimpernel Smith. 4.05 Newsroom. 4.10 Pinky and Perky. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 9.30 Film: 'The Grip of Fear'. 11.30 Party for Hogmanay. 12.45 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 3.31 News. 3.34 Cartoon time. 3.45 Pinky and Perky. 3.55 Yoga. 4.25 Land of the giants. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.30 Hogan's heroes. 9.00 News. 9.30 Film: 'The Moving Target'. Paul Newman. 11.25 Dickie Henderson's Hogmanay.

Pressure on Hull to end labour scheme

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HULL PORT employers who have experienced a disastrous trading year want radical changes in the labour regulations that safeguard dockers from unemployment.

The bad year is blamed on the continuing slump in world trade. Two port employers have gone out of business in as many months and New Year starts with 466 dockers surplus to requirements.

This means employers must pay them the standard fall-back rate guaranteed under the 1947 National Dock Labour Scheme.

The most authoritative voice of Britain's dock employers, the daily 'Journal of Commerce' has this to say about the crisis: 'The situation in the port of Hull with regard to surplus dock labour continues to be a source of considerable concern. The fact that after the Christmas holidays there are still more men than work is an indication that an answer must be sought to the problem. There is a need in Hull and other ports for a realization that the world does not owe them a living.'

HANDSHAKE

One way Hull employers have attempted to cut down their labour force is to offer men 'golden handshakes' to leave the industry.

But this has failed. And on Wednesday £2,000 maximum severance pay offer ran out with only 60 men accepting the money—less than half the number desired by employers.

Demands are therefore growing from port employers in Hull and elsewhere for a fight to get rid of the 1947 scheme entirely.

It is not the first time that the employers have lobbied for such a change. In autumn last year a series of secret talks between top dock employers and Transport and General Workers' Union leaders Jack Jones and Tim O'Leary took place on the future of the ports.

At one lunch in Liverpool's most exclusive hotel, dock employers came away with a

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Monday January 3 8 pm

Swan Hotel, London Rd Speaker: Alex Mitchell

GLASGOW

Monday January 17 7.30 pm

Room 1 Partickburgh Lesser Hall (Nr Merkland St Tube Stn.)

Speaker: Stephen Johns

Meet Editorial Board speakers. Discuss your ideas for the expanded paper

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Monday January 3 8 pm

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Ulster internees tell of new torture

ALLEGATIONS of a 'new phase in brutality' against internees in N Ireland have been made this week.

Three prisoners at present on remand at Armagh jail have revealed details of 'heat treatment' and painful tortures meted out to them at Palace Barracks, Holywood, and Girwood Barracks, in the week before Christmas.

All three men were interviewed on Christmas Eve by a Dungannon priest who has issued a statement.

'Two of the men,' he says, 'Dominic Mallon and Eddie McCaffrey, from the Glan Rd area of Belfast, underwent the following treatment at Holywood Barracks: 'Slapping of ears, rabbit punching to the back of the neck, standing against a wall with two fingers in a "stress" position while being beaten in the stomach with fists by two officers for two periods, one hour before lunch and several hours after lunch. [Part of this took place in darkness.]

Involvement in the torturing, the men allege, were members of the Special Branch of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and an Englishman who said he was a member of the Special Air Services corps.

The two say they were also threatened with a gun and a knife and were struck in the stomach with straight fingers and the elbow.

The third man, Joseph Rafferty, from the Markets area of Belfast, told about torture he suffered in the Girwood Barracks on December 21 and 22.

Firstly, he was pressed into a confined stall with his head to the wall for a lengthy period. Then he was stretched against the wall on finger tips while

three young Special Branch men kicked his feet away so he fell on the ground. Rafferty says he was next put standing over a radiator, with the heat turned up full, hit on the back of the neck and in the stomach, his feet kicked away so that he fell and hit his head against a radiator, knocking him unconscious.

On Wednesday, December 22, he was made to face the wall in a 'stress' position, beaten about the stomach by four Special Branch men—three young ones and an elderly man—using their fists.

Finally, Rafferty says, he was stretched over a chair and a bench with an electric fire turned on full in front of him and another electric fire to the rear.

While he was suffering excessive heat in this position, he was kicked in the stomach. This continued for a long time until he signed a statement regarding something he did not do.

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Rafferty's solicitor is trying to get an independent doctor to see him.

Lighted cigarette pushed in mouth, nose and ears

BELFAST dockworker Jim McDonnell has reported how he was tortured when picked up by an army patrol on his way to work on December 4.

The patrol was interrogating two men and a crowd had gathered to watch. For no apparent reason, he was then called over and interrogated with abusive language.

After half-an-hour he was bundled into a Saracen armoured car and a form of torture commenced which lasted for two-and-a-half hours.

He was made to lie on his stomach, his face was kicked and his head beaten. He says the soldiers then asked him what his religion was and on being told he was a Catholic, one soldier replied:

'Well that makes you a f... Fenian, don't it?'

One soldier was apparently more hostile than the others and tried to make him sing the 'Sash' and the National Anthem after him.

A cigarette was then put on his lip, in his nostril, in both ears and on his hand. He was made to lie on his stomach and urinated upon.

At one stage an unloaded gun was placed in his mouth, breaking a tooth. The trigger was pulled.

Afterwards he was taken to York St station where he was photographed and charged with assault and having an offensive weapon.

Jim then produced his 'offensive weapon'—a dockworker's hook, one of the tools of his trade.

Sale threat cuts press jobs in Glasgow

NEWSPAPER workers in Glasgow who face over 10-per-cent redundancies now fear they may be 'hived off' to Britain's biggest press barons.

Concern that the 'Glasgow Herald' and 'Evening Times' may be victims in a re-organization planned by the publishers, George Outram & Co, is growing after unions, representing a thousand employees, met management to hear of economies that would mean 150 redundancies.

More significant, say union organizers, was Outram's decision to separate the papers off and re-form them as an individual firm under Scottish Universal Investments Ltd—the holding company for the papers' ultimate boss, young Tory Sir Hugh Fraser.

At one tense moment during the talks, a union leader asked what would happen if the plan was not accepted by the employees.

The reply was that a £3.5m joint bid for the two papers from Beaverbrook and Thomson (owners of rival Scottish papers) would be 'seriously considered'.

Journalists now think that the rumours of such a sale were drummed up to force through the cuts.

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It also parcels the papers up ready for bigger press groups if or should one say when—Fraser wants to sell.

THE EUROPEAN Common Market is seriously eroding the world trading system by 'tragic and unjustified barriers' against food imports, claims Peter Peterson, one of President Nixon's most influential economic advisers.

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'Discriminatory arrangements have proliferated in the last few years,' he says, 'and the forces that lead towards splitting up the world into blocks of influence threaten both the basic foundations of the post-war trading system and the non-discriminatory basis of political-economic relations which have been of such benefit.'

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Brandt and Nixon look for Soviet concessions

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

On the question of the European Security Conference, for which Moscow is pressing, Nixon is extremely reserved.

The Moscow visit will give him a better opportunity to assess the bureaucracy's intentions and he does not want Brandt to jump the gun.

Brandt's position is that agreement on German relations shows that it is worthwhile to negotiate with the Soviet Union because the bureaucracy is ready to make concessions.

The big economic differences between Germany and the US over the dollar and the international monetary crisis did not figure prominently in the talks, although they were constantly in the background.

Economics Minister Karl Schiller did not take part in the talks. Brandt's companion on this occasion was his Foreign Minister Walter Scheel.

Another outstanding problem is the Common Market agricultural prices policy, which the Americans oppose because it will cut down their exports.

With his eye on the reaction of German farmers, Brandt is unlikely to be able to give assurances on this score.

Nixon's next summit meeting will be with Japanese Foreign Minister Eisaku Sato, next week.

Nixon man warns of trade-war tariffs

Peterson sheds crocodile tears on behalf of the Latin American countries who are the worst victims of US trade policy.

He goes on to warn, or threaten: 'The United States cannot for long be expected to adhere to the principle of non-discrimination when so large a breach in that principle has been made.'

He means that the US is preparing to retaliate with measures of trade war which could include quotas on

European imports similar to those operated against textiles from Japan and other countries.

If the Common Market agricultural price policy is not modified to suit American needs, the US will go into action with its big guns of trade war.

What holds it back is the fear of retaliation. Agriculture is a vulnerable part of the US economy suffering from chronic over-production.

Devaluation hits UK firms' profits...

MAJOR UK companies earning a high proportion of their profits in the United States will be hard hit by the dollar devaluation, say financial commentators.

The Bowater Paper group, for example, earns 61 per cent of its profits in the US. British American

Tobacco's proportion is 43 per cent, Shell 26 per cent and Beecham 18 per cent.

Their forthcoming balance sheets will show a reduced level of sterling earnings and assets because of the devalued dollar, says the 'City Press'.

British insurance com-

panies will also suffer. Half the General Accident net premiums come from North America.

These figures show the real cash meaning for British capitalism now that President Nixon has opened the trade war.

...and Latin America

THE DOLLAR devaluation will also have a damaging effect on the economies of Latin American countries and paralyse their development.

Even reactionary and pro-imperialist governments have been moved to protest.

Columbian President Misael Pastrana Borrero sent a telegram to President Nixon immediately saying that the measures taken will result in a further deterioration in the terms of trade of the poorer countries.

He complained that their interests had not been considered when the revaluation of currencies took place and they had not even been consulted.

The dollar reserves of these countries will lose part of their value and it will be more difficult for them to carry out their investment plans.

The Bolivian military regime also believes that the devaluation of the dollar will have a negative effect on the economy, especially mining.

Machinery and other items which have to be purchased from abroad will go up in price.

General Roglio Miranda, Director of the State Mining Agency, who made these points, added a criticism of the US decision to throw large reserves of zinc onto the world market.

THE 'LITTLE, UNAMBITIOUS, LAWYER' MAKES THE PRESIDENCY

LEONE

ACCORDING to his beautiful wife Vittoria, Giovanni Leone has a major fault—he's got no ambition. Another is that he forgets offences easily. 'He is capable of shaking hands with someone who played a dirty trick on him only the day before.'

Yet on Wednesday 63-year-old ex-army colonel and prosperous lawyer Leone stepped into office as sixth president of the Republic of Italy with a salary of £20,000 a year.

Not bad for a man without ambition. Though his wife hasn't caught on, Leone's 'faults' are virtues in a country where the political machine is persistently paralysed by rival political groups.

His election was itself subject to 23 ballots in the electoral college spread over more than two weeks.

The new President is not as apparently naive as his wife. He says: 'The best politicians are lawyers capable of insulting each other in court and then going out to dinner together.'

Bitter election

An ability to embrace former enemies was a distinct advantage in the bitterest and longest presidential election since the war.

Press reports described this hallmark of the shrewd, hard-headed politician as 'a sense of humour that has helped him to ride out even the most dire political intrigues.'

Leone has astutely stood aside from factional quarrels, built himself a reputation at party level as a 'moderator pre-eminent' and come forward twice in 1963 and 1968 to lead Italian capitalism through 'difficult times'.

Almost the first words of his inaugural speech at the Montecitorio Palace were:

Italy's man to strengthen right wing



Big change

The configuration of Italian politics has changed considerably since he last stood for the presidency seven years ago when he was defeated because of dissension within the Christian Democratic Party itself.

Notably the world crisis of capitalism has steadily worsened—not least in Italy—and Leone's election points to the bourgeoisie moving to close ranks in the face of continuing social turmoil and uncertainty.

Perhaps significantly, in his inaugural speech Leone laid less stress on solving Italy's social, political, economic and cultural problems than upon coping with their consequences.

He blamed the 'failure of the nation's institutions' for public uncertainty and insecurity, called for a 'renunciation of methods of violence and intolerance' and warned that problems had to be handled in a 'civil and democratic manner'.

In other words the only way to steer the ship of Italian capitalism through the present stormy seas is to insist that nobody rocks the boat.

Leone is certainly the man for the job. A lawyer by profession he is a meticulous administrator with a profound knowledge and respect for regulations.

Reputation

In the eight years after 1955 he built a reputation as a well-informed and exceptionally fast speaker in his capacity as Presiding Officer of the Chamber of Deputies.

In his farewell message ex-President Saragat said of him:

'As an eminent jurist, as head of government, as Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, as Life Senator you have always given proof

of your fervid adhesion to the principles of liberty and justice which inspire the constitution of the Republic.'

By far the most outstanding aspect of Leone's election is that he has succeeded in unifying the Italian right, winning the presidency without the aid of a single communist or socialist vote.

He won by retaining the support of the Republicans, who, although they are outside the government, nevertheless back the coalition, rallying the Liberals and possibly, as the Socialists claim, by securing the votes of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement Party (MSI).

Although they are part of the ruling centre-left coalition, which also includes Christian Democrats, and Social Democrats, the Socialists united with the Communist Party to block the election of a Christian Democrat to the presidency.

The Socialists are almost certainly correct in their claim that there has been a shift to the right and that Leone's election is part of a manoeuvre to turn the government into a centre-right coalition.

Firm stand

Drawing confidence from the neo-fascist upsurge in the elections last July, the Christian Democrats opted for a firm stand against the Socialists, the obvious dangers of the prolonged confrontation forcing the left wing of the party into line—however temporarily.

Despite their tactical defeat the Socialists have decided to remain in the government and Prime Minister Emilio Colombo has accepted President Leone's invitation to continue in office.

But things will not go on as if nothing had happened. The right has been considerably strengthened and the Republicans stand to gain support for their demand for a wholesale revision of government policy—a demand which must put the socialists on the spot.

When parliament reconvenes next month, the polarization of class forces, which Leone's election heralds, must begin in earnest.

Socialist Labour League Special Course of lectures

following ATUA National Conference decision to prepare for the building of the Party

SUNDAY JANUARY 2

Historical Materialism today

BEAVER HALL, GARLICK HILL (Nr Mansion House tube) 7 p.m.

given by G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Make the Tory government resign!

Return a Labour government pledged to restore full employment and repeal all laws against the unions!

READING: Monday January 3, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, Minster St. Discuss ATUA Manifesto.

BIRKENHEAD: Tuesday January 4, 8 p.m. Music Hall Hotel. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.

SW LONDON: Tuesday January 4, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4. Tory government conspiracy.

W LONDON: Tuesday January 4, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Rd. Make the Tories resign.

CROYDON: Thursday January 6, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd, E Croydon. Right-to-Work campaign.

OXFORD: (Joint meeting with Young Socialists) Sunday January 9, 7.30 p.m. 'Cape of Good Hope', The Plain. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.

WILLESDEN: Monday January 10, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Rd. Support the miners.

BRACKNELL: Tuesday January 11, 7.30 p.m. 'Red Lion', High St. Discuss ATUA Manifesto.

BEXLEYHEATH: Tuesday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Upton', Crook Log. Trade unions and basic rights.

DAGENHAM: Wednesday January 12, 8 p.m. Room 11, East Ham Town Hall. The struggle for socialism in Bangla Desh.

LATE NEWS

ONE OF Britain's leading tool manufacturers, Stanley Works (Great Britain) Ltd, in Sheffield, is putting 450 workers on short-time from today. Workers will go on a four-day week at the company's Woodside plant, a company spokesman said.

He blamed the present depressed state of world trade. The firm was going through the worst business phase it had known, he added.

Government figures issued at the beginning of this month showed net new orders for machine tools for the first nine months of this year were 33 per cent down on the same period last year.

CHINESE Foreign Ministry has expressed its 'utmost indignation' in a somewhat belated statement about the US bombing raids on N Vietnam.

On the same day, however, the New China News Agency also announced the visit of President Nixon's advance party, including press officer Ronald Ziegler. The party is in Peking to make final arrangements for Nixon's visit in February.

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

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4

Rolls

FROM PAGE ONE

in negotiating with local management at Bristol.

The workers struck on November 1 demanding a £5 cost-of-living increase, basing their claim on a clause in the factory deal agreed last year.

Nearly 6,000 hourly-paid workers at Rolls-Royce factories in Scotland are to ban overtime from tomorrow.

The move, which could hinder production of the RB211 engine for the Lockheed TriStar Airbus, follows a breakdown in talks between shop stewards and management on a new pay and conditions deal.

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

SCOTLAND, N Ireland, NW England and W Wales will remain dry with bright spells by day and clear spells at night. England, except the NW, and E Wales, will be rather cloudy and most parts will have wintry showers.

SE England may have rather more prolonged sleet or rain later.

It will be cold or very cold and frost is likely at night in many N and W parts.

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Some rain or snow at times in the S, dry in the N and NW. Continuing cold in the S but near normal temperatures in the N.

WEATHER

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Pressure on Hull to end labour scheme

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HULL PORT employers who have experienced a disastrous trading year want radical changes in the labour regulations that safeguard dockers from unemployment.

The bad year is blamed on the continuing slump in world trade. Two port employers have gone out of business in as many months and New Year starts with 466 dockers surplus to requirements.

This means employers must pay them the standard fall-back rate guaranteed under the 1947 National Dock Labour Scheme.

The most authoritative voice of Britain's dock employers, the daily 'Journal of Commerce' has this to say about the crisis:

'The situation in the port of Hull with regard to surplus dock labour continues to be a source of considerable concern. The fact that after the Christmas holidays there are still more men than work is an indication that an answer must be sought to the problem.

... There is a need in Hull and other ports for a realization that the world does not owe them a living.'

HANDSHAKE

One way Hull employers have attempted to cut down their labour force is to offer men 'golden handshakes' to leave the industry.

But this has failed. And on Wednesday £2,000 maximum severance pay offer ran out with only 60 men accepting the money—less than half the number desired by employers.

Demands are therefore growing from port employers in Hull and elsewhere for a fight to get rid of the 1947 scheme entirely.

This could precipitate the biggest docks battle at least since the war because dockers see in the scheme the sheet anchor of all their rights.

It is not the first time that the employers have lobbied for such a change. In autumn last year a series of secret talks between top dock employers and Transport and General Workers' Union leaders Jack Jones and Tim O'Leary took place on the future of the ports.

At one lunch in Liverpool's most exclusive hotel, dock employers came away with a

Right to Work Committee
SHEFFIELD
Wednesday, January 5
7.30 p.m.
YS premises, Portobello
(Nr Jessop Hospital)

workers press
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LATENEWS
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firm impression that Jones and O'Leary were ready to 'talk turkey' over the abolition of the scheme. The union chiefs had to admit to these meetings after they had been exclusively exposed in the Workers Press.

WITHDRAWAL
They denied, however, that they had any intention of negotiating any withdrawal of the National Dock Labour Scheme.

The behaviour did rouse anger among dockers. Many pointed out that the official policy of the T&GWW's docks and waterways committee was for the nationalization of the ports.

Fewer jobs in Eire

REDUNDANCIES in the Irish Republic are expected to be about 9,000 for 1971, says a report out this week.

This is an increase of over 6,000 in the figures for 1970. 7,934 were notified in the first 11 months and the December figures are expected to be at least 1,000 more.

For October and November, redundancies were 1,253 and 1,064 respectively.

Over 71,000 people—over 8.1 per cent of the working population of the 26 counties—are now unemployed.

In the Dublin area alone, 3,277 redundancies were notified to the Department of Labour from the city's four employment exchange areas in the period between January 1 and November 30.

Service industries have been hardest hit.

Of the workers who became redundant in the first nine months of the year, 751 were in the food, drink and tobacco trades and 578 in distributive trades. During the same period 2,907 fewer jobs were declared in manufacturing industry. The textile industry, a victim of the world recession, accounted for 961 of these.

The worsening unemployment situation in Eire is expected to be discussed shortly by a special joint meeting of the Irish parliamentary Labour Party and the executive council of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

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SUBSTANTIAL agreement was claimed to have been reached after the two-day meeting between President Nixon and W German Chancellor Willy Brandt. 'The state of German-American relations are excellent,' Nixon said as he saw off his guest.

Nixon agreed that the US would maintain its present troop level in Europe and make no reduction without co-operation with its allies.

This follows the recent decision by European NATO countries to pay a bigger defence contribution. W Germany, in particular, is to pay more towards upkeep of US bases to help save dollars.

So Nixon is pledged not to negotiate bilateral reductions with the Soviet Union when he visits Moscow in May.

The two leaders agreed that their separate approaches to the Russians complemented rather than conflicted with each other.

Washington has been watching Brandt's 'Ostpolitik' with some concern. Opening up relations with E Germany and with the Soviet Union means big possibilities for trade and investment for German capitalism.

Brandt's position is that it is worthwhile to negotiate with the Soviet bureaucracy because it is ready to make concessions.

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Freight rates up 15 p.c.

WORLD TRADE will receive another blow in February when shipping lines operating between Britain and the American W coast impose a 15-per-cent emergency surcharge and freight rates.

The surcharge will be levied by members of the two Atlantic freighting associations, they say, to offset the loss of revenue sustained during the recent dockers' strike on the Pacific coast.

Negotiations to solve the dispute, which affects US

W coast ports, are now entering a key stage. Members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union were due to strike last Sunday when the 80-day 'cooling-off' injunction on their dispute under the US Tariff-Hartley Act ended.

But the union has agreed to an extension of the existing contract until January 10. Meanwhile ILWU negotiators are confronting the Pacific Maritime Association in San Francisco.

THE 'LITTLE, UNAMBITIOUS, LAWYER' MAKES THE PRESIDENCY

LEONE

ACCORDING to his beautiful wife Vittoria, Giovanni Leone has a major fault—he's got no ambition. Another is that he forgets offences easily. 'He is capable of shaking hands with someone who played a dirty trick on him only the day before.'

Yet on Wednesday 63-year-old ex-army colonel and prosperous lawyer Leone stepped into office as sixth president of the Republic of Italy with a salary of £20,000 a year.

Not bad for a man without ambition. Though his wife hasn't caught on, Leone's 'faults' are virtues in a country where the political machine is persistently paralysed by rival political groups.

His election was itself subject to 20 ballots in the electoral college spread over more than two weeks.

The new President is not as apparently naive as his wife. He says: 'The best politicians are lawyers capable of rebutting each other in court and then going out to dinner together.'

Bitter election

An ability to embrace fiercer enemies was a distinct advantage in the bitter and longest presidential election since the war.

Press reports described this hallmark of the shrewd, hard-headed politician as a sense of humour that has helped him to ride out even the most dire political intrigues.

Leone has astutely stood aside from factious quarrels, built himself a reputation at party level as a 'moderator pre-eminent' and come forward twice in 1963 and 1968 to lead Italian capitalism through 'difficult times'.

Almost the first words of his inaugural speech at the Montecitorio Palace were:

Big change

The configuration of Italian politics has changed considerably since he last stood for the presidency seven years ago when he was defeated because of dissension within the Christian Democratic Party itself.

Notably the world crisis of capitalism has steadily worsened—not least in Italy—and Leone's election points to the bourgeoisie moving to close ranks in the face of continuing social turmoil and uncertainty.

Perhaps significantly, in his inaugural speech Leone laid less stress on solving Italy's social, political, economic and cultural problems than upon coping with their consequences.

He blamed the 'failure of the nation's institutions' for public uncertainty and insecurity, called for a 'renunciation of methods of violence and intolerance' and warned that problems had to be handled in a 'civil and democratic manner'.

In other words the only way to steer the ship of Italian capitalism through the present stormy seas is to insist that nobody rocks the boat.

Leone is certainly the man for the job. A lawyer by profession he is a meticulous administrator with a profound knowledge and respect for regulations.

Reputation

In the eight years after 1955 he built a reputation as a well-informed and exceptionally fast speaker in his capacity as Presiding Officer of the Chamber of Deputies.

In his farewell message ex-President Saragat said of him:

'As an eminent jurist, as head of government, as Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, as Life Senator you have always given proof

...and Latin America

THE DOLLAR devaluation will also have a damaging effect on the economies of Latin American countries and paralyse their development.

Even reactionary and pro-imperialist governments have been moved to protest.

Colombian President Misael Pastrana Borrero sent a telegram to President Nixon immediately saying that the measures taken will result in a further deterioration in the terms of trade of the poorer countries.

He complained that their interests had not been considered when the revaluation of currencies took place and they had not even been consulted.

The Bolivian military regime also believes that the devaluation of the dollar will have a negative effect on the economy, especially mining.

Machinery and other items which have to be purchased from abroad will go up in price.

General Roglio Miranda, Director of the State Mining Agency, who made these points, added a criticism of the US decision to throw large reserves of zinc onto the world market.



Italy's man to strengthen right wing

'It is necessary to discover that which unites instead of losing oneself searching for that which divides.'

Descriptions of Leone as a 'balanced' and 'honest' do no more than trace the qualities of a consistent right winger who, above all else, has made national unity and social stability his platform.

By far the most outstanding aspect of Leone's election is that he has succeeded in unifying the Italian right, winning the presidency without the aid of a single communist or socialist vote.

He won by retaining the support of the Republicans, who, although they are outside the government, nevertheless back the coalition, rallying the Liberals and possibly, as the Socialists claim, by securing the votes of the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement Party (MSI).

Although they are part of the ruling centre-left coalition, which also includes Christian Democrats, and Social Democrats, the Socialists united with the Communist Party to block the election of a Christian Democrat to the presidency.

The Socialists are almost certainly correct in their claim that there has been a shift to the right and that Leone's election is part of a manoeuvre to turn the government into a centre-right coalition.

Firm stand

Drawing confidence from the neo-fascist upsurge in the local elections last July, the Christian Democrats opted for a firm stand against the Socialists, the obvious dangers of the prolonged confrontation forcing the left wing of the party into line—however temporarily.

Despite their tactical defeat the Socialists have decided to remain in the government and Prime Minister Emilio Colombo has accepted President Leone's invitation to continue in office.

But things will not go on as they have happened. The right has been considerably strengthened and the Republicans stand to gain support for their demand for a wholesome revision of government policy—a demand which must put the socialists on the spot.

When parliament reconvenes next month, the polarization of class forces, which Leone's election heralds, must begin in earnest.

Socialist Labour League
Special Course of lectures
following ATUA National Conference decision to prepare for the building of the Party
SUNDAY JANUARY 2
Historical Materialism today
BEAVER HALL, GARLICK HILL
(Nr Mansion House tube) 7 p.m.
given by
G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS
Make the Tory government resign!
Return a Labour government pledged to restore full employment and repeal all laws against the unions!
READING: Monday January 3, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, Minster St. Discuss ATUA Manifesto.
BIRKENHEAD: Tuesday January 4, 8 p.m. Music Hall Hotel. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.
SW LONDON: Tuesday January 4, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4. Tory government conspiracy.
W LONDON: Tuesday January 4, 8 p.m. Prince Albert, Whitechapel Rd. Make the Tories resign.
CROYDON: Thursday January 6, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd, E Croydon. Right-to-Work campaign.
OXFORD. (Joint meeting with Young Socialists): Sunday January 3, 7.30 p.m. 'Cape of Good Hope'. The Plain. 'Right-to-Work' campaign.
WILLESDEN: Monday January 11, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Rd. Support the miners.
BRACKNELL: Tuesday January 11, 7.30 p.m. 'Red Lion', High St. Discuss ATUA Manifesto.
BEXLEYHEATH: Tuesday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Upton', Crook Log. Trade unions and basic rights.
DAGENHAM: Wednesday January 12, 8 p.m. Room 11, East Ham Town Hall. The struggle for socialism in Bangla Desh.