

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY MARCH 17, 1972 ● No. 716 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## DEFEND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS HANDS OFF I.S.

ULSTER TODAY, Britain tomorrow! Only hours after Harold Wilson's sinister overtures to Heath on Ulster, the Tory government gave the Labour bureaucrat a foretaste of its much awaited 'political initiatives' by an unprecedented raid of Special Branch officers on 60 homes in London and the provinces.

These included the homes of four leading International Socialism members. The removal of documents belonging to the IS is irrefutable evidence that the Tories are cynically using the Aldershot bombing as a pretext to intimidate and accumulate information on radical groups not even remotely connected with the IRA as a preparation for the implementation of the Industrial Relations Act.

It is a well-known fact that Scotland Yard receives a copy of every radical and revolutionary journal published in Britain.

It is also an open secret—revealed clearly during the Dutschke deportation—that the Special Branch taps the phones, and opens the mail of many left-wing organizations.

This is apart from its more shady operations in penetrating left-wing organizations with its agents and provocateurs—as it does on a large scale in Ireland particularly.

It is equally well-known that the IS paper, 'Socialist Worker', has publicly dissociated itself from the Aldershot bombing and opposed the IRA, albeit from a reformist standpoint, on many issues.

The IS group is not guilty of instigating or supporting the Aldershot bombing.

The Tory cabinet knows this too, but it is not concerned about the truth. It is only concerned to create a state of patriotic hysteria and stir up the middle class into a frenzy against trade union militants as well as radical and revolutionary groups.

In this way it hopes to push through its plans for open collaboration with the right-wing Labourites and the TUC leaders in entering the Common Market and carrying out the terms of the Industrial Relations Act.

The Tories think they can act with impunity, unprecedented even in the period before 1926, because they have got the Labour leaders—both right and left—crawling obsequiously and looking for a 'dialogue' with Heath.

That is why they contemptuously turned down Eric Heffer's plea for an emergency debate on the raids.

Why should the Tories worry about the Labour 'lefts' craven antics when these unprincipled reformists are not prepared to call for the withdrawal of troops from Ireland and the expulsion of Jenkins from the Parliamentary Labour Party?

This latest raid is a barefaced assault on the basic democratic rights of the working class. Regardless of our serious theoretical differences with IS, and without abandoning them for one moment, we appeal to the entire trade union and labour movement to treat this anti-working-class action with the utmost seriousness and urgency.

This is only the begin-

ning of a process which, if unchallenged, would lead to the destruction of working-class organizations and the creation of a ruthless police dictatorship.

Every trade unionist, every worker who values his basic democratic rights must unconditionally defend the IS and other victims of this Tory-inspired conspiracy.

They must demand that their union leaders cease their 'dialogue' with Heath immediately and that they defend, with all the resources of the unions, trade unionists and political groups against the persecution of the capitalist state.

March 16, 1972

### Statement by the Political Committee of the SLL

### Arrest assurances

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Norman Atkinson, MP for Tottenham, complained that one of his constituents, Seamus O'Kane, had been arrested at his home in London on Wednesday.

'The police insisted Mr O'Kane had been arrested under powers given to them by the Special Powers in N Ireland.'

The searches carried out by police in London on

Wednesday in connection with the Aldershot explosion were 'carried out in accordance with the law,' said Leader of the House William Whitelaw during business questions in the Commons yesterday.

Leader of the Opposition Harold Wilson, asked for a statement next week on the raid.

Eric Heffer (Lab, Walton) said there had been political implications in some of the raids and urged a statement by the Home Secretary.

### Steel men control GKN plant

BY STEPHEN JOHNS.

ONE THOUSAND steel workers in the Manchester area took unilateral action over the engineers' pay claim when they began controlling their Bredbury plant yesterday.

The dispute began when a mass meeting of workers voted to take immediate action ahead of other workers in the S Manchester area.

They originally decided to work to rule and refuse overtime.

This was two weeks before other factories in the region began action for a big wage increase, better conditions and hours.

There was then a shop-floor confrontation when men refused to handle documents, production stopped and workers were clocked-off.

Workers' committees were set up and a 24-hour shift system introduced to guard the plant.

Bernard Regan, district secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said:

'Nothing is being allowed in or out of the factory. It is sealed up tight. Everything is being kept under the control of the shop stewards. Production is at a standstill.'

The action will have a powerful impact on engineering industry workers in the Manchester area.

They are poised for battle over the claim and were originally discussing strike action.

This was watered down by the local AUEW leadership, however to a ban on overtime and a work to rule.

The Bredbury works—a rolling mill and part of the giant GKN engineering combine—is among the biggest plants in the S Manchester area.

Militancy there has been increased over recent months.

Two weeks ago production workers staged a spontaneous one-day sympathy strike in support of white-collar workers.

### Ceylon alert

POLICE and armed forces in Ceylon have been put on the alert, according to reports from New Delhi.

All leave for police and military personnel has been cancelled with immediate effect.

New Delhi radio comments: 'Although no reason has been given for the action, it is believed that this has been done as a precaution against any possible recurrence of violence and left-wing insurrection which was faced by that country a year ago.'

'It may be recalled that the island is still under a state of emergency, clamped down in March last year when the first signs of insurgency became evident.'



### Building workers lobby pay talks

BY IAN YEATS

ABOUT 30 building workers from all over Britain lobbied pay talks at the Bedford Square headquarters of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers yesterday.

The men are demanding a reduction in hours from 40 to 35 and almost £1 an hour—near double the present rate—bringing the weekly wage up to £30.

To date the employers have kept their offers strictly in line with the Tories' 7 per cent pay norm suggesting pay increments for craftsmen of £1.40 and for labourers £1.20 a week.

But yesterday they offered a guaranteed weekly minimum of £2 above the standard rate for craftsmen and £1.50 above the labourers' rate.

In a 9.7 per cent pay deal they said that from

June the craft rate would be increased to £22 a week and the labourers' rate to £18.60.

The men claim building employers are using unemployment—now running at one in seven among construction workers—to keep wages down and that they are encouraging the practice of working on the lump (self-employed and without cards) to undermine the trade unions.

300,000 men, or a third of the industry's workers, are now on the lump earning about £8 for a 10-hour day.

Lobbyists said that trade union militants and communists were being forced out of the industry.

If the pay talks fail, we understand that the Union of Constructional and Allied Trades Technicians may consider a call for industrial action.



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## AROUND THE WORLD

# Meir rejects Hussein plan

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

ISRAEL yesterday formally rejected a proposal by King Hussein of Jordan for a federation between the E and the W banks of the Jordan river under his throne.

In an address to the Knesset only hours after the publication of Hussein's plan, Israeli premier Golda Meir said: 'This is not a message of peace. There is no support in it for the principle of agreement and no readiness in it for negotiations.'

She said that Israel was ready to negotiate a peace settlement with Jordan despite the rejection of Hussein's plan: 'There is only one way that could bring about peace negotiations through courage and understanding of the realities. Any other way is bound to lead to disappointment.'

The Jordan proposal is primarily an attempt to cut the ground from under the feet of the Palestinian liberation movement by staking claim in advance to the occupied territories in Palestine.

Al Fatah, the Palestinian guerrilla organization denounced the plan as a 'conspiracy with the Zionist enemy' in a statement issued on Wednesday.

It said the Palestinian people alone had the right to determine their future 'away from any Royal Hashemite or Zionist influence'.

Egypt has yet to comment on the proposal, though the Cairo newspaper 'Al Gomhouria' predicted that Egypt might break off diplomatic relations with Jordan in reaction to the Hussein plan.

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is currently in the Sudan for talks on the Middle-East situation with his ally President Jafaar Numeiry.

Iraq has denounced the plan and refused to receive Hussein's envoy with an explanation of the Jordanian position.

## Link

The Ba'athist leaders in Iraq have proposed to link up their country with Syria and Egypt, two of the three partners in the existing Federation of Arab Republics.

This move, they said in a statement would 'strengthen the Arab position'. It was aimed against any proposals on the Middle East 'which smack of surrender'.

Iraq's communiqué made no mention of federation with Libya, the present third partner with Egypt and Syria in the Federation.

Iraq, Egypt and Syria participated in attempted union in 1963, but it collapsed because of disagreements between President Nasser and the Syrian and Iraqi Ba'athists.



GOLDA MEIR

## CONNALLY WANTS TALKS ON NEW MONEY SYSTEM

THE UNITED States is holding talks with foreign governments to decide a forum for discussion of a new world monetary system, according to Treasury Secretary John Connally.

'We have come to the end of the post-war world,' he told the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington yesterday. 'We must be able to contribute constructively, effectively and responsibly to the building of a new world in which money, trade and investment serve as instruments of gain and progress for all peoples.'

He said his assistant Paul Volcker was making contact with other governments to discuss a forum for monetary talks.

The forum should be broader than the Group of Ten top capitalist countries which negotiated the currency realignment deal in Washington last December, Connally said.

The Americans want an enlarged meeting to avoid facing a solid bloc of their main trading opponents across the negotiating table.

Volcker's talks about talks with the various capitalist powers are also aimed at staving off an international monetary and credit collapse, at least until after the November presidential elections in the US.

Such a collapse, giving rise to major commercial failures and a huge leap in unemployment,

could put paid to President Nixon's chances if it comes in the pre-election period.

The December agreement on currency rates clearly cannot last for long. 'The Times' reported on Wednesday that:

'According to European bankers, it is clear that the major multinational corporations are now holding far more of their liquid assets in foreign currencies and less in dollars.

'This, it is said, reflects continued nervousness about the prospect of a possible return to a period of floating rates. It also marks a basic change in practice by the multinationals.'

In a despatch from Frankfurt, the paper quotes a leading foreign exchange dealer who says his 'large American commercial clients . . . fear the European central banks may panic before the autumn and take drastic measures which could lead to a major crisis'.

Connally's speech made it clear the US has no intention of taking action to stem the outflow of dollars to Europe, however. 'For our part,' he said, 'we want maximum freedom for international flows of investment capital as well as goods.'

European hostility to American investment 'on the cheap' in Europe, using paper dollars to buy up factories and banks, has speeded up plans within the Common Market for monetary union and the formation of anti-dollar bloc.

Connally warned that the US was watching this development closely:

'We cannot escape a close interest in whether monetary union is a potentially liberalizing and stabilizing force in world financial affairs or will be converted into a vehicle for promoting an inward-looking, defensive bloc.'

Clearly the December currency deal has not lessened the antagonism between Europe and America over the breakdown of the post-war monetary system.

# Master broke boy's jaw — acquitted

A SCHOOLMASTER who broke a pupil's jaw with an uppercut was cleared by a jury at the Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Eric Higgitt (38), head of the physical education department of the Blessed Humphrey Middlemore Roman Catholic School, was acquitted of using excessive force in restraining the boy breaking his jaw in two places.

Speaking to the jury before their verdict, Mr Justice Ackner said these were 'very strange times' when a violent, abusive boy went unpunished and an efficient schoolmaster of exemplary character was brought to trial for raising a hand against him.

But the judge went on: 'The issue before you is not whether we suffer nowadays from an excess of sentimentality or sloppy thinking with regard to the criminal responsibility of the young. It was whether the prosecution proves that the master was guilty of assaulting the boy causing him actual bodily harm.'

In directing the jury the judge said that the boy had sworn at the master and hit him in the stomach.

The master, apprehending the boy, raised a hand against him and hit him with one punch—a light-to-moderate blow, according to the prosecution, which unfortunately fractured his jaw.

No one suggested that was what he intended to do, he added.

Earlier counsel for the defence, Mr Brian Escott Cox, claimed the teacher would have been neglecting his duty if he had taken no action.

It was 'wretched bad luck' that the blow broke the boy's jaw.

He said a schoolmaster was entitled to hit a violent, struggling schoolboy: 'One of the privileges and duties that a schoolmaster has is the maintenance of proper discipline within the ordinary day-to-day running of the school.'

## BP profits down

BRITISH Petroleum's last quarter profits have declined sharply preventing the company from increasing its dividend to shareholders. According to preliminary results net income for the last quarter of 1971 declined from a comparable figure of £31.9m in 1970 to £26.7m.

The group said there had been an 'increasingly disappointing' trend in profits in the third and fourth quarters and the outlook for 1972 was 'discouraging'. The announcement caused BP shares to dip on the Stock Exchange by 3½p.

## WEEKEND DOCK WORK IN HULL

SOME HULL dockers may now work a seven-day week following a new agreement between the Transport and General Workers' Union and Hull Port Employers' Association.

Following an agreement for £14.50 for a seven-hour Sunday shift from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., negotiations are now in progress for a voluntary Saturday afternoon shift from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This means that the Hull port employers are now approaching a situation where they will have cover for the full 168 hours a week.

The main purpose of the agreement, as far as the employers are concerned, is to give them cover for the North Sea Ferries to start working Sunday and

## CLASH OF CODES

THE FUTURE of the professions is seriously threatened by the Tory government's new Code of Industrial Relations Practice, says a leading lawyers' journal.

The code obliges a professional person to comply with it even though he may be acting contrary to his professional code of conduct.

The original draft of the code stated simply that a professional employee should not be called upon by his employer or trade union to take any action contrary to his profession's code of conduct.

That was reasonable and realistic says the 'Law Society's Gazette', in a leading article.

But the final version of the code is an about-face by the government, the article goes on.

It limits the occasions on which a professional employee should not be required to go against his professional code to those endangering the health, safety or well-being of individuals.

## Ford to move toolroom

FORD toolmakers from Dagenham are to hold a mass meeting next Monday to discuss a threat to 200 of their jobs.

With recent changes in its model-planning policies, the company has decided to transfer all tooling operations to W Germany.

Previously they were split between the two countries. The Dagenham shop stewards say they will resist the new move.

Stewards are also suspicious of company promises to move the affected toolmakers to other parts of its square-mile complex in S Essex.

The redundancy moves were first revealed in Workers Press 11 months ago.

## Bhutto in Moscow

PAKISTAN President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto arrived in Moscow yesterday for talks with Kremlin leaders on his first visit to a country which has recognised Bangla Desh.

He was welcomed by premier Alexei Kosygin. President Nikolae Podgorny is on holiday on the Black Sea, according to foreign diplomats.

Bhutto is expected to seek Soviet assistance in the repatriation of 94,000 Pakistani prisoners of war held in India following the war last December which brought Bangla Desh into existence.

The Soviet leaders want closer relations with Pakistan to neutralize Chinese influence on the Indian sub-continent.

# Relatives' QC tells Widgery Troops sought Derry conflict

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

MR JAMES McSPARRAN, QC, for the relatives of 12 of the 13 civilians killed on Bloody Sunday, told the Widgery Tribunal yesterday 'that the army firing was unjustified and much of it indiscriminate'.

'Whether it was brought about as a result of a deliberate policy decision of the army commanders in an attempt to reduce the possibility of further civil rights marches, or whether it resulted from a breakdown in discipline among the paratroopers because of their anxiety and determination to teach the people and the hooligans a lesson, is difficult to determine.'

'Our submission is that the whole arrest operation was, from its nature and the manner of its execution, designed and conceived to make it inevitable that death and serious injury to the civilian population would result.'

McSparran was making his closing address to the tribunal which is now sitting at the Law Courts in the Strand, London.

Special security measures were in force at the court.

Press had been issued with special passes to get through the watch being kept at the court doors. Police stood guard in the judges corridor at the back of the court and no public were allowed into the hearing. Police with dogs patrolled the courtyard around the court.

Police Officers on duty outside Lord Widgery's court examined all boxes and bags carried by clerks or barristers.

Suitcases full of papers had to be emptied and examined and cardboard boxes full of legal reports and papers were untied and emptied before they were allowed to be carried into court.

McSparran said 'It was a fair inference that the security forces deliberately sought a confrontation on a scale justifying the use of force sufficient to deter further marches.'

'The army commanders must have known that if violence was used in such a situation it would end in shooting and the risk of the loss of life.'

'If the risk was evaluated and accepted then the responsibility for the deaths remained with the army. If it was not evaluated, it was an indication of the grossest negligence.'

'The second possibility is that there was a breakdown of discipline and that the paratroopers ran amok,' said counsel.

'There is some evidence of that and you will consider it. It is not part of my duty to throw mud.'

There was also the evidence of a witness who heard a paratrooper say: 'That will teach

them to mess with the paras.'

He submitted that a number of detailed and careful steps should have been taken by army commanders before the arrest operation. Clear and explicit instructions should have been given to the troops about firing.

The troops should also have been given clear instructions and warnings that many members of the public were attending a perfectly legal meeting at Free Derry Corner and that care should be taken to avoid injuring any of those people.

'It is absolutely incredible that the officer who was in charge of 35 men armed with self-loading rifles did not even know when he went in that a meeting was being held,' said counsel.

Many of the officers 'washed their hands of their responsibilities to those men they had placed in this position'.

Counsel said that, in essence, the army's case was that either at entry, or shortly afterwards, they were fired on, some of it from automatic weapons.

'Is there any independent evidence that any volume of fire was directed at the army in this period?' asked counsel.

'In my submission there is no independent evidence to that effect.'

## Quadruple insurance in Market—MP claims

MOTORISTS would have their insurance premiums 'doubled, trebled and quadrupled' when we joined the EEC, a Labour MP claimed in the Commons early yesterday.

Intervening in another MP's speech on the committee stage of the European Communities Bill, Arthur Lewis (Lab, West Ham N) claimed that on the Continent, the insurance premium on the cheapest, smallest type of car was £100 a year.

He understood that agreement had been reached that, with ten countries in the Community, insurance premiums would be harmonized.

'When literally millions of motorists in this country know they are going to have their insurance premiums doubled, trebled and quadrupled, there is going to be one Hell of a scream.'



Stormont MP Paddy Kennedy (third from right) at Enniskillen

## Shippers complain of high port costs

A LEADING member of the Chamber of Shipping has expressed concern at continued rocketing port costs.

Mr David Clarabut, chairman of the Chamber's coasting and short sea section, speaking at the section's annual meeting in London, said the situation was affected by the government's determination that the ports must 'stand on their own feet'.

While this philosophy had much to commend it, Clarabut said, when its application led to substantial and frequent increases in charges, then it must be accepted by commodity interests generally and the ultimate consumers that this was a burden that could be absorbed by shipowners.

But it must inevitably be passed down the line in higher freight charges, he added.

Clarabut went on to speak about friction between shipowners and the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers over agency charges.

Shipowners, he said, could not accept the very big increases the Institute proposed.

## Sieff leaves £164,808

LORD SIEFF, joint architect of the Marks and Spencer empire with his late brother-in-law Lord Marks, left £164,808 gross, £146,731 net (duty £81,366) in his will published yesterday. He died on February 14, aged 82.

Lord Sieff was former chairman and joint managing director, and president of the company from 1967.

He said in his will that he made no provision for charity as he had already given in his lifetime and left his property to relatives.

## Minister in Housing Bill row with BBC

HOUSING MINISTER Julian Amery has left the BBC poised on the brink of another row with the government, following Wednesday night's 'Man Alive' programme on the Housing Finance Bill.

Referring to the programme and the Labour party political broadcast, Amery said the BBC had made television history by carrying two Labour Party broadcasts on housing on the same evening.

Amery's onslaught follows a row between Environment secretary, Peter Walker and BBC chairman Lord Hill over claims of bias in the programme, subtitled 'Up The Rents'.

Walker was understood to have been refused a preview of the programme. The BBC authorities fear criticisms of political influences on programme matter.

The BBC is understood to have offered either Walker or Amery a chance to answer criticisms of the Housing Finance Bill's provision in next week's 'Man Alive'.

This latest row shows how touchy the Tories are on questions of policy and follows several back-bench claims that 'lefties' are running BBC programmes. These same backwoodsmen would dearly like to impose the censorship they were clamouring for over Ulster.

## 'Pimpernel' Kennedy caught

PADDY KENNEDY, the runaway Stormont MP, has been captured by the British army during a raid in Belfast.

He was discovered by William McCrory, a leading member of the Provisional IRA, in the Belfast home of a Dublin journalist.

A statement issued yesterday by the security forces said both men were being questioned by Special Branch.

Kennedy, a Republican Labour MP who is sympathetic to the Provisionals, has been on the run since internment.

He has become something of a Scarlet Pimpernel figure turning up inside Ulster at press conferences and demonstrations and then slipping back to the Republic.

Although the army and police threw an iron ring around both Newry and Inniskillen for anti-internment rallies, Kennedy got inside and gave interviews to television and radio.

Asked how he managed to evade capture, Kennedy grinned and said: 'I just walked in.'

At the end of the march he waved to reporters and said: 'See you in Crumlin Road' (the Belfast jail).

On Tuesday the army also arrested three other senior Provisionals — one of them a battalion commander.

## 'Ink' and '7 Days' to close down

THE WEEKLY underground newspaper, 'Ink', and the photo-weekly journal, '7 Days', are both to temporarily cease publication.

Both are in financial difficulty. A statement for the press was being prepared by the editorial board of '7 Days' late yesterday. One of 'Ink's' directors, Felix Dennis, said that his paper's financial problems were 'serious but not fatal'.

He said: 'We need £2,000 or £3,000 cash to tide us over. Everyone on the staff is working flat out to get the money.'

Asked if a further issue of the paper would be published, Mr Dennis said: 'We will not come out if we don't raise the money.'

He said the company had a backlog of debts covering the first 16 issues of the paper. He said the directors and shareholders might liquidate the present company and start another one.

## EX-YARD MAN HEADS GUN ASSOCIATION



SIR RANULPH BACON has just been appointed president of the Gun Trade Association, a body which looks after the interests of gun manufacturing employers.

As part of his new job he recently visited the Handsworth, Birmingham factory of Webley and Scott where he examined shotguns fitted with French walnut stocks.

SIR RANULPH BACON EXAMINES GUNS

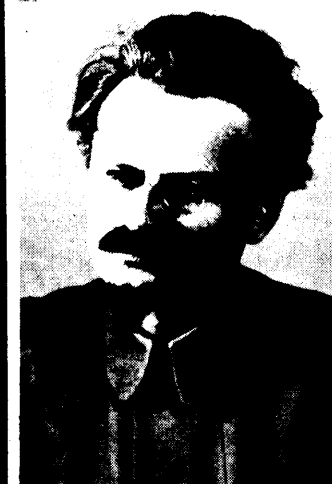
Sir Ranulph's long association with guns began in 1928 when he joined the Metropolitan Police. He served in the Provost Service in World War II, where he rose to Lt-Col.

Then, in 1943, he was seconded to the Colonial Police Service where he became an Insp-General in Ceylon.

After a long stint as Chief Constable of Devon, he rejoined the Metropolitan police and became Deputy Commissioner at New Scotland Yard.

He is now a director of Securicor — an 'honour' Employment Secretary Robert Carr shared before joining Heath's government — and of International Intelligence, USA.

## BOOKS



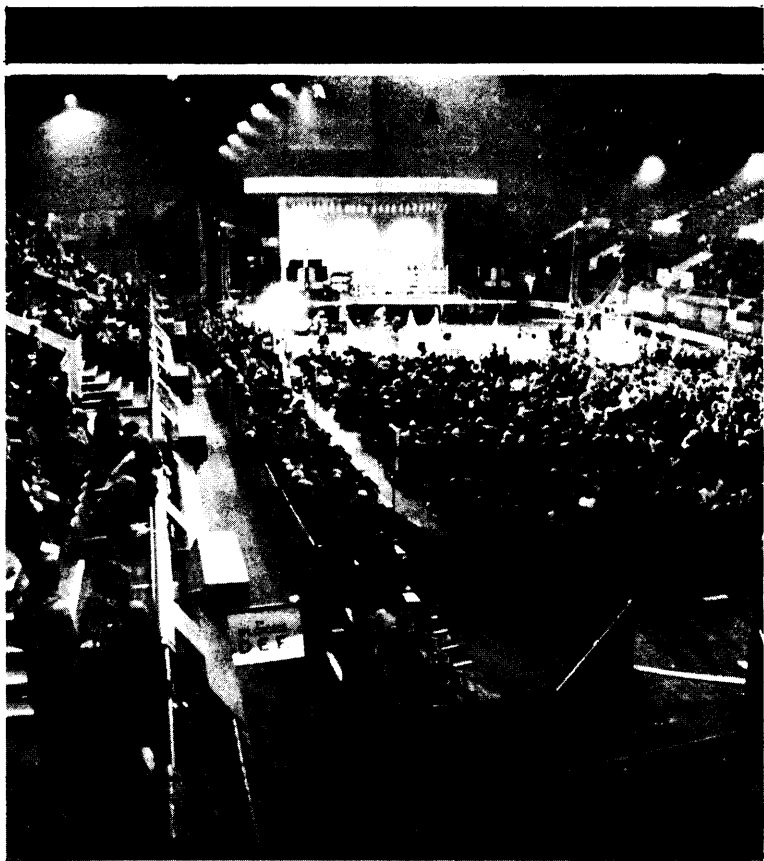
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# THE MARCH GOES ON

The five Right-to-Work marches organized by the Young Socialists have climaxed their fight against the Tory government by a massive rally at the Empire Pool, Wembley. Now a new stage of the fight opens up. All the determination and political consciousness raised during the nationwide marches is today turned towards making a huge success of the YS annual conference at Scarborough on April 8 and 9. Scarborough becomes the next signpost on the march to build the revolutionary party in 1972.

In the coming weeks this page will be devoted to interviews with the young marchers.



## SUPPORT AT THE RALLY

A year on the dole, lifelong trade unionist Billy McGinnis from Liverpool thought the Wembley Pool rally last Sunday was 'really great'.

The Communist Party, he thought, could never have organized anything like it.

'Take the docks', he said. 'They've always been very militant, but this militancy's just not used.'

'What's not realized is that everything's political today—the fight against redundancy especially.'

'These youngsters have blazed the trail. We must follow them.'

A feeling of excitement was Mick Herring's immediate reaction to the sight of 200 young Right-to-Work marchers trooping into the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Sunday March 12.

'It's the youth who are going to lead anything today', he said after attending the rally which climaxed the five-march, five-week anti-Tory campaign.

A shop steward at Watney Mann's brewery in the East End of London, Mick could face redundancy himself if his workplace closes down, as is frequently threatened.

He is involved in a struggle to

convince the labour force there that there is only one way to fight unemployment — 'nothing short of the struggle for socialism'.

Older workers there tend to feel that their traditional leaders will do the job or that they can always find other work, he says. 'But the younger men with families like myself are realizing that there's nowhere else to go.'

Mick told Workers Press: 'This is a great rally, and it's been a great campaign.'

'If everyone here is like me, I'm sure it will have had a tremendous effect on them.'

With the miners' strike, the Right-to-Work campaign will be the turning-point for the socialist movement in S Wales.

So thinks Jim Bevan, chairman of the engineer's union branch at Margam steelworks, Port Talbot, and its delegate to the Port Talbot Trades Council.

Talking against a booming background from the Rock 'n' Roll All-Stars just outside the Empire Pool rally last Sunday, he said the reception the marchers had received there was 'just like the one they've had throughout the country'.

The march through S Wales would give 'a tremendous impetus' to the building of the socialist movement there, he said.



Peter Pejic has a sharp message to take back with him to Swansea after his 320-mile march across Britain with the Right-to-Work campaigners.

An unemployed fork-lift driver from the Mayhill district of his home city, Peter wants to tell both the jobless and those in work 'Get off your backsides and fight'.

He is 18 and impatient. Impatient to get rid of the Tories, impatient to remove the scars of unemployment from the working class and, now, impatient of anything he thinks gets in the way of those tasks.

From someone who admits he 'never thought about politics before I came on the march', he has changed in three short weeks into potentially a very effective working-class leader.

'What really started me thinking was the terrific support we received from nearly all the ordinary people we met along the way,' he says. 'When we arrived at the Rolls-Royce factory in Bristol to find 2,000

What put fight into the marchers from S Wales was seeing the emergence of tremendous support for the Right-to-Work campaign among virtually all the ordinary, working-class people they met.

This is the opinion of Noel Harris, a young unemployed worker from Londonderry who—though he signed off walking after the first week because of an old leg injury—played a leading role in organizing the march.

As a member of its advance team he was invaluable in helping keep the march on the road.

'When people come forward with backing just like that in the way they did, you need to know what to say to them. It's then you start thinking about what's happening to you', he says.

'I came along not knowing

people waiting to cheer us on our way it was really fantastic.

'Older people's first impression of youth is of long hair, not really caring about anything and all the things we're accused of by the press.'

'But we really cut through that. We showed that we're willing to really fight for the right to work.'

A big part in the impact the march made on many adult trade unionists was played by Peter's tireless stewarding.

With Lawrence Fowler, a 20-year-old former miner from Porth in the Rhondda, he was for much of the way ever active on the fringes of the double column keeping the lines, waving through or stopping traffic and making sure no paper-sellers or collectors were left behind.

His first and last job since leaving school was with a soft-drinks company, where he started as a van-boy but was soon taking home £17 as the driver of a fork-lift truck.

Then closure struck as the company centralized its opera-

much about the Young Socialists and not expecting the Right-to-Work campaign to be very much.

'But as we went along the Welsh valleys I became more and more interested.'

'With all the support people have given us, I'm convinced that the government can be forced to resign. Nearly everyone we met was behind us and if we can unite all these people we can force the Tories out.'

All the marchers who set off from Swansea are now very different from the people who started out, Noel said.

Even if they had not really wanted to know about political questions when they began, they soon started to realize the implications of their actions.

Now 22, Noel has had just four jobs since he left school. He now finds it doubly difficult to find work because his left eye was seriously damaged while

tions on just three bottling plants nationally and Peter was made redundant.

Since early in November he has been offered only two openings by the Department of Employment.

One was a boat-moulding job miles out of Swansea, which would have meant hours of expensive travelling each day. The other was at a crisps factory, but was filled by the time he arrived.

Passing into areas of far lower unemployment, he learnt the need to fight the 'it can't happen to me' philosophy.

'If you'd ask me before I came on the march, I suppose I'd have said I wouldn't even vote in a General Election. But now I know that no one's job is safe while the Tories are in.'

'We've got to get them out, and the march has shown that thousands of people want to do it.'

'What the youth want today is a big, effective movement to carry the job through. That's what we must build now.'

working on a building site. First made redundant when the 2,000-strong BSR record-player factory shut down and 'wrecked Derry', the damage occurred when he was working as an apprentice plasterer at £2 3s 11d a week.

In his home town he supported the aims of the IRA, but not the bombing of factories. 'There's enough unemployment already', he explains.

'What I realize now is that to get the troops out we've got to get the Tory government out—and that means uniting Catholic and Protestant workers to fight politically.'

'The fight's not over with the end of the marches. In fact it's just beginning.'

'I think all the Irish contingent on the marches are determined to go back and fight to bring thousands of Irish youth into the movement.'

# DICK NIXON'S PRIVATE BACKERS

The already tatty facade of American 'democracy' has been blown wide open by the revelation of a multi-million dollar deal between the White House elite and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation.

The corporation is one of the top 20 American firms, with a yearly turnover worth £1,600m. The deal shows that like everything else in capitalist America, justice can be bought and sold by the big monopolists in collusion with their political representatives.

## RESHUFFLE

The ITT deal came to light when President Nixon decided to reshuffle his inner cabinet, moving out Attorney-General John Mitchell to conduct his presidential election campaign.

One of Mitchell's chief claims to world fame is his loud-mouthed wife Martha, a virulent anti-communist who is notorious for denouncing 'long-haired agitators'.

Tipped to replace Mitchell as the top law officer was Richard G. Kleindienst, a top Republican functionary.

Jack Anderson, a columnist for the 'New York Post' revealed Kleindienst's complicity in dropping an anti-trust suit against ITT.

In return ITT paid \$400,000 into Republican campaign funds. The case concerned ITT's subsidiary Hartford Fire Insurance Corp. Under US laws against the formation of monopolies, ITT should have been forced to sell Hartford, but Kleindienst stepped in to save ITT.

If ITT had lost the case and been forced to sell Hartford, its corporate profits would have dropped by up to 25 per cent and its shares would have fallen on the stock exchange. Kleindienst acted as a go-between for ITT and the Nixon administration.

He arranged a meeting between Felix Rohatyn, an ITT director, and Richard W. McLaren, now a federal judge who was then the head of the Justice Department's anti-trust division.

In turn Judge McLaren used White House money to hire a New York investment banker who prepared a report favouring ITT in the trust suit.

McLaren has since told a Senate investigating committee that if the government had won its case it could have led to the breakup of ITT and serious damage to both the company and the economy generally. A clear case of 'What's good for General Motors (or ITT) is good for the United States'.

During the complicated wheeling and dealing that preceded ITT's favourable out-of-court settlement, their lobbyist at Washington, a Mrs Dita D. Beard, penned a revealing letter.

Anderson reprinted the letter in the 'New York World' to prove Kleindienst's unsuitability for the Attorney-General's post.

It reads as follows: 'I thought you and I had agreed very thoroughly that under no circumstances would anyone in this office discuss with anyone our participation in the convention [i.e., ITT's donation to Republican funds] including me.

'Other than permitting John Mitchell, Ed Reinecke, Bob Haldeman and Nixon, besides Wilson, no one has known where that \$400,000 has come from.

'I am convinced that our noble commitment [sic] has gone a longway towards our negotiations on the mergers eventually coming out as Hal wants them.

'Certainly the President has told Mitchell to see that things are worked out fairly.

'If it gets too much publicity you can believe our negotiations with Justice will wind up shot.

'Mitchell is definitely helping

us, but cannot let it be known. Please destroy this, huh?'

Reinecke is the Lieutenant Governor of California, Haldeman is a Nixon aide who accused liberal critics of Nixon's peace plan of being 'traitors' and Wilson is the Republican Congressman from San Diego, California.

The letter was written on June 25. One month later on, July 31, the anti-trust case against ITT was settled out of court.

After the settlement Beard suddenly disappeared from Washington and Anderson quoted her as saying 'ITT has told me to get out of town'. ITT security officials entered her Washington office and destroyed several documents relating to the case.

Kleindienst originally denied all knowledge of the ITT deal, but eventually admitted under Senate cross-examination that he had played 'some role' in the settlement. McLaren claims that Mitchell had nothing to do with it, though Beard had an hour-long conversation with him at a Kentucky cocktail party.

One of Reinecke's aides has testified that the \$400,000 donation was discussed with Mitchell last May. The Beard memo is sufficient evidence on its own to damn Mitchell anyway.

Beard was finally traced by FBI agents in a Denver hospital. It seems she was suddenly stricken with a heart attack and her doctor has refused to allow the agents to serve a subpoena ordering her to testify before the Senate.

## CONTEMPT

There is more to the ITT affair than just another scandal. It is no secret that the Nixon Administration represents the interests of the big monopolies. What this case reveals is the total contempt on the part of both the administration and its big business associates for any form of legal or parliamentary procedure.

Government ministers lie wholesale to parliament. They are implicated in a massive plot to subvert the course of the law. And this is considered a more or less normal state of affairs.

Kleindienst himself is in the forefront of Nixon's attack on working-class rights. A former member of the staff of Barry Goldwater, the ultra-right-wing Arizona presidential contender, he personally directed the mass arrests of 13,000 anti-war demonstrators in Washington last May.

One of his schemes was to moor a US naval vessel on the Potomac River and use it as a detention camp for demonstrators. (Shades of the Belfast prison ship 'Maidstone'!)

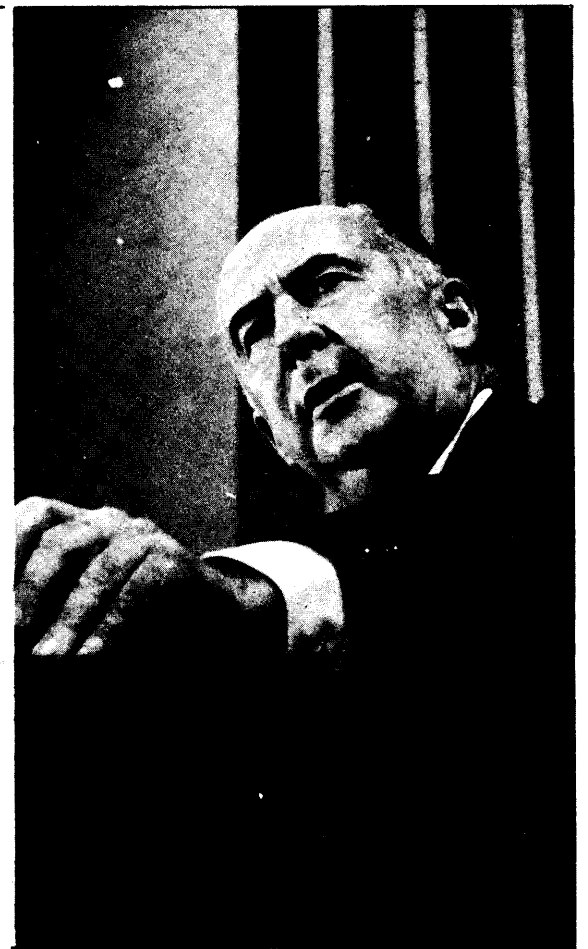
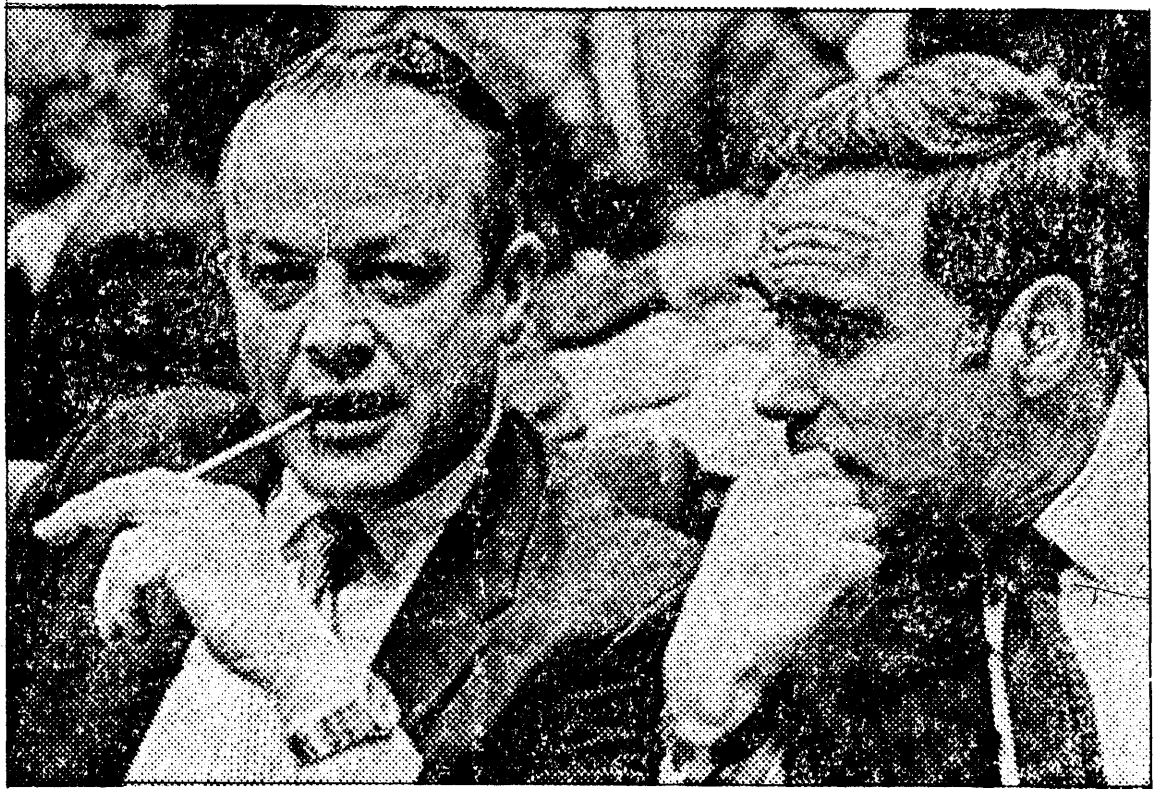
It was Kleindienst who stood at the window of the Justice Department during a big anti-war march in 1970 with an American flag pinned to his shirt, shouting hysterically that the 'Russian Revolution' was on its way.

The 'Baltimore Sun' has told how at a cocktail party Kleindienst 'joked' about commissioning a legal study on how to postpone the 1970 congressional elections. According to the 'Sun's' reporter, Mitchell abruptly told him to stop talking and Kleindienst quickly shut up.

That wasn't all. The Los Angeles 'Free Press' printed a story that vice-President Spiro Agnew had the same 'joke' in mind. Apparently he wrote a confidential memo based on a Rand Corporation study on how to cancel the 1972 presidential election and suspend the Bill of Rights under the pretext of calling a 'national emergency'.

The Kleindienst affair is certainly illuminating some very unsavoury corners of the corridors of power in the centre of world imperialism.

BY JOHN SPENCER



Top: Attorney General-designate R. Kleindienst (left) with Felix Rohatyn a director of ITT. Below left: Richard McLaren. Right: John Mitchell.



Makarios: the Turkish regime has strongly supported his rivals.

## THE NATO GRIP ON TURKEY

While the Turkish masses live in poverty and overcrowded conditions, one-third of the annual budget goes to support an army of 600,000 men as part of Turkey's obligation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Key industries such as chemicals, petroleum, electronics and engineering are in the hands of US corporations which take \$121m out of the country each year.

Turkey plays a key role in the strategic plans of US imperialism which maintains huge bases and 40,000 men in the country. Erim's regime of repression and torture is backed by the US and its NATO allies because such an important country must be kept free from revolution.

The Turkish regime resembles very much that of the colonels in Greece. It is difficult to know which is the most villainous or which perpetrates the most brutal tortures.

In the conflict between the Greek junta and Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus, the Turkish Foreign Minister, Semih Akbil, has come out strongly in favour of the colonels. He demanded that the arms recently purchased by Greek Cypriots should be handed over to the United Nations forces on the island.





Above left to right: Three of the US directors, Holmes Brown, president of the New York Board of Trade, Jerome D. Hoffman, and three-times Democratic Mayor of New York, Robert F. Wagner. Right: Guillermo Guitierrez, who ran an illegal sales team in 27 Latin American countries, receives a gift of a car for 'outstanding contributions' to the company. Left: Viscount Brentford, ex-Tory minister. Below: Brentford's son, lawyer Crispin Joynson-Hicks.



# HOW TO GET A GILT-EDGED BOARDROOM

Tales of Hoffman : Part 2. By Alex Mitchell

**Bernard Cornfeld and his incredible money-making machine, Investors Overseas Services (IOS), was the dominant financial phenomenon of the 1960s.**

When he began his operation from a tiny flat in Paris in 1956, he confided in a college friend: 'If you want to make money, don't horse around with washing machines and encyclopaedias. Get into money—that's the move.' In 15 years he amassed funds totalling \$100 million.

So it came to pass that Jerome Hoffman, casting around for new ways to build his personal fortune, discovered the offshore fund business which Cornfeld had developed so successfully.

The offshore world is an astonishing theatre of sharp business practitioners working side-by-side with ambassadors, dispossessed royalty and politicians, scanning the various boards of directors as if like exploring an international edition

## ACTION

At the time Hoffman stepped into the action—early 1969—the big boys, Cornfeld's IOS and Keith Barrish's Gramco, had carved up the field pretty well between them. He was unperturbed by the size of the opposition and immediately set about acquiring an impeccable board of directors—a prerequisite, as Bernie Cornfeld had shown, of any self-respecting fund.

The late Mike Todd ('Round the World in 80 Days') was the first film producer to exploit the concept of 'guest appearances'. When a fellow director asked him how he was so successful in persuading the prima donnas of Hollywood into appearing, Todd replied: 'The first one is the hardest. But once you've got him, the rest fall over themselves to get into the act.'

Hoffman used the Mike Todd technique brilliantly; he also played one side of the Atlantic off against the other to fill his board room.

## OVERLOOK

His initial move was to co-opt Crispin Joynson-Hicks (whom he had met in the Bahamas during the early 1960s) and Crispin's father, Viscount Brentford. With

these names in the bag Hoffman went to Washington where men were prepared to overlook his 'mortgage incident' if they could get a piece of the offshore action.

In due course Hoffman produced his prize catch in a memorable press release headed: 'NAMING A GREAT PRESIDENT!' The statement went on: 'We are pleased to announce that the Right Honourable Reginald Maudling, former Chancellor of the Exchequer of Great Britain and a Member of Her Majesty's Cabinet, Member of Parliament and former President of the Board of Trade of the United Kingdom, has been elected President of the Real Estate Fund of America and the Real Estate Management Company of America. His daily activities and dynamic personality will assure the growth in construction of American real estate. This indeed is a monumental milestone for our future and we wanted to share this news with you. P.S.: Wait until we announce the Chairman of our Board. It's too good to be true!'

## FANFARE

A few weeks later, amid suitable fanfare, Robert Wagner's appointment as chairman was announced. Hoffman then needed an operational base. He chose solid old England and an address which groaned with respectability and soundness: 'Kings House, St. James Court, Buckingham Gate, London, SW1.'

He incorporated the group in Monrovia under the ludicrous company laws of Liberia and established its banking and investing arrangements in Bermuda, where taxation is as mild as the weather.

Now that he had the gilt-edged trappings, Hoffman set about constructing a sales force—which is, of course, the life blood of the fund business. The men he collected were a rare breed.

Almost to a man they had previously worked for Cornfeld or Gramco—and most had been fired for one reason or another. A typical character hired by Hoffman was his executive vice-President, Martin Strauss, who first came to public notice in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1952 when he was arrested for the possession of narcotics.

In the 1960s he ran a sordid trade in girls from Latin America to the United States. It was a sort of au pair girl scheme called Work-in-USA. Strauss's angle was to take the cost of a return air fare from the girls and then give them a one-way ticket.

In many cases the girls found themselves without work when they arrived and were left destitute. And at least one airline—Peruvian Airline—were not paid in full for even the one-way tickets. In February 1967 the airline entered judgement against Strauss in the New York Supreme Court for \$14,500.

During his employment with Cornfeld's IOS in Geneva Strauss was linked with the mysterious Shalom Fund, a company which collected several thousand dollars from clients before disappearing without a trace—but with the money!

There was something faintly satirical about Strauss's article in Hoffman's house journal which said: 'Within this company you find no heavily weighed down corporate structure. Individual initiative is encouraged.'

## CRIMINAL

The most cavalier of Hoffman's sales representatives was undoubtedly **SEÑOR** Guillermo Guitierrez, senior executive in Latin America. Operating from an office in San Jose, capital of Costa Rica, Guitierrez planned Hoffman's sales drive on one small republic after another. For his zeal, Guitierrez won the coveted title 'Latin American Spark Plug' and a company gift of a new car.

His sales area covered 29 countries—but it was only legal to sell in two, Costa Rica and Panama. This meant that in the other 27 he ran his sales team illegally.

One of his salesmen used to paddle a canoe across a river deep in the jungle with a suitcase of US dollars to avoid the Paraguayan customs officials.

To protect both customers and salesmen everyone had code names. Thus an entry in the Costa Rica headquarters might show that 'Castro' sold \$10,000 worth of stock in Real Estate Fund of America to 'Pancho'. The main purchasers of REFA

stock in his sales area were US citizens employed by American corporations. More often than not, they are paid in US dollars. Under local exchange controls it is either illegal or prohibitive to send these dollars back to America. But the illegal network set up by REFA gave them the opportunity of getting their money out of the unstable regimes and into Western banks.

In an interview in London a year ago with Granada's 'World in Action' programme, Guitierrez said the other main device for shifting dollars into the company's funds was the black market. By using the illegal currency outlets, the salesmen were able to transfer their money from one republic to the next and eventually out of Costa Rica to the Bahamas where Hoffman originally maintained his banking.

In the interview Guitierrez was asked: 'What arrangements do you make for your salesmen with respect to visas and passports?' Guitierrez: 'They don't have any problems. They just travel on different passports.'

Q: They have several? Guitierrez: Yes. Q: And in their passports, do they put their occupation as fund salesman? Guitierrez: Oh, never. Q: Never? Guitierrez: Never. Because, you know, mutual fund salesman, it's a very bad word in Latin America. CONTINUED TOMORROW

## LOCAL

The other big purchasers were local industrialists, army officers, politicians and diplomats. One salesman also reported that his best pitch was orders of the Roman Catholic church who were always anxious to get money back to the Vatican and seemed willing to use any available channel legal or otherwise.







# ON THE WATER-FRONT

Part 2 on the history of the US dockers by Jack Gale.

**Containerization — in the United States as in this country — requires uninterrupted production based on a disciplined work force.**

The amount of capital invested in containerized equipment, including berths, cranes, container-moving vehicles and ships needs intense and efficient use of labour to maximize profits. Such expensive equipment cannot be left standing around idle.

In 1968 the International Labour Organization reported that what was required on the docks was 'a small group of highly mobile men prepared to work shifts and keep the docks running 24 hours a day, preferably to be on call during this time'.

There should be 'no obstacle to shifting men from hatch to hatch, from one ship to another, from ship to shore and from job to job'.

Following the expulsion of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) from the American Federation of Labour (it was readmitted to the AFL-CIO in 1959) the employers began a drive to wipe out jobs by the elimination of 'restrictive practices', the reduction of gang sizes and the attempt to introduce no-strike clauses.

This did not prevent ILA President Thomas Gleason from being an ardent advocate of containerization. In 1959, he told the ILA convention:

'The container will be forced on the shipping lines through competition. I am convinced it has got to come. And when it does come... it is not too far-fetched to estimate that we stand to lose, in the full force of the container use, 8,000 to 9,000 jobs in the New York area alone, and a proportional number in all other ports. This amounts to 30 per cent of the membership.'

Another estimate, in the 'US Chemical and Engineering News' said there would be 90-per-cent redundancy facing US dockers.

Containerization was introduced experimentally in the US in 1955. Yet by last year the output with containerized cargo averaged 600 freight tons per man week, compared with 25 tons per man week under conventional handling.

The turn-round time of a container ship is only one-tenth that of a conventional vessel. And it was estimated last year that the shipping bosses would need only 25 modern container ships to carry the entire US-European general cargo trade.

The union leaders, however, put up no resistance at all against containers until November 1958 and then only quibbled about the terms and conditions under which they would be used.

The ILA agreed to work containers and the employers agreed to maintain gang-size at 20 men — though only two gangs worked on container ships compared with five to seven gangs on conventional ships.

In 1962, the employers came back and demanded reductions in gang-size and a tying of any wage rise to increases in productivity.

The ILA ranks forced a strike. A Taft-Hartley injunction was imposed, but the last offer of the New York Shipping Association was rejected and the strike resumed after the 80-day 'cooling-off' period.

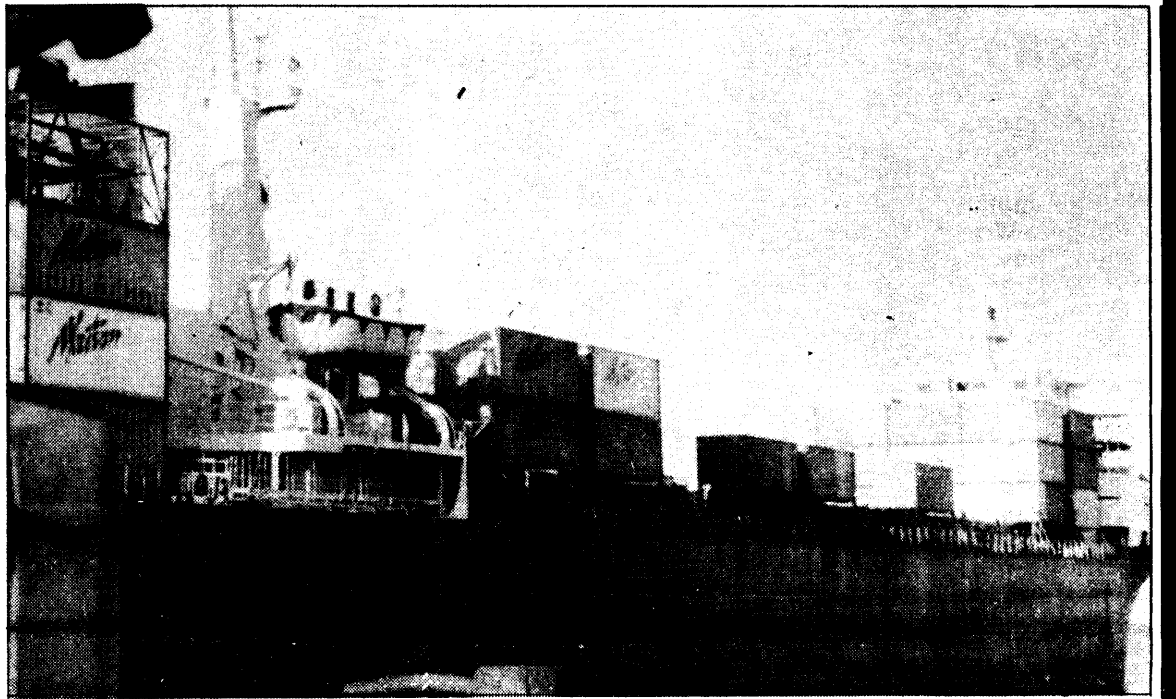
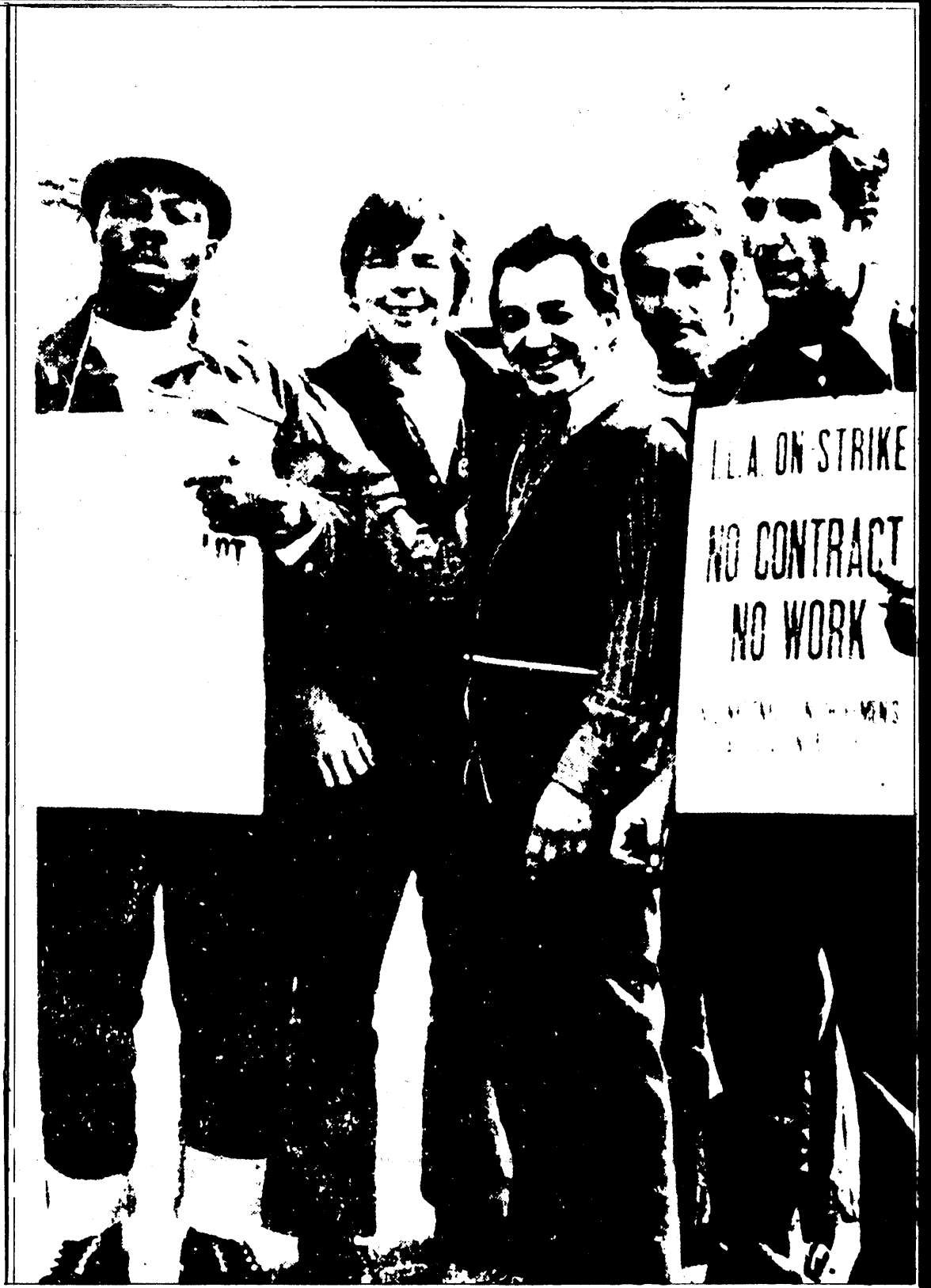
The ILA got a wage increase, but agreed that the next contract (due in 1964) would be based on the recommendations of a Presidential Mediating Board headed by Senator Wayne Morse.

The board's findings provided the basis for the April 1965 agreement which established a 1,600-hour yearly wage guarantee, but which cut the gang size from 20 to 17 and abolished certain protective practices. The ILA agreement was imposed on the membership only after Taft-Hartley had been used twice.

The 1968-1969 contract was, in many ways, a repeat of 1964-1965, with the dockers winning some concessions after a 57-day strike — including a guaranteed 40-hour week. But the union leaders refused to fight for an all-coast contract.

On the W coast, the so-called 'progressive' Bridges, whose Stalinist class-collaboration politics were discussed in yesterday's article, also made deals on containerization.

His ILWU accepted the 1960 mechanization and modernization agreement which, renewed in 1966, lasted until 1971. In



Top left: Thomas Gleason president of ILA. Top: Longshoremen picket at Newark docks on first day of National Strike. Bottom: new container ship.

exchange for giving up almost all rights for the younger workers, a limited number of older workers (the 'A' men) were guaranteed a 35-hour week and provisions for a pension fund payable at age 63 after 25 years' service.

The 'B' men, without any vote in the union and no benefits, were employed as a supplementary workforce, together with many casuals for extra-busy periods.

The W coast employers got even more concessions than their E coast brethren on reductions of gang size and flexibility of labour. The employers, in fact, made an estimated profit through mechanization of \$200m between 1960 and 1968.

By 1970 more than 60 per cent of all US shipping trade was in containers. This is an international trend. Between 1968 and

1970, there has been a worldwide increase from 50 to 300 container ships. It is possible for five of these ships to handle the entire British-N America trade with only one terminal at each end.

This means the wholesale elimination of jobs, not only of portworkers but of seamen and shipbuilders and shipbuilding supply workers. It means the destruction of entire ports and destitution for entire cities.

Alongside this, the employers will attempt to maintain the rate of profit by an all-out war on wages and conditions.

This is why it was so important for the employers and US government to separate the recent E and W coast dockers' struggles.

The ILA and ILWA bureaucracies have always played into the hands of the employers on this question, because a coast-to-coast

unity would raise the issue of smashing the employers' attacks right now.

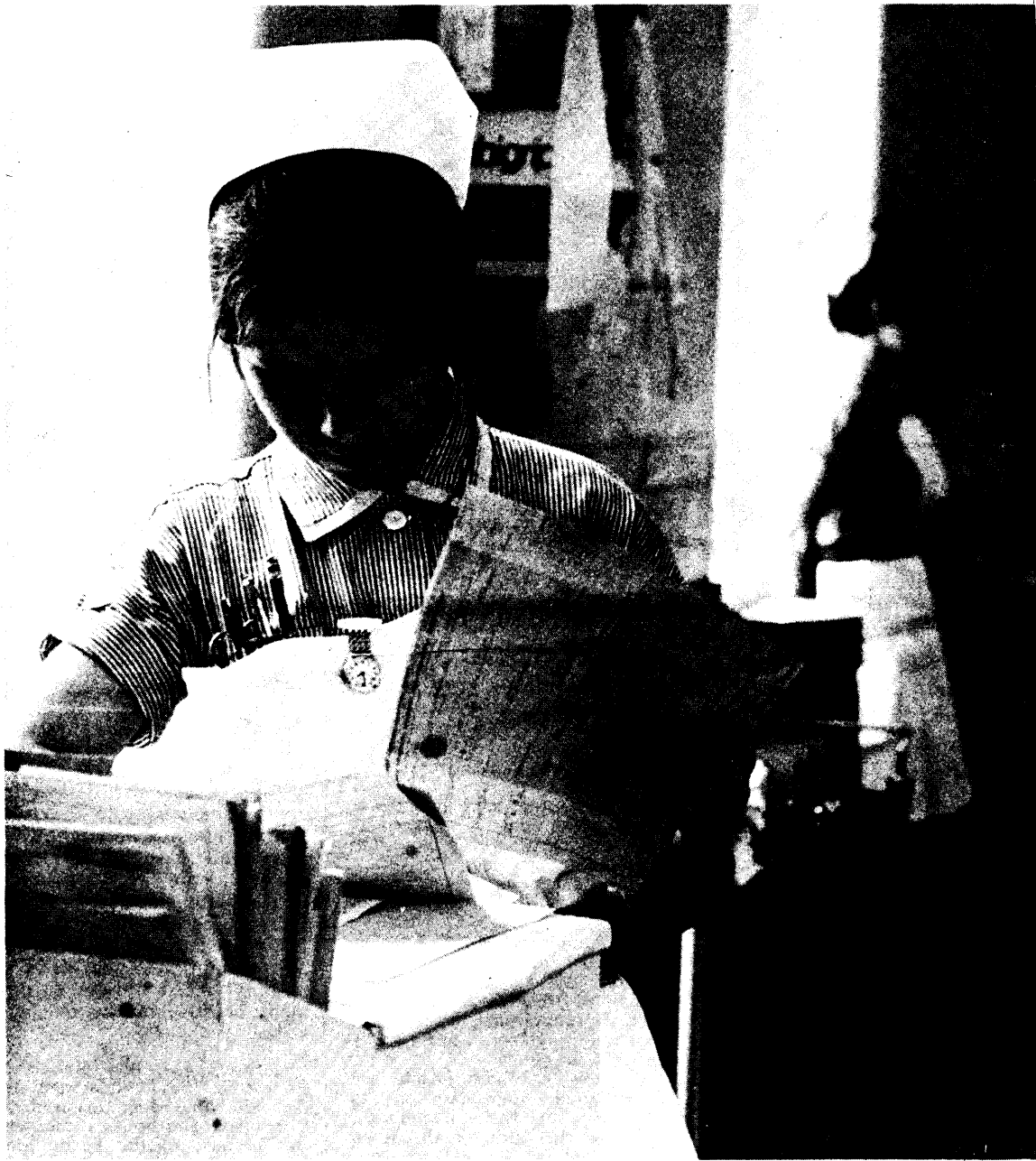
In the US, as in Britain, the union leaders will collaborate to the last with the employers. Containerization, of course, should be a blessing to the working class. It could mean shorter hours and lighter labour. Under capitalism, however, it means the dole queue and poverty.

As Marx long ago pointed out, capitalism has developed the means of production beyond the point in which they can be contained within the property relations of that system.

**CONCLUDED**

Information for this article has been taken from 'Showdown on the Docks' by Dan Fried, Bulletin Labor Series No. 2, distributed by Labor Publications, New York.





Nurses at work in the Casualty ward of a large London hospital

# A NURSES' STRIKE? IT'S UNTHINKABLE!

## YOUTH NEWS

A 22-year-old staff nurse at a large London hospital was one of a group of youth who travelled to Northampton to greet the Right-to-Work marchers on their way to London. She gave first aid treatment to a number of youth who had colds or blistered feet. In this article she tells a Workers Press youth correspondent about conditions in the nursing profession.

On the coach back to London between choruses of the Right-to-Work song she told me of her initial training as a nurse.

'I never realized how grossly understaffed nursing was. After eight weeks' training we had to work on wards where we never had enough time to do a job properly.

'I only stuck with it because of the satisfaction I got from the job. The hours are rotten. As a student nurse you don't get weekends off.

'There is a tremendous drop-out rate in the first year. Seventy-five per cent leave in the first six months. They are disillusioned. They think they are going to serve mankind. Instead they have to clean the sluice, wash bedmats and patients—the odd dressing if you're lucky.'

She took an active part in the fight to get a wage increase under the Wilson government. 'We canvassed people's homes in the working-class areas around the hospital. There was terrific support. Everyone invited us in for cups of tea.

'Last night when I sold Workers Press in the pubs for the first time everyone was im-

mediately interested when they found out I was a nurse—more than they would have been for someone else, I think.

'When you ride on buses in uniform, the conductors always refuse to take your fare.

'People have asked why we don't strike. The only way we could do it is by refusing to do book cases—those which aren't emergency cases—and just the basic work. We couldn't actually strike. We haven't even got a union. The only thing for qualified nurses is the Royal College Of Nursing. And you never hear from them.

'The wage increase of 22 per cent that we got under the Labour government was cut a month later when board and lodging went up. Other unions must defend us, since we are quite helpless on our own. Nurses were grateful for that 22 per cent, but it is not enough to encourage people to come into nursing. It is a bad enough job, without having bad wages for it.

'There is hardly any difference between the wages of a trainee and a qualified nurse because you have to pay more for board. You are really better off as a student. As a staff nurse you are responsible for a whole ward.'

Not only are the hospitals already understaffed, but recently there was a time-and-motion study made on the domestics and other 'unskilled' staff.

'They even watched them go to the toilet. After this they brought in a new system of off-duty, which cut staff down even further, to only one orderly in the morning per ward. She is really pushed, since she has to do all the work until 10.30 a.m.

'Of course the nurses end up helping her, so that it pushes up the amount of work done by all concerned and qualified nurses do unskilled jobs. They are also speeding up the ambulance men. Sixty crews are being

laid off in London and they are already overworked.

'Doctors are also in demand. Patients suffer because doctors can't get around to see the patients. So we have to do some of the doctors' work as well.

'The large majority of nurses are anti-Tory. Since the National Health prescription and dental charges have been introduced people's health has deteriorated. Old age pensioners can't afford the anti-biotic courses. They have to go through a means test first.

'I can't afford to go to a dentist myself, and I'm working. Unemployed people's teeth will just fall out.

'When one old lady's rent went up, she couldn't move back home and the hospital had to find her somewhere else to live.

'The Common Market will mean that nurses won't be able to afford proper food; they will be sick and have to take days off work.

'My first wage packet in September 1968 was £11 11s 3d—a month's wages! You get it drummed into you that there is nothing that you can do about it. To do something about it is unethical, unprofessional, **un-thinkable!**

'The nurses were all for the miners' strike, even though many of them had to walk many flights upstairs instead of taking the lift when they got home after a hard day's work. I agree with the principle of a General Strike. It would prove that they cannot crack the whip over the working class and that the days of pushing more productivity are over.

'I think the Right-to-Work campaign was really great. It was about time something like that was done. I think the Young Socialists definitely get a sympathetic ear from nurses.

'I'm coming to Scarborough for the Young Socialists' conference. And I want to see a revolutionary party formed in the autumn.'

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## AWARD

A week after the miners' strike ended Mr Hugh Delargy, Thurrock MP, went to the Polish embassy to receive the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta.

Delargy has been an outspoken critic of Tory policy in Ulster. While he was sharing a vodka with the ambassador, I wonder if he raised the question of Polish coal slipping into Ulster during the strike?

## POINT

One of the most subtle, and expensively-produced propaganda magazines in the world has just begun publication.

It's called 'To the Point' and is designed very much like 'Time' magazine.

Described as a 'world news in depth', the magazine comes out fortnightly.

Published in S Africa, it contains an intriguing list of 'editors, correspondents and associates'. Such names as Patrick Wall, extreme right-wing Tory MP and member of the Monday Club, and Birmingham MP Mrs Jill Knight, who supported the Yahya Khan regime during the struggle to liberate Bangla Desh.

## NIGHTMARE

The American Dream . . . continued.

Item from the 'New York Times' three days ago:

Police said a man was knocked down while trying to cross a busy New York City expressway Tuesday—and 50 autos ran over the lifeless form before one motorist stopped and went for police.

A spokesman for police said that the man, for some unknown reason, walked onto the expressway during the evening rush hour and was knocked flying by a speeding car. The driver sped on.

'Witnesses then told us about 50 more cars slammed across the limp form before one man stopped and shielded the body with his car before running to notify us.'

The police said the victim carried no papers and the body could not possibly be identified because of the pounding.

## FLOCK

Have you been following the wailing and howling in the obituary columns of the capitalist press about the death of Lord Salisbury? No, I guess you haven't.

Anyway they all flocked to Westminster Abbey the other day for a memorial service to 'this great man, this statesman'.

What interested me was the representatives from the diplomatic corps. They came from such freedom-loving countries as S Africa, Portugal and Spain.



Kenneth Kaunda: liberals' darling

In the February 26 edition Mrs Knight is given a full two pages to explain her 'case against abortion'.

These two Tories appear in the same breath as other correspondents like Professor Christiaan Barnard. Will he be writing on his plans for brain and head transplants?

With the number of deeply reactionary people associated with this journal, it is interesting to discover this letter in the latest issue:

'Sir, I congratulate you on the debut of your magazine which is so objective and informative. President's press secretary, State House, Lusaka, Zambia.'

What will all the white liberals now think of their darling Kenneth Kaunda?

## HANDY

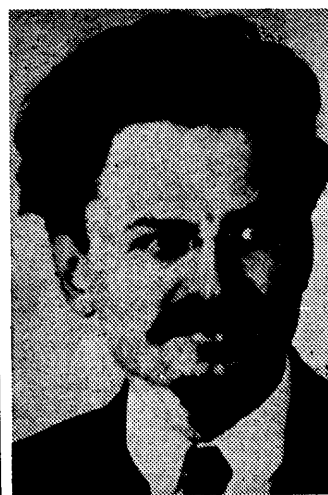
Listen to him squeal. Gaston Defferre, ageing 'socialist' mayor of Marseilles, has declared that members of the French government or its parliamentary supporters are protecting drug-traffickers.

Defferre also wants the death penalty re-introduced for the smugglers. Pretty extreme stuff.

It follows revelations made at the end of last year by Mr John Cusack, head of the US Narcotics Bureau in Europe. Cusack said there were three of four 'big wheels' behind the drug trafficking in the Marseilles area.

In his latest interview Defferre says that it is international crooks who are running the drugs through his city and not local people. Well, that's a very handy assurance.

# BOOKS



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## AROUND THE WORLD

# SPAIN Police raids and arrests as shipyard men stay out

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

**THIRTEEN** people, including suspected members of the outlawed Communist Party, are in prison in the NW Spanish port of El Ferrol.

They were arrested in a series of police raids after two strikers had been killed and 50 injured by police bullets outside the Bazan shipyard in the town.

El Ferrol, the birthplace of dictator General Franco, is a fascist shrine, officially described as El Ferrol del Caudillo (El Ferrol of the Leader).

Its main square is dominated by an immense statue of Franco on horseback.

The Bazan workers are still on strike despite an appeal from the

official fascist union organization to return to work.

They say they will not go back until the shipyard management agrees to meet their demands—reinstatement of six sacked militants, a new work contract and the right to form their own independent union.

Bazan officials say they cannot negotiate these issues as long as the strike continues. The yard, which employs 5,500 workers, is building five missile frigates for the Spanish navy.

The strike, which began last Thursday, comes at a point of crisis for the state-controlled firm. Its work programme is well behind schedule.

US efficiency experts have been brought into speed up the contract.

The frigates' designers, the New York naval engineering firm Gibbs and Cox, sent over two top executives, Richard Erlich and Howard Avery in an effort to speed up production.

They arrived just two days before the strike broke in the yards.

According to their calculations, the frigates are 28 months behind schedule. Originally slated for delivery in July 1973, the last ship will not be fitted out and launched until the end of 1975.

Bazan ships are represented in the navies of several foreign countries, including Argentina, Uruguay and Cuba (another example of the collaboration between Stalinism and Spanish fascism).

Bazan also has orders on the stocks from Spanish and Norwegian merchant lines, and the British Court Line has four cruise vessels on order.

The Bazan workers are fighting a blanket contract imposed on them by the official union last January and applying to El Ferrol and the company's other yards at Cadiz and Cartagena.

They are demanding higher pay to compensate for the soaring

cost of living. The average Bazan worker earns between 12,000 and 14,000 pesetas a month (£72-£84), but must work long overtime hours to achieve this figure.

Some of the men put in as many as 30 hours a week overtime on top of their basic 48-hour week.

Their anger has been fuelled by the influx of well-paid foreign advisers.

Ray Thompson of Los Angeles, a specialist in electronic weapons systems, says he earns about £20 a day at the yard, while his Spanish counterpart, also a professional engineer, earns only one-fifth as much.

El Ferrol's 85,000 people are almost totally dependent on the shipyards for their livelihoods. On the other side of the town from Bazan is the Astano shipyard, employing 11,000 men.

Earlier this week, the Astano workers struck in sympathy with the Bazan workers.



## Teachers' head-on clash in Colombia

A COMPLETE standstill is threatened in Colombia's primary, secondary and technical state schools unless the government decides at the last minute to give in to teachers' pay demands.

The national leadership of the Colombian Teachers' Federation is meeting in Bogota to discuss the present situation and the strike of 25,000 technical and secondary school teachers who have been on strike since February 22.

The teachers are demanding a government statute be passed guaranteeing their rights, an across-the-board 40 per cent increase, the end of union persecution, re-employment of all teachers who have been unjustly sacked and the immediate resumption of classes in all schools closed by the government because of the teachers' strike.

Carlos Galan, the Minister of Education, has condemned the teachers for being inspired by 'subversive and political motives'. But because of the Federation's backing for the strikers, the government has not been able to carry out its threat to sack all the striking teachers.

When the strike was declared illegal under the state of martial law, the teachers' leaders retorted that that did not worry them since the country had been under a state of siege since 1948.

The teachers have also rejected offers of mediation from the Catholic Archbishop Anibal Munoz Duque of Bogota and the former Foreign Minister Senator Julio Ayala.

Everything points to a head-long confrontation between Colombia's 70,000 teachers and the government of President Pastrana.

## Malawi invites S African president

S AFRICAN President James Fouché today begins a state visit to Malawi at the invitation of President Kamuzu Banda, the first official visit by the head of the apartheid regime to any independent black African state.

Banda paid a state visit to S Africa in August last year, when it was regarded as a breach in the black African front against S Africa.

With Fouché on his week-long trip goes S African Foreign Minister Hilgard Muller. Diplomatic ties between the two states were raised to ambassadorial level last July.

Malawi diplomats have 'honorary white' status in the apartheid hierarchy.

Banda himself worked as a young man in S Africa, and has personal experience of the operation of its racist laws. To add another twist to Banda's cynical betrayal, he has invited his S African guests to attend the celebrations on the 10th anniversary of Malawi's independence from Britain.

## Hunger strikers removed

FOUR young Basques on hunger-strike in a Paris church against French police persecution of refugees from Spanish fascism have been moved to hospital.

According to their lawyer, the four men were forcibly removed by the police from the St Lambert church in the 15th arrondissement. The police claim that they consented to move after examination by an official doctor.

# Fascist admiral 'defends civilization'

ADMIRAL Gino Birindelli, who has just resigned as NATO's Mediterranean naval commander to stand as a fascist candidate in the Italian elections, claims he is defending NATO, Europe and civilization.

'If Italy were to become neutral, NATO would be so damaged that NATO, Europe and the civilized world would collapse,' he told a press conference in Rome on Wednesday.

The admiral is to head the list of candidates in Naples for the Italian Social Movement, the growing fascist organization.

Naples is the headquarters of the Treaty's Southern Europe command, headed by United States Admiral Dracio Rivero.

Among the MSI's other candidates is the former army chief of staff, General Giovanni de Lorenzo, who used to be a Monarchist member of the Chamber of Deputies. The Monarchists merged with the MSI earlier this year.

While the fascists tout openly for votes and reveal the extent of their support in the state apparatus, the police are conducting a huge witch-hunt against the left.

Following the demonstration in Milan last Saturday, in which police attacked left-wingers outside a fascist meeting, 99 anarchists, Maoists and students have been taken into custody.

Six offices of left-wing...

organizations, a left-wing bookshop and the Milan students' union were searched by police after the demonstration.

They include two offices of Lotta Continua (Permanent Struggle); the offices of Lotta Comunista (Communist Struggle); Avanguardia Operaia (Workers' Vanguard);

Gruppi Comunista Rivoluzionari (Communist Revolutionary Groups); Soccorso Rosso (Red Aid) and the La Vecchia Talpa (Old Mole) bookshop.

The police claim to have 'found' 50 bombs, 'plans' for street violence and a list of other organizations involved. Papers relating to the



THE ANARCHIST VALPREDA: DOCUMENTS SEIZED

defence of Giuseppe Valpreda, an anarchist currently on trial on frame-up bombing charges, were seized.

One fugitive from the search, Giuseppe Scarpina from Helsinki, was caught near the Swiss border. Among those arrested is Michelangelo Spada, leader of the Lotta Continua organization.

The police have accused a 43-year-old lawyer, Leopoldo Leon, of organizing Saturday's demonstration. He belongs to the Marxist-Leninist Union and Soccorso Rosso.

He has stated in court that the demonstrators were unarmed and denounced the chief of the Milan political police, Antonio Allegro, for provoking the battle.

The powerful Italian Communist Party has denounced the Milan demonstrators and made no protest against the police raids and mass arrests.

## Thousands at funeral of Falcons' victim

THOUSANDS of students in Monterrey, Mexico, took part in Wednesday's funeral of Natividad de Jesus Leal Garcia (17).

He was killed last Saturday when a detachment of the right-wing shock group, the Falcons, broke into the union office of the railway union and attempted to dislodge workers and students who were meeting to discuss the workers' latest wage demands.

The railway workers have stated that the Falcons were sent to Monterrey from Mexico City by the pro-government leaders of their union who want to defeat their demand for a 25 per cent increase in pay.

Two railway workers were killed defending their union offices against the Falcons. These workers belonged to the group led by Demetrio Vallejo, the veteran labour leader who has himself spent 11 years in jail for leading a nationwide railway strike.

A local Monterrey newspaper has published a brief statement by the railway workers' provincial leader, Pedro Osorno de Honer, who is in a delicate condition with three bullet wounds.

He stated that he heard the order shouted to the attackers: 'Kill them all.'



# ROBENS PRAISES PAYNTER

**THE MINERS' wage settlement will cost 50,000 jobs over the next three years. Those pits making the heaviest losses will be the ones to close, said former NCB chairman Lord Robens yesterday.**

He was speaking at a press conference to launch his new book 'Ten Year Stint',\* which will be published next Thursday.

Lord Robens attacked the present NUM leadership for changing the rules on the strike majority and 'putting in an absurd claim'.

'The union switched to a policy of higher wages and a smaller industry. But if Sydney Ford and Will Paynter had been in the leadership there would have been no strike.'

In fact Lord Robens fell over backwards in his praise for former Communist Party member Will Paynter who, as general secretary of the NUM, presided over the rundown of the industry.

'Paynter had divided loyalties,



PAST AND PRESENT NCB CHAIRMEN LORD ROBENS (L) AND DEREK EZRA.

but was for the coal industry's prospects rather than his communist philosophy. He was completely incorruptible, temperate, wise and sensible. Will Paynter was one of the great men of this century,' said Lord Robens who is now a director of several firms.

After he had parried a question which asked if he thought he was a traitor to socialism, Lord Robens launched a tirade on the 'affluent society'.

'What I don't like about it is its permissiveness. You only have to look at the newspaper adverts for films to see what's wrong.'

'If you want a decadent society go on doing things like giving the pill to young girls. It's nauseating.'

\*The book is published by Cassell and costs £3.55.

# Union climb-down on rail jobs

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

**TWELVE THOUSAND rail jobs hung in the balance yesterday as rail union leaders started a two-day meeting with the British Railways Board at a London hotel.**

Redundancy notices—ultimately threatening 5,500 rail shopmen and more than 6,000 administrative staff—are suspended for the next four weeks while a settlement is reached.

However, the unions have accepted that there must be redundancies. The only issue in the talks is the terms.

Typical of the unions' present attitude is a remark made last week by Sid Weighell, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen who is leading the union side in the

talks.

If a package of proposals for achieving the cuts through voluntary redundancy were accepted by British Rail, he said, the problem would not be getting workers to leave the industry but persuading them to stay in it.

Faced with this kind of opposition, the board is expected to remain adamant that all 12,000 jobs must go.

And all the indications are it will declare the unions' package of proposals far too expensive.

The package was certainly that, since besides a pledge that there would be no compulsory redundancies the unions wanted:

- Golden handshakes of up to £2,300, depending on length of service.
- Financial aid of up to £1,500 to older men who are forced to move out of their home districts and find new jobs, new houses.
- Retention of their present

metropolitan weighting allowances by white-collar workers who are forced to move out of London by the board's cuts there.

The death sentence on the workshop and white-collar jobs was declared last September, to be carried out by 1976.

Since nationalization in 1947, employment throughout the railways has already been cut by close on 66 per cent. The number of shopmen has been slashed from 126,000 to its present 50,000-level in the last ten years.

Of the new workshop cuts, 2,300 were to be made by mid-1972.

At talks with the board in October the unions were offered an alternative; either complete closure of the shops at Ashford in Kent and Barassie, Ayrshire, or reductions spread over all 14 centres.

The unions, however, insisted at that stage that their policy was complete opposition to all redundancies.

In December, after Transport Minister John Peyton refused to meet the unions to discuss the cuts, the line apparently hardened.

The NUR's Weighell found himself talking about 'some form of industrial action'.

And in January running-repair workers started refusing to move wagons which British Rail insisted on farming out to private enterprise.

Last month, however, the union working-party set up to thrash the issue out with the board suddenly dropped its opposition to redundancy.

The board was jubilant. All the union leaders wanted was a paper pledge of no compulsory redundancy, it appeared.

Hence last week's package and the present pow-wow at the Great Western Hotel in Paddington, London.

Without militant action to save jobs, the demand for no compulsory redundancy is clearly the shabbiest of covers.

Presumably the 400 men at Barassie—30 miles outside Glasgow and with no prospect of a job in the area—will all be asked to volunteer for redundancy before closure to save their unions the embarrassment of having them sacked.

The great workshops climb-down must sharpen the struggle for an alternative, revolutionary leadership in the rail unions.

# TV

## BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.55 Canu'r Bobol. 1.30 Mr Benn. 1.45 News, weather. 2.05 Schools. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Crackerjack 72. 5.35 George Best. 5.44 Crystal Tipps. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 MAGAZINE. Regular local programme.  
6.20 TOM AND JERRY.  
6.25 THE VIRGINIAN The Bugler.  
7.40 THE LIVER BIRDS.  
8.10 THE BROTHERS. Serial in 10 parts. 2. Down to Business.  
9.00 NEWS, Weather.  
9.20 THE QUESTION OF ULSTER—THE PEOPLE TALKING.  
10.10 THE CARL-ALAN AWARDS. For services to ballroom dancing.  
10.45 24 HOURS.  
11.15 ST. PATRICK'S DAY. Songs and music of Ireland.

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School. 5.35 Open University.  
7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.  
8.00 MONEY PROGRAMME. 1972 miners' strike through eyes of local union leader, pit manager, men and wives of Clipstone colliery village.  
9.00 GARDENERS' WORLD. With Percy Thrower.  
9.20 REVIEW. Balham Mystery. Beginnings of Photography.  
10.10 CLOCHERLE. Part 5. The Painful Infliction of Nicholas the Beadle.  
10.40 NEWS, Weather.  
10.45 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

## ITV

10.20 Schools. 2.30 Matinee. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Tea Break. 3.40 Drive In. 4.10 Mysteries. 4.40 Pinky and Perky 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 Bright's Boffins. 5.50 News.  
6.00 TODAY.  
6.30 BEWITCHED.  
7.00 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.  
7.30 FILM: 'SEVEN WAYS FROM SUNDOWN'. Audie Murphy, Barry Sullivan. Young Texas Ranger and notorious outlaw.  
9.00 SPYDER'S WEB. Things That Go Bang in the Night.  
10.00 NEWS.  
10.30 ALEXANDER THE GREATEST.  
11.05 THE BARON. You Can't Win Them All.  
12.00 COVER TO COVER.  
12.25 THE CHURCH AND REVOLUTION.

## REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 10.20 Schools. 1.40 Schools. 4.05 Pinky and Perky. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Dick Van Dyke. 4.55 Cat in the hat. 5.20 Ask Westward. 5.50 News. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 I spy. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weather. 10.32 Name of the game. 11.50 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 4.55 Flintstones. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sport. 10.30 Report. 10.58 News. 12.20 Faith for life. 12.25 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 10.20 Schools. 3.35 Tea break. 4.05 Houseparty. 4.18 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Bottom of the sea. 5.50 News. 6.00 Day by day. 6.40 Out of town. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weekend. 10.35 Film: 'Term of Trial'. 12.55 News. 1.05 Weather. Discoverers.

HTV: 10.20 Schools. 3.50 Women only. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Bottom of the sea. 5.50 News. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'The Secret Partner'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Press call. 11.00 Skiffel rugby. 11.30 Department S. 12.30 Weather. HTV West as above except: 6.01 Report West.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15 Cantamil. 6.01 Y Dydd. 10.30 Outlook.

ATV MIDLANDS: 10.20 Schools. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Comedians. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 Jimmy Stewart. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Mummy'. Weather.

ULSTER: 10.20 Schools. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Thunderbirds. 5.50 News. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Persuaders. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 Lon-

don. 10.30 Spectrum. 11.00 Film: 'The Good Beginning'.

YORKSHIRE: 10.20 Schools. 2.31 Minutes that changed history. 3.00 Pied Piper. 3.05 Matinee. 3.35 News. 3.45 Holidays abroad. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan. 5.50 News. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 It takes a thief. 8.30 On the buses. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Dr Blood's Coffin'. 12.15 Weather.

GRANADA: 10.18 Schools. 3.40 Yoga. 4.05 News. Odd couple. 4.35 Magic ball. 4.50 Captain Scarlet. 5.15 Rainbow country. 5.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.20 Peyton Place. 6.50 Kick off. 7.05 Film: 'Columbo: Murder by the Book'. 8.20 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 Open night. 11.10 Danger man. 12.05 See our next thrilling instalment!

TYNE TEES: 10.20 Schools. 3.05 Pied piper. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 News. 3.45 Holidays abroad. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan. 5.50 News. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Calling Dr Gannon. 8.30 On the buses. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Dr Blood's Coffin'. 12.15 News. 12.30 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 10.20 Schools. 3.30 Kiri. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 News. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Mr Magoo. 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Strange Report. 8.30 Both ends meet. 9.00 London. 10.30 In camera. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers'.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 Schools. 3.38 News. 3.40 Dr Simon Locke. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Pinky and Perky. 4.55 Flintstones. 5.20 Tom Grattan. 5.50 News. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Mr & Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.35 It takes a thief. 8.25 Stuart Gillies. 9.00 London. 10.30 Hogan's heroes. 11.00 Film: 'Dark Eyes of London'. Road and Ski Report 12.25 Epilogue.

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# EXTEND UNION ORGANIZATION AMONG WOMEN —TUC CALL

A NATIONAL campaign to extend trade union organization among all women workers was urged yesterday by the TUC women's conference, meeting at Bournemouth.

The successful resolution—from the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers—was backed up by an engineers'

union motion calling for 'vigorous measures' by individual unions to step up recruitment of women.

Pointing out that equal pay for women had been TUC policy for 80 years, USDAW delegate Joyce Riddiough said: 'We want action now.'

'Women who work need to rouse themselves, and realize that the only way they can get what they want is by acting collectively.'

YOUNG SOCIALISTS' NATIONAL RIGHT-TO-WORK CAMPAIGN PRESENTS

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### LATE NEWS

VICTOR FEATHER, TUC general secretary, said yesterday no firm of any size or any sense wanted to touch the Industrial Relations Act or any part of it. 'Employers are steering clear of it,' he told the TUC's women's conference at Bournemouth.

See story on strike being stopped this page.

Meanwhile court president Sir John Donaldson, speaking in London, was suggesting ways employers could speed up ways of using the court to stop strikes.

Representations could be made to the court over the telephone in urgent cases, he said. They could use 'the modern loudspeaker conference units, with which the court offices are equipped'.

VICKERS announced yesterday that its Palmer's, Hebburn, ship-repair yard on the Tyne, which closed in September 1970 because of heavy losses, has been sold to the Swan Hunter group.

The National Graphical Association executive decided to embark on further industrial action in support of their claim, but at the end of a four and a half hours meeting yesterday would not reveal their tactics.

PORT employers yesterday stepped up their campaign to get rid of thousands of dock jobs. Bigger golden handshakes, to encourage 3,000 dockers to leave the industry in the next 12 months, were announced by the National Association of Port Employers.

Maximum pay-outs for men who voluntarily retire or leave the industry are to be increased by £500 to £2,330.

PRESIDENT Georges Pompidou yesterday announced that a referendum

would be held in France to ratify the treaties of adhesion of Britain, Ireland, Denmark and Norway to the Common Market.

He told a press conference that it would have been easy to have used the parliamentary method to approve the treaties and there would have been big favourable majorities in both the national assembly and the senate.

'But I think it is my duty, and that it is fundamentally democratic, to ask the French people to make their choice directly on this policy in favour of Europe,' he added.

### WEATHER

ALL AREAS will be dry with spells of sunshine. Fog patches over England and Wales will soon clear.

E coastal areas of Scotland and England, as far S as The Wash, however, will have areas of rather persistent coastal fog.

All areas will be warm or very warm, except for eastern coastal districts N of The Wash which will be rather cold where coastal fog persists.

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Warm and sunny in most places, but cooler and cloudier near E coast.

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# Grim shipping future—even at Govan

HOPES that a revival in world shipbuilding would guarantee a future for the newly-formed Govan Shipbuilders on the Upper Clyde are unfounded.

This was stated yesterday by a spokesman at the Shipbuilding Information Office.

He was commenting on a warning by Tory Trade Secretary John Davies that Govan was not a justified proposition on a commercial basis, but that the government intended to provide money in the expectation that the market would eventually revive.

'Just about everyone has their own ideas on this matter,' said the spokesman.

'The only thing one can say is that we are in for a very bad year. Just as to when the market will pick up is anyone's guess.'

He said that since the New Year not one order had been placed in any of the European yards.

The reason for the chronic slump was the decline in world trade

that normally grew 7 per cent a year—plus the uncertainty over future currency values.

'It is really a question of confidence. With this uncertainty in the monetary market since September, people are just not risking their money in long-term contracts.'

Trade and the monetary situation had combined to depress the market to such an extent that the Japanese, who make or break the chartering market, had withdrawn completely because rates were so low.

'The boom in orders two years ago has also served to make the situation worse. These ships have been flooding out of the yards at a time when ship-owners already face surplus capacity,' said the spokesman.

Even given a revival, the market would have a surplus shipbuilding capacity.

'A new feature is Spain. The Spanish government is at present promoting three massive shipbuilding projects. If there is a boom, the dangers of cut-throat

competition are obvious.'

This situation on the world market serves to illustrate the extremely tenuous basis on which Govan rests.

It would be no exaggeration to say its hopes of attracting orders in the normal commercial way are nil.

Davies admitted this on Monday when he told MPs that if he still held his old position as a director of Hill Samuel Bank he would not advise investors to risk their funds in Govan Shipbuilders.

He added that it was the 'intention' of the government to inject cash, but that the issue was not yet decided.

HOPES among British shipbuilding industrialists for an early pre-budget cash boost to help the industry fight off foreign competition have been dashed.

The long-awaited relief for shipbuilding will now have to wait until after next week's budget statement.

In the Commons on Wednesday night Trade

This, he said, depended entirely on the negotiation between unions and Govan management.

Tory strategy is still basically the same therefore—to use the threat of total closure and mass unemployment to drive down wages and conditions on the Clyde.

The Stalinist leadership, with its praise of government policy, has now opened the yard gates wide to this kind of attack.

But despite all these manoeuvres the hard commercial evidence is that the world slump in trade is now jeopardizing the entire fabric of compromise and intrigue on the Clyde.

Minister Michael Noble told shipbuilding MPs that the Tory government's policy statement on problems facing shipbuilding would come 'soon'.

As from yesterday, however, interest rates dropped from 6½ to 6 per cent following Noble's announcement on new fixed rate export credit arrangements.

## INDUSTRIAL COURT HALTS STRIKE MOVE

FOUR COMPANIES, who ceased to recognize a trade union were yesterday granted an order by the National Industrial Relations Court stopping three employees from calling a strike.

The strike had threatened to call out 600 employees in Reading on Monday.

Making the order, Sir John Donaldson, the Court chairman, criticized the company for taking a 'legalistic' view over recognition of the union, but said the men were acting unlawfully in calling a strike.

The court's order is effective until Monday when the men will have an opportunity of putting their case.

It was made against Mr Z. H. Shamsi, of Junction Road, Reading; Mr S. Bramble, of Albert Road, Reading, and Mr J. Isaacs, of Brunswick Street, Reading.

The court was told that they

were Transport and General Workers' Union shop stewards in the companies' three factories, but they had claimed to be acting not in their official capacity but as employees' representatives.

The order was sought by Ideal Casements (Reading) Ltd, and their subsidiaries Ideal Casements Ltd, Ideal Galvanizing Ltd, and Ideal Tubes and Conduits, Ltd, all of Shepherds House Lane, London Road, Reading.

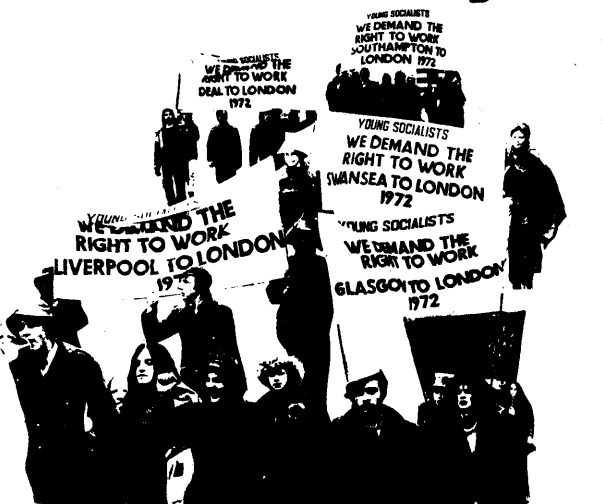
After the hearing Mr James

Wallace, chairman and managing director of the companies, said he had now arranged with the Chief Conciliation Officer of the Ministry of Employment and Productivity, to attend a joint meeting of the companies and the union to discuss peace terms.

'He has undertaken to try to arrange a meeting either today or tomorrow. We will try before Monday to get a complete settlement,' he said.

'If this is not possible, we should achieve a position by tomorrow night where there will be peace to allow discussions to continue.'

**We demand the right to work! Make the Tories resign!**



**YOUNG SOCIALISTS 12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCARBOROUGH**  
Saturday & Sunday April 8/9 Grand Hall, The Spa

Dance to 'BRAVE NEW WORLD' Saturday night 8 pm also see a star-studded show

Cost approximately £4.50. For tickets apply to John Simmance, National Secretary, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG