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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

STOCKPORT SIT-IN TRIGGERS NW ACTION

ENGINEERING PAY BATTLE OPENS UP

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

THE LONG-AWAITED battle between workers and employers in the engineering industry will begin today in Stockport, Cheshire. Up to 20,000 workers in the town will start a work-to-rule and overtime ban in support of the nation-wide engineering claim now being fought out at local level.

The action, which comes a week earlier than planned, has been triggered-off by 1,000 workers at Bredbury steel works, Stockport, who voted yesterday to continue their three-day-old sit-in against a management lock-out.

The Bredbury workers began the work to rule, which involved going-off the piecework onto a day-rate payment system, when they found out that the firm was moving stocks in preparation for the big dispute originally scheduled for March 27.

Management retaliated with a threat to suspend workers and the occupation began.

Today other Stockport employers are expected to take a similar tough line. And if other workers occupy, the town will be faced with a mini-General Strike which could easily spread to the Greater Manchester area.

I talked to Alec Reese the steelworks' convenor this week-end outside the Ashton Rd factory.

'The firm's action breaks all agreed custom and practice,' he said. 'In the past during disputes we have gone onto day rate. This time they refused and threatened men with suspension.'

'Well we all took one firm decision. We are not going to be locked out of these gates like our forefathers were in the 1930s. We are here ready for work but we will not be dictated to.'

The Stockport action will quickly become a test case for the whole engineering industry in Britain. Shop stewards throughout the NW have submitted a claim for a £4-a-week rise, equal pay for women, a 35-hour week, six more non-statutory holidays a year and an extra week's annual holiday. The steelworks, where skilled and semi-skilled men are particularly low paid, have submitted a similar claim save their demand on cash is for £10 a week—to give them earning parity.

Union intelligence reports that the Bredbury steel management, part of the Guest, Keen and Nettleford group (GKN), were urging other local bosses into the fight, which will again mean workers challenging the Tories.

SIT-ON: GKN. Workers who have occupied the Bredbury plant sit on the company sign at Bent's Lane, Stockport.



We're the test case — convenor

WORKERS at Bredbury steel works begin their second week of occupation today conscious that they are the centre of attention in the engineering industry.

Alec Reese, the Amalgamated Engineering Workers' convenor told me that the men knew they were a test case.

'This dispute does not only involve Bredbury steel works, the Stockport district or the Manchester district, but all fellow workers throughout the country. If we win here they will win.'

The action at Bredbury would have been quite out of character three years ago.

Then the factory was known for its lack of militancy. This is still reflected in the low pay rates.

A bottom grade production worker starts on a basic £16 a week. Even the skilled engineer can only expect a basic little over £20.

Three years ago Guest Keen cleaned out top management and the newcomers made it quite clear things were going to change.

'They told us quite openly work study was coming in, productivity was going to go up, and there were going to be redundancies,' one worker told me.

Soon after a flock of university whizz-kids got to work on the shop floor. The redundancies did come and a

form of Measured-Day Work was implemented in the plant. Bredbury steel has now proved itself to be the most militant shop in the S Manchester area.

Weeks before the latest outbreak, shop-floor workers backed the staff over their own claim and then the Bredbury men went way ahead of the NW shop stewards by threatening the firm with a five-day strike notice if they did not concede to the full engineering claim.

'I have never seen such a mood of solidarity among the men,' Alan Wells, the General and Municipal Workers' Union convenor, told me.

'But the reason is not hard to find. They are sick of low wages and a cost of living

that's continually going up and up. We have decided to put an end to this.'

Alan, with the rest of the men, has been sitting-in since Wednesday when the firm encouraged the confrontation by marching into the maintenance section and threatening suspension if men there did not immediately come to feel and stop the work-to-rule. This was the spark that set frustration ablaze.

This mood of militancy, however, is general in the S Manchester area. For the first time since the 1930s massive redundancies have been declared throughout the engineering industry and most plants are working short time. At Bredbury steel, for

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Action on print pay

INDUSTRIAL action by print-workers on provincial newspapers and in general printing seems certain to be called by the unions this week.

Attempts will be made to reach settlements with individual firms, particularly those which are not members of the Newspaper Society or the British Federation of Master Printers.

But with the bulk of employers standing firm on their offer of

rises up to £2.40 a week—now rejected by at least three of the four unions involved—a clash seems inevitable.

Union leaders' original claim was for up to £7 across the board on basic rates, and the key National Graphical Association has already decided on an undisclosed form of industrial action. It is believed this would apply only to firms refusing individual settlements.

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AROUND THE WORLD

Feltrinelli death heightens election tension

A SECOND autopsy on millionaire left-wing publisher Giangiacomo Feltrinelli (45), was held yesterday in Milan amid growing certainty that he was killed last Wednesday as part of a fascist frame-up.

The first autopsy, held on Saturday, was inconclusive. Doctors were unable to establish whether Feltrinelli had been drugged before he was blown up by sticks of nitroglycerine in a field near Milan.

A pylon near the body was found with other sticks of explosive attached. The public prosecutor claimed yesterday that the state was keeping 'an open mind' on the cause of Feltrinelli's death.

But already, dozens of left-wing sympathizers have had their homes raided and Feltrinelli's former homes and branches of his publishing house have also been searched.

The publisher's death is creating an unprecedented crisis in the run-up to the Italian General Election, scheduled for May 7.

The Italian Social Movement (MSI), fascists with powerful backing from sections of the military and the state machine, are hoping for major gains at the election.

The Florence newspaper 'La Nazione' wrote on Saturday: 'No election in the past 26 years has taken place amid such strong tensions, such open threats and such violent intimidation—not even those of 1946 and 1948.'

Interior Minister Mariano Rumor yesterday returned from Naples to Rome to discuss the Feltrinelli case with premier Giulio Andreotti and to consult the heads of the police and carabinieri.

The Italian secret service, Defence Ministry counter-espionage agents, as well as the secret police and the regular police

forces, are all reported to be involved in the investigation into the death.

These agencies are riddled with fascist sympathizers, and in many cases they have succeeded in introducing provocateurs into the political circles where Feltrinelli was active. A case in point is Mario Merlino, currently a defendant in the Valpreda bombing frame-up.

Merlino was an active fascist until he visited Greece at the colonels' expense in April 1968. On his return he joined the anarchist March 22 movement in Rome, where he played the classic provocateur's role of encouraging its members to undertake acts of terrorism.

The dangers of this kind of provocation are enormously increased by the anarchists' contempt for theory and their isolation from the working class. Even the bourgeois press has suggested that some such provocation may be involved in Feltrinelli's death.

'Corriere della Sera', the Milan daily, said on Saturday that until it had more information, the public should not dismiss the possibility that Feltrinelli was assassinated by right-wingers or with police complicity.

'There are plenty of similar episodes in the history of European fascism,' the paper said, adding that such a plot would aim at discrediting 'certain leftist subversionism of which Feltrinelli was undoubtedly an exponent and to arouse public opinion against them.'

The Communist Party, which has fought Feltrinelli since he left in opposition to the suppression of the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, also cautiously backed the idea that the fascists were responsible.

Enrico Berlinguer, the Party's newly elected secretary, told the last day of the CP congress in Milan that there was a founded suspicion that the publisher's death was 'a terrible frame-up'.

ANOTHER RIGHTWARD STEP BY ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

THE Italian Communist Party took a further step to the right in preparation for the May elections at its five-day National Congress, which ended on Friday.

New general secretary, Enrico Berlinguer, made an appeal to middle-of-the-road electors by emphasizing the party's respect for order and its opposition to violence.

He called for a government based on an alliance with the socialists and left-wing

Catholics and attacked the Christian Democrats for failing to ensure order and legality in the country.

This extremely treacherous policy leaves the way open for the resurgent fascist movement.

Berlinguer intends to compete for the votes of those who might otherwise support the fascist MSI or the Christian Democrats.

At the same time the party holds the working

class in check as it has been doing ever since the 'hot autumn' of 1969.

The middle class is unlikely to be impressed by Berlinguer's reassuring words or his praise for private initiative.

His policy offers nothing to the working class except continued support for bourgeois institutions and a few reforms.

At a time when the Italian economy is on

the decline, unemployment is growing and the bourgeoisie is turning towards fascism, the leader of the Italian Communist Party disarms the working class and offers himself as a guarantor of order.

On international questions, the Party accepts Italy's membership of the European Common Market and NATO, a position which will facilitate making electoral deals with bourgeois politicians.

WHAT WE THINK

MORE ATTACKS ON DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

TORY STATE repression of democratic working-class rights established a new precedent with the banning of the Anti-Internment League demonstration scheduled to take place on March 26 in Trafalgar Square.

A Department of the Environment spokesman told the Press Association on Saturday that the government has banned all demonstrations connected with Irish affairs from the Square.

As usual, the Home Office declined to comment on the ban. The Anti-Internment League has written to Environment Minister Peter Walker asking him to reconsider the decision.

Together with the unprecedented raids on houses and the deportation without trial of Seamus O'Kane to Ulster, this ban testifies to the growing trend toward police despotism in Britain.

More and more power is being transferred to the executive while the legislature—parliament—is treated with scant contempt. No debate has been allowed on the repression of democratic rights in Britain.

A similar trend in pre-Gaullist France involved arbitrary arrest and bans on meetings and demonstrations and torture of Algerian militants in Paris. Ultimately this led to the establishment of a Bonapartist regime.

In Britain, too, the Tory government is using the Irish question to solicit openly the collaboration of the union and Labour Party leaders while viciously repressing and discriminating

against all dissident opinion in the working class.

If the Tories are able to fashion a corporatist strait-jacket for the unions and left-wing political groups, it is only because they feel encouraged by the Labour leaders' servility.

By supporting and facilitating the imperialist terror and repression in Ulster, they have opened the door for the police state in Britain. The union leaders too, by their refusal to lead a struggle for the basic rights of the British working class and for the resignation of the Tories, have contributed mightily to the repression in Ulster and—we might add—the growth of extreme right-wing sentiment within sections of the Protestant working class.

Thanks to the Labour and union leaders, we now have the incredible situation where the Tories can massacre the Irish workers and the British working class cannot even voice their protest! The right of assembly is a fundamental right which no Tory government should be permitted to impugn without immediate and massive opposition from the working class.

We urge all trade unionists to take up the fight for the basic democratic rights of the working class now before it is too late. Demand that your executives cease all collaboration through the TUC with this hated government and that they lead a national campaign to force the Tories to resign!

Court threat

SPANISH shipyard workers at El Ferrol face trial by military court if they do not end their ten-day-old strike today. On Saturday Franco's fascist cabinet authorized martial law in the Bazan shipyard. Two workers were shot dead and 50 injured by police more than a week ago when 4,000 workers made pay and reinstatement demands.

India-Bangla Desh treaty

INDIA and Bangla Desh yesterday signed a 25-year mutual defence treaty along the lines of the Indo-Soviet pact of last year.

The treaty provides for immediate consultations between the countries in order to take 'appropriate effective measures' in the event of an attack or threat of an attack on either country.

Indian military advisers and training personnel will be

stationed in Bangla Desh on a long-term basis under the treaty.

Other treaty articles provide for regular contacts between the two governments at all levels and mutual co-operation in the fields of trade, transport and communications, birth control, water development, irrigation and power.

Soviet premier Alexei Kosygin has called in Moscow for tripartite talks between India, Pakistan and Bangla Desh as a step towards an Asian collective security system.

He was speaking at a reception for Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who flew back to Islamabad at the weekend after two days of talks with Soviet leaders.

Bhutto succeeded in persuading the Kremlin to resume aid and trade with Pakistan which was disrupted during the Indo-Pak war last December.

He pledged that his government would help restore peaceful conditions on the sub-continent.

Federation rejects Hussein plan

THREE ARAB states have rejected King Hussein's plan for a federal state on the two banks of the Jordan to include territory now under Israeli occupation.

A statement from the Federation of Arab Republics, which comprises Egypt, Syria and Libya, said that the plan opens the way for 'imperialist, Zionist infiltration and places the entire region under the domination of imperialism'.

It saw it as a US-concocted formula for the creation of a Palestine state under the political and economic influence of Israel.

The Federation urged Arab governments to reject the plan

and to block 'Zionist and imperialist machinations which aim at the liquidation of the Palestinian cause'.

The Palestine resistance movement welcomed the statement. Kamal Nasser, spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the Federation, like Algeria and Iraq, had taken 'an honourable nationalist line'.

He called on other Arab governments to oppose the King's liquidationist plan and added 'the revolution will continue until victory'.

Peking has come out strongly against Hussein's plan and news media have given much space to the widespread opposition it has aroused. Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei met Arab diplomats and assured them of China's support

for the Palestine people and the Arab cause against Israel and the US.

An article in Saturday's 'People's Daily' said that Hussein intended to make it impossible for hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs to return to their homeland and described the plan as a sell-out to Israel.

Home stop-over

FOREIGN SECRETARY Sir Alec Douglas-Home was received by the Shah of Iran in Tehran yesterday on a one-day stop-over on his way to Pakistan. Mutual Iranian-British interests in the Persian Gulf were among the subjects discussed.

Rail offer up to 10 p.c.?

WHEN the rail pay talks resume today, British Rail is expected to increase its offer to slightly over 10 per cent.

The last offer was 9.7 per cent, but this was rejected by the three unions—the footplatemen's union, ASLEF, the National Union of Railwaymen, and the Transport and Salaried Staffs' Association.

Originally the board offered 7.75 per cent on earnings; this was before the miners smashed the Tory 'norm' and gained increases of well over 20 per cent. The rail unions are demanding that they too should be considered 'a special case'.

The basic rate for railmen is £17.20. Their average earnings are £28 for a 50-hour week, which is well below the national industrial average of £30.93 for a considerably shorter working week. Today's new offer of increases of just over £2 are unlikely to pacify the militancy among big sections of rail workers.

For some years now they have co-operated with British Rail in the running down of the industry and resisted industrial action. Now, like the miners, they are demanding some quid pro quo. And especially quid!

Metal fatigue

METAL TRADERS will petition the bankruptcy court this week after the announcement of crippling trade losses of £4.8m. The decision to liquidate follows urgent talks last week between London Metal directors and the company's merchant bankers, Baring Brothers.

The company asked for its share quotation to be suspended last Thursday and simultaneously ceased trading. It is the first collapse on the London Metal Exchange since 1937.

STEEL and iron prices are to go up next month—but within the 5 per cent limit being pressed by the Confederation of British Industry. The new prices will give the British Steel Corporation an extra £48m a year.

Teachers accept 7.7 p.c.

THE Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions has accepted a 7.7 per cent wage offer.

The offer will be formally accepted on March 27 when ATTI general secretary Tom Driver meets the Burnham Committee. Last week the capitalist press revealed that the Tory government's pay 'norm' is now 10 per cent.

Putting the best face on the acceptance of the old 'norm', the ATTI said the vote to settle at 7.7 per cent was taken 'reluctantly'.

Dangerous clique at Labour HQ

RON HAYWARD, the Labour Party's national agent, said in Blackpool that the party needs to 'revitalize' its organization at grass roots level.

There was little democracy in 20-odd people deciding whether or not an MP should be re-elected or which candidate should be selected, he said.

There was a danger in this situation that 'a small clique' held too much power.

'It reflects no credit on us. It is alien to all our beliefs and often means that a small clique has decided to hold power in their hands whilst deliberately rejecting any attempt to increase their numbers or to allow new voices to be heard.'

Hayward himself is employed full-time at the party's Transport House headquarters.

LAW AND ORDER IN RUSSIA



According to Stalinist sources, the cause of the opposition to Soviet tanks in Prague in August 1968 (above) is hooliganism.

'Hooliganism' was a bit of a novelty when the British army first used it to describe sections of the protagonists in Ulster's civil war.

As the blanket term apparently far removed from such serious matters as politics, the word hooliganism is enjoying quite a vogue at the moment.

In the USSR it is used to describe just about anything reflecting the boredom and frustration with the quality of Soviet life strictly delimited by the character of Stalinism.

It is commonly applied not only to 'vandals', but to demonstrators and all kinds of political dissidents—those that is who are not 'insane'.

Naturally all those acts of 'hooliganism' such as gratuitous beating up of demonstrators committed by the police are not mentioned.

The slump ravaging capitalist states and the consequent outburst of vandalism and working-class unrest has produced a uniform cry for law and order.

The crisis in the Stalinist states, mirrored in uprisings in Czechoslovakia and Poland, and now immensely aggravated by the decay of capitalism, has triggered

a wave of thefts, violence and vandalism in the USSR — the cause according to Stalinist sources... hooliganism.

The answer? Law and order.

'As long as we take a liberal attitude to lawbreakers there will be no order,' one Russian policeman wrote to a newspaper after he had been knifed in the stomach while trying to arrest a thief.

The law-and-order debate has been raging for some time in the Soviet press and the 'stiffer-penalties-against-hooligans' lobby

is gaining ground.

The Soviet deputy chief prosecutor, Mikhail Malyarov, defined Soviet hooliganism in an interview as a form of 'militant immorality'.

'It is immorality in its purest state, unmotivated by a desire for worldly gain but only by an urge towards disrespect and insult, if possible in public,' he said.

Prosecutor Malyarov said there were cases where lethal violence in self-defence against hooligans was justified.

He cited the case of a mechanic taking his girl home one night when three 'hooligans' tried to rape her. He escaped, found a gun at a watchman's hut and shot one attacker after they had disregarded his warning. Proceedings initiated against the mechanic were dropped as it was established that the use of the gun was proper and justified.

Another article told how a killer in Kolomna was tracked down with help from the public after the death of a girl student had aroused popular reaction.

The killer went before a firing squad.

The newspaper 'Izvestia', in reporting the execution of a teenager for murder and robbery, singled out the lack of entertainment facilities as a contributory factor to the delinquency of his gang. In other words, they were bored.

Another factor is the chronic housing shortage. Families often share flats, and raised tempers over use of communal bathrooms and kitchens, plus vodka-drinking, can lead to violence.



RICH SPOILS IN SPANISH SAHARA

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

Reports of bloodshed in the desert have provided a sinister backdrop to the summit meeting which began in Rabat on Friday between Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco.

Heads of the three states bordering on the Spanish Sahara will discuss new ways of obliging Spain to 'decolonize' this desolate waste sprawling over 103,000 square miles.

Two of these states, Morocco and Mauritania, say the desert belonged to them before Spain occupied it in 1934.

Earlier this month, reports published in Morocco said about 18 persons were killed or wounded, including ten Spanish policemen, during a violent demonstration in El Aaiun, the tiny 'capital' of the Spanish Sahara.

In Madrid, it was confirmed that a demonstration had taken place and some arrests were made, but no further details were given. Spain says only 46,000 Nomads live in the area.

The Moroccan daily, 'Maghreb Informations', reported that the Nomadic 'Sahrawi', or people of the Sahara, were 'in a state of revolt' against Spain and uprisings had taken place to 'liberate, the area'.

Similar incidents were reported in 1970 just before the first tripartite summit was held to

King Hassan of Morocco (left) and Houari Boumedienne of Algeria (right): forcing Spain to 'decolonize'.

discuss the same question at Nouadhibou in Mauritania.

At that meeting King Hassan II, of Morocco, Algerian President Houari Boumedienne and Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah decided to 'intensify close collaboration to hasten the decolonization' of the Spanish-occupied Sahara.

Their main quarrel with Spain is that it has done 'virtually nothing' to implement a series of United Nations resolutions passed since 1965. These call on Spain to hold a self-determination referendum in the area under UN auspices so as to allow the people to decide their own future.

Rabat authorities suggest that in the six years since the first resolution was passed, Spain has tightened its hold and reinforced its military garrison.

One reason for such a move could be the discovery of a huge phosphate deposit at Bou Craa, 60 miles from El Aaiun, estimated to total at least 1,400 million tons. Plans to invest some £62m in a mining project are already well-advanced, and Spain is expected to start exporting phosphate through El Aaiun next year.

This mineral bonanza in the desert makes the Spanish Sahara a very valuable prize. It also constitutes a major threat to Morocco's own phosphate-mining industry, one of the mainstays of the economy.

In this context, there are signs that the reactionary Moroccan regime has recently hardened its attitude to fascist Spain. Where cash is concerned

no one is friendly.

After a brief visit to Rabat last January by Spanish Foreign Minister Gregorio Lopez Bravo, Morocco announced that it would place their bilateral relations 'on a new footing'.

The Moroccan press went even further and called for a 'complete and Radical revision of relations' between Rabat and Madrid.

This month, moreover, the opposition parties organized a seminar in Rabat devoted to 'Morocco's despoiled territories,' at which political leaders demanded the return of the Spanish Sahara to Moroccan sovereignty.

Impatient with what they called Spain's 'delaying tactics' and with the Moroccan government's 'ineffectual policies', the opposition parties are now calling for the 'liberation of the Moroccan Sahara under Spanish domination, if necessary by force of arms'.



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.



Deal Right-to-Work marchers at the Wembley Pool rally

NO JOBS AND MORE POVERTY IN IRELAND

Dear Editor,

The success of the Right-to-Work march and the Wembley rally was a giant stride for the British working class becoming conscious of their historical heritage that is embodied in the principles of the Charter of Basic Rights.

For the past year and a half I have been living in Ireland and have learned the hard way to appreciate these rights which I had previously taken for granted in England.

The marches' focus is on the most vital right, the right to work and the unity of the employed and unemployed workers.

Endemic unemployment in Ireland has led to massive emigration of successive generations of Irish men and women that has de-populated the nation and split families in the most cruel way by forcing the young to look overseas.

This emigration is cynically accepted by the southern government as a long-standing economic policy. Today the world economic crisis has restricted this escape value to a trickle and the unemployment figures have rocketed to such an extent that the 'Green' Tories have withdrawn benefit from single men in country areas for their fortunate town counterparts this operates for six months a year.

The so-called official figures are now near 80,000 in the South with a population of about 1½ millions, while in the North the figure is well over 30 per cent in many areas. A true national average must be nearer 20 per cent than the 10 per cent admitted in high places.

This is rapidly increasing with every prospect of reaching famine proportions, with the developing national conflict and rush to the EEC.

The entry into the bosses' Europe will mean directly an intensification of the drive towards productivity dealing and speed-up. These treacherous deals that have general acceptance in the union top brass will get an extra boost with the next National Wage Agreement, or Wage Round.

These 'rounds' are corporate-like agreements between the state, the countries' biggest employer, and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Coalition politics in the South are seen as the best way of holding back the working class. Only the right-wing 'nationalist' split from the ruling FF party, with the formation of Aontacht Eireann under the leadership of Kevin Boland, threatens this 'unity'.

This new right-wing arm of the Catholic bourgeoisie is assured of the support of the Provisional IRA, which provides the bosses with a para-military arm as an alternative to their 'law and order' campaign for increasing the size of the army and Garda (police).

Not only do the working class have to suffer greater exploitation with lower wages and higher prices than in Britain but if you go after one of the elusive jobs you will probably be required to pay your own travelling expenses, cost of your medical, etc.

There is no adequate health service, with only a nominal cover for the low income bracket, while the rest have to get health insurance if they can afford it. The so-called Voluntary Health Insurance (VHI) is not only expensive but inadequate. For example it does not

cover drug charges unless they exceed £25 a year, it excludes expenses for pregnancies and other such 'acts of God' etc.

Most Radio Luxemburg listeners will know that much of the medical finance comes from the Irish Hospitals Sweepstake Lottery, but this is not one of the numerous 'charities' which have legions of middle-class 'dogooders' out waving tins under your noses at every street corner. Every shop sponsors one or other charity, most of which are directly controlled by the church.

The religious orders also run much of the health service facilities. In many cases these are so hopelessly inadequate as to be frightening. One British-trained nurse I know personally, had to leave because she would not tolerate these conditions.

Housing is very bad indeed with an acute shortage of council accommodation and even allocation of this is subject to lottery.

There is of course a policy of selling off council property at market prices. This provides the desperate conditions for a thriving estate-agent business and a mass of groups selling caravans and mobile homes. If you have children it is almost impossible to get a flat or a bed sitter and these, if advertised in the evening paper, are snapped up mysteriously before the paper appears on the street.

A member of Crumlin IYS spent a year vainly searching for a place even though he was prepared to do major renovation work at his own expense. A flat I vacated led to 47 enquiries in the space of one afternoon. Any reasonable place suitable for a young family will be in the excess of £10 but £16 per week is more common.

Under these conditions a mortgage may appear a soft alternative but there is no possibility of getting more than an 80 per cent loan and even then you need to have £1,000 invested in the building society for a year before they will consider your application for approval!

If successful you have to commit yourself to a life insurance policy run in conjunction with the Building Society. Contracts in Ireland are one way, with 'get out clauses' for the builder but not for the purchaser who is liable for his deposit should anything go wrong.

Education is still dominated by the church through such teaching orders as the Christian Brothers. Attempts to get religious freedom accepted with the establishment of 'community schools' is naturally meeting stiff opposition while the recently-established, non-denominational 'Regional Colleges' are certainly independent of the powerful church interests, in name only.

This pattern of nominal inde-

pendence is already appearing with the first Community School on the outskirts of Dublin at Tallaght.

Universities are coming under an austerity programme with the government pushing the rationalization of the two colleges here in Dublin, University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin by forcing a merger.

A massive 80 per cent of graduates are, in any case, unable to find suitable work here in Ireland and with the collapse of the government's 'grants to foreign industry' programme which led to such white elephants as the 'Shannon Free Trade Area' this phenomenal loss of skilled manpower is certain to increase.

In these circumstances the weak comprador capitalist class that Lynch represents needs to be supported by a battery of repressive legislation.

There is of course the long-standing 'Offences Against the State Act' that has, at present, the dormant clause that if re-activated would sanction internment in the South.

Having followed Wilson's government in attempting to introduce an Industrial Relations Bill to shackle the trade unions it is no surprise to see sections of the Lynch government keen to follow the Heath Tory administration's example of the Industrial Relations Bill. Lynch has already forced through the Dail the Forcible Entry Act which provides a legal cover for crushing any attempt by workers to occupy factories.

In the North not only is there imprisonment without trial but there is a shoot-on-sight policy being pursued by the occupation forces. Miss Devlin's warning, after the Derry's Bloody Sunday, of the state violence in Ulster being the same as that used against the miners' pickets must be heeded by the British working class and especially the youth who must give the class a lead.

Therefore the demand for rights must not only include the right to work, a State Health Service, education, housing, free trade union organization, etc., but must include the right of Ireland to self-determination, for only then will the Irish working class be able to demand these same rights which they have so long been denied.

The expansion of the Workers Press and the weekly Keep Left in Britain and the launching of the fortnightly printed youth paper the 'Youth Bulletin' in Ireland are a major step towards building the mass revolutionary party in England and the building of the Irish section of the Fourth International to achieve these demands.

Forward to a United Socialist States of Europe.

Fraternal greetings,
N.M.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

National Conference

November 6, 1971

10 a.m.

Digbeth Hall, Digbeth Birmingham

DRAFT MANIFESTO

Available from New Park Publications
186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

AUSTRALIAN UNION CHIEF SHOWS HIS TRUE COLOURS

Australia's TUC is the Melbourne-based Australian Council of Trade Unions. And the equivalent of Victor Feather is a fiery self-publicist called Bob Hawke. This profile of Hawke appears in the latest issue of 'Labour Press', a fortnightly newspaper published in Sydney:

Robert James Lee Hawke took control of the Australian Council of Trade Unions two years ago on the retirement of right-winger Albert Monk.

A Rhodes Scholar, Hawke was hailed as a new model for the trade union movement. With eloquence, legal knowledge and backed by a team of research whiz-kids, he was going to win fresh battles for the working class. He was the new 'left-wing terror' of the bosses.

But things have not quite turned out like that. The world has changed since Hawke became top trade union bureaucrat, and as the world changed so did Hawke's role in it.

From being the union leader the employers loved to hate, Hawke has become, in the words of Federal leader of the opposition, Gough Whitlam, the greatest troubleshooter and solver of industrial disputes Australia has ever had.

That Whitlam's description is the most apt is apparent, following Hawke's betrayal of the Victorian power workers' strike this month, and his 'recommendations' to linesmen to call off their work ban when they were fighting for a \$6 a week flow on earlier this month.

The signs of the role Hawke was going to take have been there for some time. In September last year he warned unionists to work through 'proper channels'. Although the speech was

aimed at disputes which had occurred in the NSW branch of the Building Workers' Industrial Union, and the railways, the implications were obviously much wider.

He accused some sections of the building unions of using 'incorrect' tactics. Workers have now seen that by correct tactics Hawke means selling out strikes when workers are at their most militant and determined.

It is the downward rush of capitalism that is revealing Hawke in his new position. He is now playing the historical role advocated to him—that of a reformist leader in times of an upsurge among the working class.

Under the buoyancy which still persisted in world capitalism into the end of the 1960s, workers were able, through their unions, to extract some pay increases and improved conditions from industry.

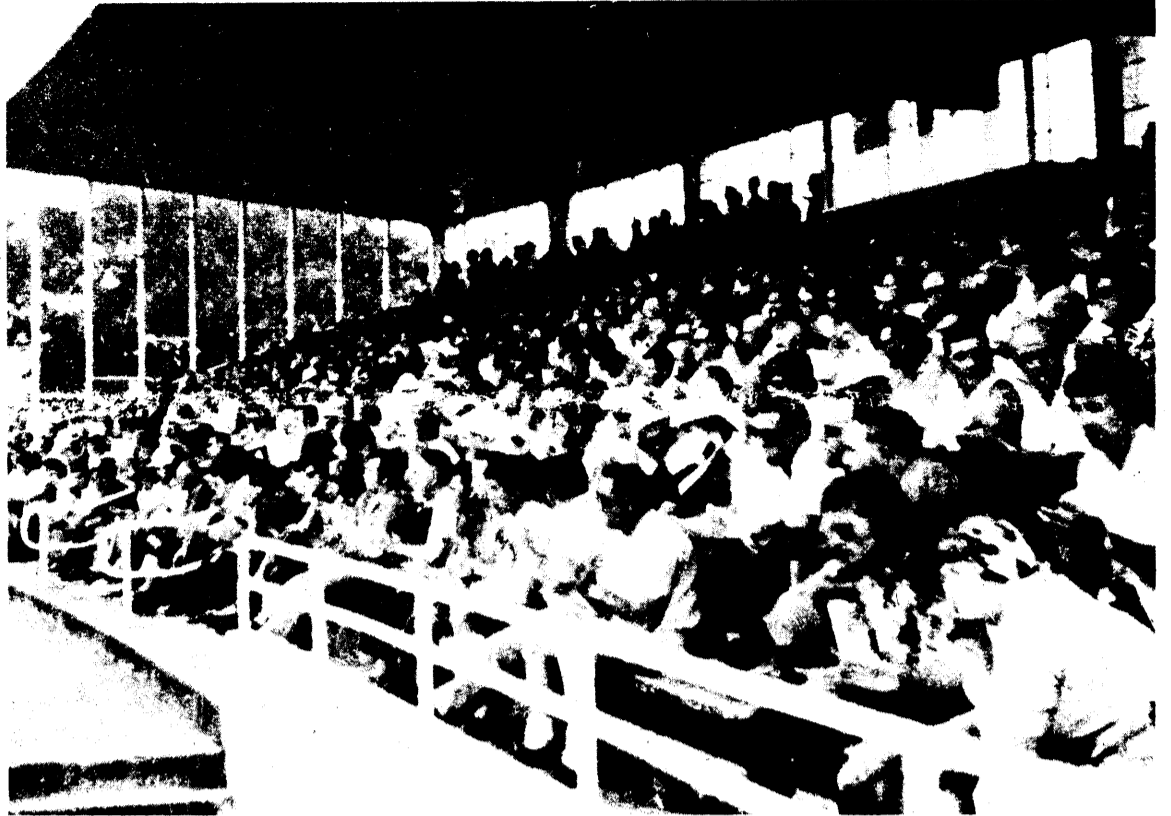
Now their needs will not be fulfilled by the present leadership, neither reformist nor Stalinist. To maintain, let alone advance, their conditions workers will have to fight bitter battles.

Capitalism is bankrupt and can only drive down the working class if it is to survive. The Hawkes of the labour movement are there to supervise this process, either consciously or otherwise. The only way to prevent this defeat occurring is to replace these reformists and fight for the construction of a revolutionary leadership.

It is worth looking in detail at the role Hawke has played in the trade union movement, from the power strike, to the Springbok demonstrations.

At the time of writing, the power dispute is before the Arbitration Commission—with very little chance of success. This is where Hawke placed it, with the words: 'I am not saying you will win the case. I don't say the Arbitration system is perfect.'

Hawke has damned himself with his own words and actions. Knowing full well the arbitration courts are a line of defence for the bourgeoisie, he forced the



Top: Sydney bus workers at a strike meeting during the dispute over one man operation of the Atlantean buses last year. Above: Australian Prime Minister, William McMahon

12,000 strikers to take their claim for an additional week's holiday to one of these courts, when the strike was solid and having a crippling effect on huge sections of major Australian industries.

Instead of throwing the full weight of his office and that of the ACTU executive behind the strikers at a time when they were wielding tremendous power, he called for them to go back to work.

Instead of appealing for the whole of the working class to support the power strike, he made a special flight to the holiday home of Sir Richard Kirby, president of the Arbitration Commission. He did not organize the union movement to fight for the power workers, he instead went to the chief representative of the employers and attempted to come to some deal.

Kirby, regarded by some in the past as a liberal who would divide the cake up fairly between capital and labour, played a key part in the Atlantean dispute at the end of last year, when NSW bus crews were betrayed with the help of their own leadership. Kirby, the man who Hawke appealed to, ordered the bus workers to man double deck Atlanteans as one-man units on a three months' trial basis.

Hawke's executive body on the ACTU, and the NSW leadership under acting secretary of the Labour Council, John Ducker, refused to call for strike support for the bus crews—the only action that would have defeated the Askin government.

Hawke's commitment to the arbitration system, or a similar set-up which would 'legally' give workers their 'just rewards'

under capitalism, is complete.

In the power workers' hearing an Electricity Commission spokesman claimed that the union expected the claim, if successful, to flow on to other industrial areas.

Incredibly, Hawke denied the accusation, claiming that such an argument questioned his own integrity. In other words, the president of the ACTU was assisting employers in their attempts to contain any possible annual leave increase to one state. He supported them in their main fight and attempted to isolate one section of workers from others.

From being a left cover, Hawke has become a direct instrument of the ruling class. His intervention in future struggles will increasingly be to tame workers, and eventually to openly tell them they cannot expect to make any gains unless they in turn make concessions in the form of productivity deals etc.

What workers must realize is that the time when Hawke and other union bureaucrats could forcefully and eloquently put their case for a better deal before the Arbitration Courts is past. Capitalism can no longer make these concessions. It is fighting for its existence. Every wage rise granted, every additional day's holiday surrendered, is another nail in the capitalist coffin.

Hawke's belief that capitalism can be reformed and does not need to be overthrown by the working class revealed itself in a number of similar ways over the last 12 months.

His philosophy is that all the economy needs in its present

state of near collapse is better management. He made this clear in a telegram to Prime Minister McMahon following the savage sackings in the car industry. The telegram accused the government of inhumanity and incompetence.

During the recent period Hawke has supported trade union capitalism of various forms. Amid such publicity from the press, Hawke flew to Israel and Germany to examine ways the emasculated trade unions of those countries have adapted themselves to capitalism and given up the struggle for socialism.

He came back with plans for the ACTU to establish low-cost housing projects, insurance and consumer credit schemes for its members.

This month an application will be lodged at the NSW companies office to register a joint national trade union co-operative finance company. This is likely to be joined by the ACTU. The Australian Community Credit Services Corporation Ltd will concentrate initially on consumer credit, housing, merchant banking, tourism and mass communications.

Thus, while the whole capitalist machine is about to disintegrate, Hawke and the ACTU are fiddling with nuts and bolts.

Workers must ask themselves what Hawke is doing while the McMahon government and the employers it represents is attempting to hammer them into the ground.

They must ask themselves whose side he is on. They must ask whose interest is he representing each time he forces striking workers to arbitrate.



Bob Hawke: trade union leader and the greatest solver of industrial disputes Australian bosses have ever had.

TORY BILL TO DOUBLE RENTS

BY PHILIP WADE

ONE OF the greatest gains made by millions of workers since 1945 has been the vast improvement in housing conditions brought about by the expansion of local authority building.

Two things have resulted: First, by 1971 over 51 million workers and their families lived in council houses or flats. Eviction was no longer at the whim of the private landlord seeking maximum returns on his property. In that sense, a certain security was gained with the knowledge of at least a roof over your head for most of your life. Secondly, the rents were subsidized by government grants. In the main the subsidies went to offset huge interest and capital repayments to the City financiers. In this way tenants were shielded from the forces of market rents.

It is true that rents have risen quite sharply over the past ten years. Nevertheless, on the whole, rents were still below what workers would have to pay elsewhere for similar private landlord accommodation.

Now the Tories are poised to deliver a severe blow to this established right to decent housing conditions at a reasonable rent, not only to council tenants but to 1.3 million living under private landlords.

Their weapon: the Housing Finance Bill. Their aim: massive rent increases for one third of the population; the introduction of the means test into millions of homes for the first time; the destruction of existing democratic rights and the opportunity for the private landlord to make more money.

Showing their usual contempt for parliament, the Tories have imposed a strict timetable for discussion of the Bill. On March 13, despite Labour protests, they imposed a guillotine on the committee stage which must end by March 29—the Easter recess—even if discussion is incomplete.

On the same day Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath snubbed Labour MPs, led by Anthony Crosland, shadow housing spokesman, when he refused to meet them to discuss postponing or withdrawing the Bill.

It would not serve any useful purpose, he told Crosland. 'Putting housing finance permanently on a less inflationary basis is a progressive and long overdue reform. It is also an act of justice,' Heath added.

The Tories, therefore, are pressing on with the measure and no amount of protests will stop them. The key to their attack is contained in the seemingly innocuous phrase 'fair rents'.

No fools, the Tories have chosen one of the favourite expressions of all that is supposed to be decent and honourable in British capitalism: 'fair'.

Trade unionists will well remember 'Fair Deal at Work', published by the Tory Party in 1968. It embodied all the proposals which went into the Industrial Relations Act three years later. This 'fair rents' Bill is nothing more than an attempt to tear the heart out of working-class housing and drive millions on to the streets to become prey for the private landlords.

The definition of the basis for assessing 'fair rents' makes clear Tory intentions.

'Regard must be had... to the age, character and locality of the dwelling and to its state of repair' but it must be assumed that there is no scarcity, reads Clause 50.

The essence of Tory plans, however, is only revealed in the last few words of the definition: in arriving at a 'fair rent' of a council dwelling, consideration must be given to 'the return that it would be reasonable to expect on it as an investment' and the fact that it belongs to a public

body must be disregarded. (My emphasis.)

What does this mean? Simply, that rents must be based on what could be obtained for the property in the open market, without restrictions.

As if this wasn't enough, the rents themselves will be fixed in a most arbitrary manner. The council's officers will draw up a list of fair rents for all its dwellings with the advice of the rent officer.

If the tenant wants to see the new rent he'll have to go to the council's offices as there'll be no notification. He can make representation, but it has to be in writing only.

The rents then go off to the so-called Rent Scrutiny Committees which are appointed bodies dominated by such protagonists of high property values as estate agents, surveyors and solicitors.

This committee can examine some of the dwellings. Any tenant who refuses entry can be fined £50. The committee will then fix the rent without representation from the tenant. There can be no appeal from their decision.

Local authorities will have no choice in implementing these proposals. Clause 49 makes it their duty to charge a 'fair rent' for every dwelling.

Despite government statements to the contrary, a document which fell into the hands of Labour MP Frank Allauz verifies the increases planned.

The Department of the Environment, which produced the estimates in 1970, based its figures on evidence of 'fair rents' established for private dwellings under the 1965 Rent Act.

The average registered rent for each age group and dwelling was then applied to the corresponding age group and dwelling type in the local authority sector,' says the document.

As can be seen from the table, rents in every part of the country will more than double as the plans are carried out.

The Tories want councils to impose rent increases this April, before the Bill becomes law. As the vast majority have refused this inducement, tenants will have to pay another £1 on the rent from October.

Rent increases will then be imposed year after year until 'fair rent' levels are reached.

Over 5 million council tenants will pay an estimated £500m over the next three or four years. Compare this with the present housing subsidies of £200m and you begin to see what the operation is all about.

For there can be little doubt that most housing accounts will show an enormous surplus in the next period. The Bill provides for the Exchequer to get half this amount.

Local councils refusing to raise the rent in this way can be deprived of all housing power and be replaced by a government-appointed Housing Commissioner.

Any councillor who obstructs the Commissioner in his work can be fined up to £400. The Tories are determined to put an end to municipally-controlled housing. Their aim is to step up the exploitation of the working class as tenants and vestiges of freedom preventing this will be swept aside.

Tenants of private landlords will not escape this Bill if it goes through. About 1.3 million of them still living in controlled tenancies will find decontrol beginning from next January. Then they too will be brought into the orbit of 'fair rents'.

Finally, the Tories intend to impose a means test on every tenant in an attempt to take the working class back to the 1930s. The details have been discussed in previous issues of Workers Press.

It would be sufficient to add that the assessment will be made on gross earnings.



Above: Problems in 1962, Powis Square tenants hold a rally to protest against evictions. Far right: Anthony Crosland. Right: Edward Heath.

And it doesn't have to be the tenant who is necessarily the subject of investigation. If, for example, there is a son in the household earning more than his father, then he will become the 'tenant' for the purposes of the means test.

In this way the rebate could be slashed as the son's 'needs allowance' would be less than his parents'.

If there is a change of income in any six-month period, the whole process of applying for a rebate will have to be gone through again.

Thousands of tenants in every part of the country have begun to fight back against the Bill. They know that if it goes through they will effectively suffer a cut in wages as rents go up.

They rightly feel that the security gained since the war will be eroded and that many will be forced to leave their homes or flats and search for accommodation elsewhere. As the imposition of the guillotine on the committee stage and Heath's speech show, the Tories will not be

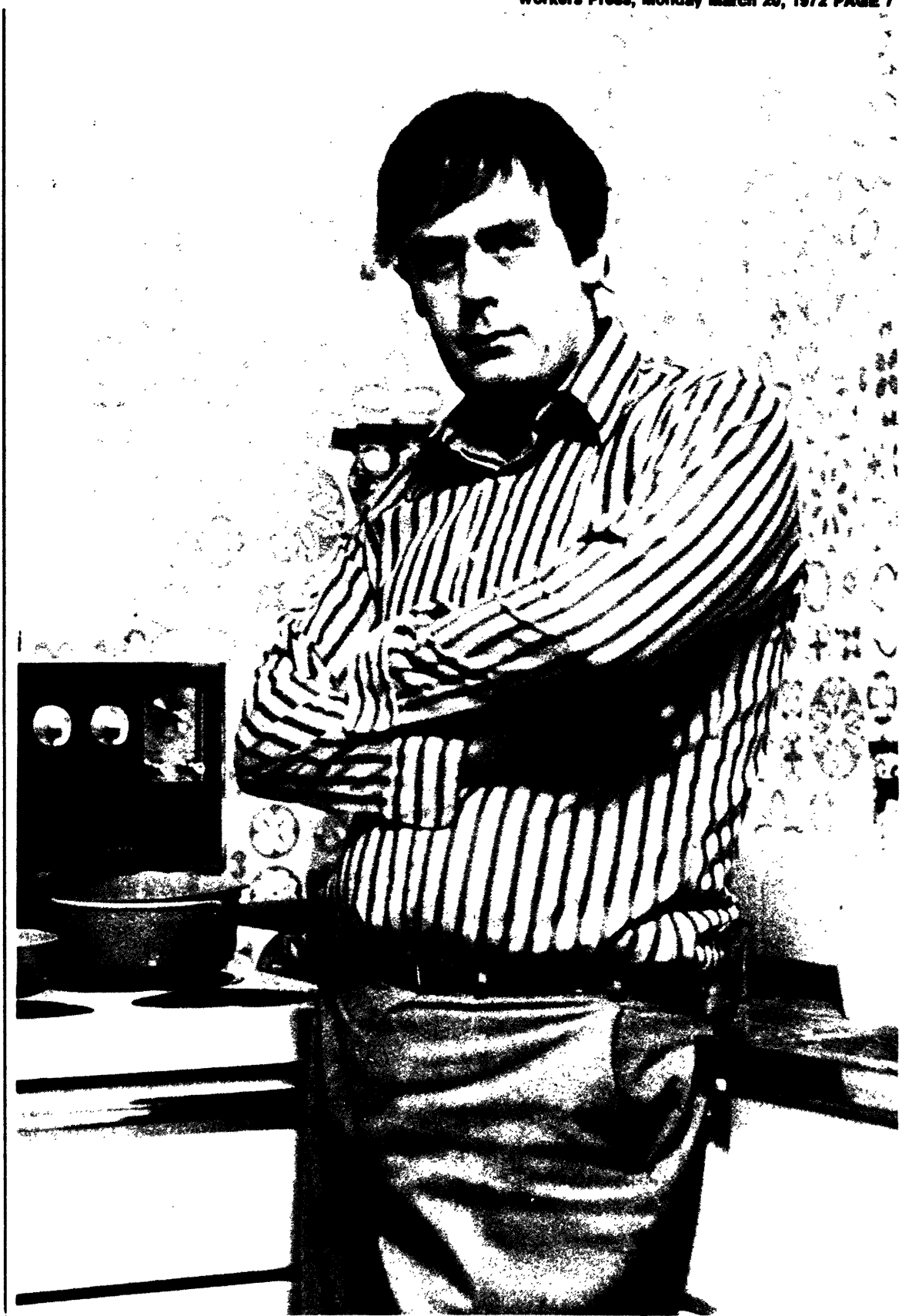
moved by this anger. Tenants are involved in a bitter struggle to defend their basic rights against a Tory government determined to drive down the living standards of the working class.

These rights can only be defended in an all-out fight to force the Tories to resist. Tenants must therefore resist all attempts to turn the 'fair rents' Bill into a purely housing question.

A unity must be forged with all these millions of workers in the trade unions preparing to do battle with this government.

This is what the Department of Environment estimates that average council rents will be by 1976:

	Now	Now
London	£7.45 plus rates	(£3.50)
South-East	£6.49	(£3.13)
East Anglia	£5.72	(£2.16)
West Midlands	£5.72	(£2.43)
South-West	£5.53	(£2.43)
East Midlands	£5.14	(£2.02)
North-West	£4.66	(£2.23)
Yorks & Humber	£4.56	(£2.02)
North	£4.38	(£2.08)
Wales	£4.18	(£2.39)



'WE HAVE TO HAVE A BIT OF ACTION OUT OF THE TUC'

Frank McKenzie is the 27-year-old chairman of the Wending Tenants' Association, Chalk Farm, in N London. It has about 300 members. The association is federated with two nearby estates to give it a total overall membership of nearly 1,000 tenants.

Frank lives in one of the new maisonettes on the estate with his wife and two children, one of 15 months and the other 12-years-old.

'I'm already paying £41.50 a month, including central heating, for this flat,' he told me when I spoke to him about the 'fair rents' Bill.

'With this Bill there'll be a £4 monthly increase from October. But there is a quick catch to this because the rates will go up as well, probably by another £2. Next year the rent will go up again.'

'You can't class it as fair when you've passed beyond your means to live now. Electricity and gas are going up and so are prices.'

'For what I pay in rent now I could buy my own place. But I'd

never be able to find the deposit for a mortgage.'

'You just don't go back to the 1930s if the Bill goes through. People will ask why they should work hours and hours just to pay the council one-quarter of their earnings in rent.'

'This is the 20th century. I never dreamt they'd operate a means test in this country. And don't forget it will be assessed on gross earnings.'

'When you walk round Wending and see people watching TV with the lights off because they can't afford both, how can you ask them to pay more?' asked Frank.

'The most worrying part for any tenants' association is what happens to those who can't afford the new rents. Will they be turfed out on to the streets?'

I asked Frank, who works for Camden council and who is a member of the National Union of Public Employees, how he thought the Tory plans could be halted.

'Do you have to go to a General Strike or do you carry

on life working for hours just to pay the rent?'

'I think it's up to the TUC. They represent millions of workers and yet they won't say a thing about the "fair rents" Bill.'

'They're in a position to give a lead, you shouldn't have to push them. But they were no help to the postmen or the miners.'

'We have to have a bit of action out of the TUC instead of running a circus. If they are gutless and won't act, they should get out and give younger men a chance to fight.'

'This generation today won't sit back and accept everything. If the rent goes up £4 we'll have to ask for more wages. How else can you pay the rent?'

'A man now has to fight to live. And if the working class has to fight to look after their children's future, then he'll fight like mad. Let's have a General Election—it's as simple as that.'

'This will probably be the last Tory government you will ever see,' said Frank.



THE RISE OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

Part 2 of a five part series by John Spencer on the rise of the right wing in America

Perhaps the most notorious of the right-wing movements in the United States is the Ku Klux Klan whose name has become a by-word for bigotry and racialism.

The first Klan was founded in 1866 by veterans of the beaten Confederate forces in opposition to the newly-freed slaves.

Backed by former slave-owners and white farmers who beat, lynched and tortured black men for standing up for their rights, the Ku Klux Klan gradually fell into abeyance once power again became stabilized in the hands of the southern whites.

Its revival in Georgia in 1915 by Emperor William J. Simmons was a direct response to the mounting wave of working-class struggle which preceded America's entry into the war.

In the years immediately after the war, as the infant American Communist Party struggled to establish itself in the US working class, the Klan grew dramatically in strength.

Its membership restricted to US-born white Protestant men, the Klan in its hey-day in the

1920s counted between 3 million and 6 million members.

It dominated the states of Texas, Arkansas, Oregon, Oklahoma, Indiana, Ohio and California and was strong throughout the S.

These were the days of wholesale anti-communist and anti-union repression in the US, sparked by fear on the part of the ruling class of revolution.

In January 1920, some 10,000 Communist Party members and supporters were taken into custody by Department of Justice agents in the various cities. They were herded into special camps and many of the immigrant socialists were recommended for deportation.

The Klan was active in vigilante attacks on communists and trade unionists both N and S of the Mason Dixon line.

One latter-day Klan leader, Samuel J. Green, claimed it was his organization which first 'discovered' communism in the United States and which first assailed it.

The right-wing crusade was not confined to the poor white bigots who made up most of the Klan's membership. The highly respectable 'Christian Science Monitor', in an editorial on June 19, 1920 fulminated against the 'Jewish peril'.

Discussing the ideas contained in the forged 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' (a book which later became the bible of the Nazi movement in Germany), the 'Monitor' said:

'There is a conspiracy of evil against humanity . . . Whether it constitutes a "Jewish peril" is a question for consideration itself, but that it exists, as a peril, is entirely undeniable.'

The 'Monitor' even resurrected the theory that a secret society known as the Illuminati were conspiring for world domination—a theory first advanced in the 1790s by the French counter-

revolutionaries.

The same day that the 'Monitor' editorial appeared, the 'Chicago Tribune' published an article saying that Bolshevism was only a tool for establishing Jewish world domination. The conspiracy, said the 'Tribune' was primarily anti-Anglo-Saxon.

One of the most virulent right-wing campaigns was launched in the same period by Henry Ford, the multi millionaire motor manufacturer. Ford, whose workers were driven to the limit of their capacities by a fiendish work-study system, and whose hired thugs patrolled the factories to keep out trade unionists, published a paper called the 'Dearborn Independent'. It reprinted large sections of the 'Protocols'. Between 1920 and 1927 it devoted itself primarily to anti-Semitic and anti-communist propaganda.

Ford's book, 'The International Jew: the World's Foremost Problem', was printed in an edition of more than 500,000 copies and distributed all over the United States. It charged that the Bolshevik leaders, including Lenin, were all Jews. The titles of some of the articles are enough to give the flavour of the 'Dearborn Independent's' propaganda.

Articles with titles like 'Jewish Gamblers corrupt American baseball', 'Rule of the Jewish Kehilla grips New York', 'Jewish jazz becomes our national music' and 'How the Jewish song trust makes you sing' were regular features.

Ford delved back into history to uncover the familiar conspiracy theory. He maintained that the Jews were actually behind both the Illuminati and the Masons.

Twice in the history of the United States, the people have been aroused by a sense of strange influence operating in their affairs [i.e. in the 1790s and

the 1830s, when anti-Illuminati and anti-Masonic movements won support] and each time the real power behind the influences was able to divert suspicion onto the freemasons . . .

. . . all that the public was able to see was the Masonic similitude and not the Jewish hand . . . This is to serve notice on the leaders of American Jewry that this time they will not be permitted to hide behind the name of Masonry, nor will they be permitted to hold up the name of Masonry as a shield to blunt the darts or as an ally to share the shafts aimed at their subversive purposes.'

Ford was the initiator of a famous anti-Semitic court case, which became a kind of American Dreyfus affair. An army captain Alexander Cronkhite, accidentally killed himself while on manoeuvres in October 1918. For more than three years the 'Dearborn Independent' tried to pin the death on Capt Robert Rosenbluth. Cronkhite's second-in-command. Despite the complete absence of evidence, the Attorney-General finally succumbed to Ford's campaign and brought Rosenbluth to trial. The trial proved an utter fiasco and Rosenbluth was acquitted.

Ford concluded this was an indication of the depth of the Jewish conspiracy and continued to hound the unfortunate Rosenbluth. The Jews, according to Ford, were to blame for everything: 'You probably think labour unions were organized by labour,' he told 'Colliers' magazine in 1923, 'but they weren't. They were organized by these Jew financiers.'

'The labour union is a great scheme to interrupt work. It speeds up loafing. It's a great thing for the Jews to have on hand when he comes to get his clutches on an industry.'

Ford's workers were highly regarded by the KKK. Its publica-

tions frequently reprinted parts of the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' taken from Ford's newspaper.

D. C. Stephenson, its northern organizer, a renegade from the Socialist Party, argued that Jewish bankers were responsible for starting World War I and other Klan orators blamed the Jews for the Russian Revolution. The Klan's other main targets were black people and Catholics. Their systematic persecution of militant black workers is notorious, but the Klansmen were almost equally bigoted against Catholics.

One Klan paper even stated that President Warren Hardin, who died of a heart attack in 1923, had been killed by 'hypnotic telepathic thought waves generated in the brains of Jesuit adepts'. The hey-day of the Klan came to an end in the mid-1920s. The panic terror of the bourgeoisie had begun to subside when it realized that the labour bureaucracy could be relied on to keep the working class from revolution, and the KKK membership began to tail off.

The process was aided by a virulent dispute in the Klan leadership. Charges and counter-charges of corruption were freely exchanged and tended to alienate support. Worse still for the KKK leaders, Stephenson was tried and convicted for a particularly repulsive rape murder. The Klan proved unable to discredit the charges against Stephenson, who had headed the Indiana organization.

The decline of the KKK in the late 1920s was not the end of the right-wing extremists in the United States, however. In the turbulent years of the 1930s they were to find their champions in the ranks of the fascist demagogues like Father Coughlin.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



Top: KKK parade in Long Branch, New Jersey on July 4, 1924. Above: William Simmons who revived the Klan in Atlanta, Georgia, 1915.

RECTOR REID HAS A LOT TO HIDE

BY JOHN SPENCER

James Reid, Rector of Glasgow university and leader of the Upper Clyde Shipbuilders' work-in, has promised to 'make available the creative ability of the work-force' at Clydebank for the Texan magnate Wayne Harbin of Marathon Manufacturing.

Harbin is demanding a four-year no-strike pledge and he is currently working out a procedure agreement to accommodate this provision with the shop stewards.

Reid, a member of the national executive of the Communist Party, told 'The Times': 'We will honour the agreement we reach not only in the letter but in the spirit. But always providing it is reciprocated.'

He added these extravagant words of praise for the Tory government: 'If Marathon now agrees to take on Clydebank then what has emerged is the prospect of a really modern shipbuilding industry on the upper reaches of the Clyde.'

'I can only applaud the government's courage [!] in taking these initiatives. It makes economic and social sense.'

This is the language of the ultra-right in the Labour movement. Agreement along the lines Reid and Harbin have in mind will make Clydeside the first major industry in which the full operation of the Industrial Relations Act is accepted, no-strike clauses and all.

Many workers may be surprised to see that while even Lord Cooper is forced to pull his General and Municipal Workers' Union back from registration, it should be the Communist Party which steps into the breach and operates the hated no-strike provisions of the Act.

The history of British Stalinism, however, is replete with the most glaring episodes of class-collaboration. The most notorious of all occurred after the invasion of the Soviet Union, when from opposition to the war as 'imperialist', the Stalinists switched almost overnight to a super-patriotic position.

I use the word 'super-patriotic' advisedly, because the Communist Party's position had nothing in common with genuine defence of the USSR. Indeed its leaders frequently went out of their way to disclaim any such aim.

Thus, Party secretary Harry Pollitt in his pamphlet 'A Call to Arms', published in 1941:

'It is not a question now of asking any British workers to defend the Soviet Union, but of defending themselves alongside the magnificent defence that the Soviet Union is making.'

Before the invasion of the Soviet Union, the Stalinists were among the most outspoken opponents of speed-up and strike bans in the factories. The 'Daily Worker', for example, stated on October 8, 1940 that:

'Today trade unionism is at the cross-roads. Strikes are illegal. Wages and conditions are declining . . . In the name of the war against fascism that "evil thing" is spreading its wings in Britain just as it did in France.' Churchill and the Labour leaders were denounced, but with Soviet entry into the war, the CP changed its tune with remarkable rapidity. The war suddenly was transformed into a war for democracy and strike-breaking and speed-up became honourable tasks.

Pollitt told the 1942 congress: 'The wave of strikes in the coalfields, while it is the direct responsibility of the coal-owners, cannot be condoned by the miners themselves . . . The trade union official who said in Lancashire "Let the strike continue it will help negotiations" was doing a disservice to his own union and to his country.'



STALINIST CRISIS



J. Reid: 'I can only applaud the government's courage'

Note Pollitt's explicitly patriotic formulation 'a disservice to his country', not a disservice to the USSR.

He went on to praise one particular CP strike-breaker on the Hull docks: 'I salute our comrade, a docker from Hull, who was on a job unloading a ship with cargo urgently wanted . . . When the rest of the dockers struck work, he fought against it because he believed that the course of action he recommended would get what was wanted without a strike.'

'What courage, what a sacred spirit of real class consciousness to walk on the ship's gangway and resume his job . . . This is not strike-breaking. . .'

As for collaboration with the Tories, Pollitt at the same congress actually called on CP members to canvass for them at the election: 'We want to deal with some of the difficulties that are said to stand in the way of Party members when they take part in by-elections and recommend people to vote for a government candidate who happens to be a Tory.'

'What is said to be the biggest obstacle in winning Labour workers to support our policy when the government candidate is a Tory. That they refuse to vote for a Tory?'

In their attempts to break down class-consciousness, the Stalinists ran into considerable trouble on the Clyde. One Jack Owen, a CP stalwart and prominent campaigner for speed-up, wrote in his book 'Spotlight on the Clyde': 'It is impossible to go through vicious years [i.e., the 1930s] without acquiring bitter hatred and a deep sense of solidarity with one's class.'

'Yes I understand too well and deeply sympathize with my mates on the Clyde. I know many look askance, for they wonder why I, for one, now advocate collaborating with that same boss.'

One of Owen's 14 points for raising production in the same pamphlet read as follows: 'More output targets to be fixed and the exposure of managements

who set them too low [!]'

Naturally the CP gave its enthusiastic backing to the Tory anti-strike regulations introduced during these years. In his pamphlet 'Defence Regulation IAA', Stalinist lawyer D. N. Pritt wrote: 'The council recognizes that during the war particular civil liberties, including the right to strike, must be suspended in the overriding interests of the defeat of fascism.'

Alongside these strike-breaking activities, the Stalinists maintained a bitter campaign of hatred against the Trotskyists, demanding that they be tried for supporting strikes, and classing Trotskyists as 'Hitler's Agents'.

(The present assistant editor of the 'Morning Star' William Wainwright wrote a lying attack on Trotskyism under the title 'Clear out Hitler's Agents'.

It said: 'Treat a Trotskyist as you would an open Nazi.'

The present Stalinist leadership on the Clyde, following in the footsteps of the Pollitts and the Pritts, is equally hostile to Trotskyism. The UCS stewards recently circulated an advertisement making the lying inference that their donation to the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work campaign had been obtained under false pretences.

When one of the Right-to-Work marchers returned to the yard to ask for further support, he was physically ejected on the orders of the Stalinist leaders.

On another occasion they confiscated a notebook from our reporter Stephen Johns and had him escorted from the yards.

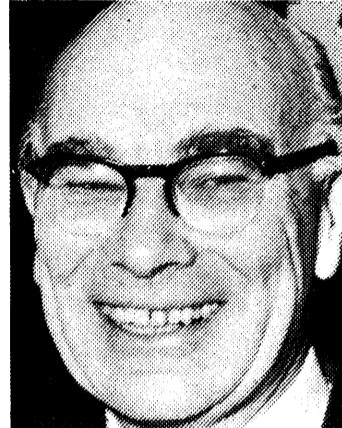
Clearly Reid and his cronies have something to hide. It is not just their present collaboration with the boss, but their Party's stinking history of betrayal.

Quotations in this article are taken from 'Stalinism in Britain' by Robert Black, available from New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG. £1.25. Readers who want more information about the Stalinists' wartime activities are recommended to obtain and read this important book.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

THE BOSS

Workers at British-Leyland's factories at Leyland, Lancashire, who are concerned about the company's plans to attempt to bring off a produc-



Lord Stokes: relax with a pint

tivity deal this year, will have been consoled, we are sure, by one bright piece of news recently.

They have got something to look forward to. A new pub to be opened in Leyland by Thwaites, the Lancashire brewers, is to be named after Leyland's boss, Lord Stokes.

This is bound to have a great appeal to all Leyland workers. Just think how nice it will be, after a hard day on the production line, to be able to sit down and relax with a pint in the 'Lord Stokes' and be reminded of the man that all your productivity is in aid of!

One bloke we spoke to said it was 'enough to put you on the wagon'. But then he's probably just a troublemaker.

SNIGGERS

Ecology and 'the environment' are becoming 'in' issues for trendy discussions in the universities just now.

In areas like the industrial NW, where for many years the rivers have been turned into open sewers for all sorts of industrial waste, and where workers are used to coughing their lungs out for a polluted atmosphere, many people will be puzzled that pollution is being talked about as though it is a new discovery.

But in the senior common rooms, when learned academics gather to discuss the matter over sherry, anyone so bold as to suggest the pollution is caused by the way the capitalists run their industries will

tend to invite sniggers from the professors and careerists. These academic elitists will then go on to complain about how difficult, if not impossible, it is to educate the 'ignorant' masses on the seriousness of the problem (which is all put down to their over-breeding and greed for consumer goods).

A more realistic view, however, is taken by at least one scientist at Manchester University, who recently approached a large Midlands company for financial backing for research on pollution and the environment.

He tells us that the company's reply was short and frank. They were very impressed with the project he had outlined, they said, and wished him every success. But he had unfortunately failed to explain to them of 'what particular value this research could be to our shareholders'.

On the other hand, it seems that ICI ('The Pathfinders') have recently expressed an interest in the possible pollution from their chemical plant at Heysham. The company is paying for a PhD student to do some research on this.

Local residents have been aware for some time that since the Heysham plant's chimneys began pouring out brownish-yellow smoke, trees in the vicinity seem to be affected.

They have wondered whether the brownish-yellow particles which from time to time waft to ground level might be damaging to people as well as trees.

Why are ICI now suddenly showing concern over this problem? From considerations of genuine social conscience, no doubt. At least, we sincerely hope that it has nothing to do with plans to close the Heysham plant for economic reasons.

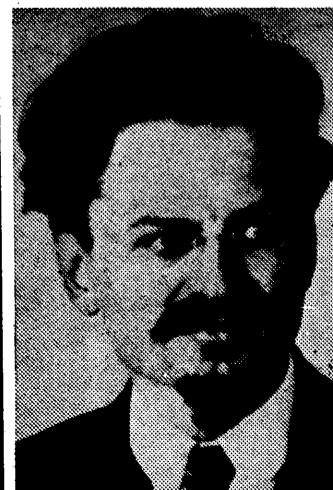
PO HORSES

Alarming hand-out arrived on our doorstep the other day from the Post Office. The heading declared: 'MORE HORSES FOR PO FLEET'. Good grief, we thought, is the reintroduction of the horse and cart part of Ryland's plans for the great technology changes in the Post Office?

Will the carrier pigeon be rehabilitated?

But further reading of the news released revealed that all new large vehicles purchased for the telecommunications fleet will now have eight horsepower engines instead of six.

BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY:
Germany 1931/1932
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½
Where Is Britain Going?
Paperback 37½p
Revolution Betrayed
Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.50
Problems of the Chinese Revolution
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £1.87½
Permanent Revolution:
Results and Prospects
Paperback 75p
In Defence of Marxism
Paperback 75p
Lessons of October
Paperback 60p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per pamphlet. Order from:
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186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG.

COMMITTEE WHERE BIG BUSINESS MEETS TRADE UNION CHIEFS

What have a leader of the engineers' union, the vice-chancellor of a northern university, a director of Swan Hunters shipyards, the chairman of Shell, the overseas director of the CBI and the head of the General and Municipal Workers' Union all got in common? They all belong to the British North American Committee, a body of curiously right-wing views. In this article special Workers Press correspondent CHARLES PARKINS looks at the BNAC, its personalities and its policies.

The British North America Committee was formed in 1969 to consider relations between the United States, Britain and Canada — both the common interests shared by the three countries and issues that may cause friction between them.

PRIVATE

It is a private non-official group whose membership is drawn from businessmen, labour leaders, agriculturalists and university men in the three countries. The committee believes that there is a useful role in international affairs for such a broadly representative private group to play, especially in economic, trade and financial relations.

Jim Conway of the AUEW, Charles F. Carter, vice chancellor of Lancaster University, Lord Howick of Glendale of Swan Hunter's, Sir David Barran of Shell, Mr C. L. S. Cope of the CBI and Lord Cooper of the G&MWU are all members.

Further investigation of some of these gentlemen's backgrounds reveals intriguing interlocking connections.

Lord Howick is co-chairman of BNAC. Late of the Indian Civil Service, he is also a former governor of S Rhodesia, and a former UK High Commissioner in S Africa. He was Governor of and Commander-in-Chief of Kenya and E African Command, in charge of military and civil affairs during the 'Mau Mau' emergency.

The Kenya emergency saw 11,000 Africans killed and tens of thousands thrown into concentration camps.

Howick, made a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 1947, was awarded the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George in 1955. He lives at Alnwick, Northumberland.

Howick's co-chairman on the American side of BNAC is Harold Sweatt, honorary chairman of the board of Honeywell Inc., the multi-national computer electronics and armaments corporation. In 1968, according to a publication of the American Friends Service Committee, Honeywell was the 20th largest war contractor in the US. It has been responsible for developing such gifts to humanity as the Rockeye II and BLU26/B 'Guava' fragmentation bombs used against the workers and peasants of Vietnam.

Sweatt is also on various boards, including the General Mills Corp., the Northwestern National Bank Trust and the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Co. He has two homes, one in Minnesota and the other in Palm Beach, Florida.

If we look at some of the other names in BNAC we get a sort of roll-call of some of the biggest names in British big

business. Besides Sir David Barran of Shell, there is also Sir Eric Drake of British Petroleum. From the banking world, there is Sir Maurice Parsons, director of the Bank of London and S America, and Sir Frederick Seehöhm, chairman of Barclays Bank DCO, well-known for the extent of its involvement in S Africa and the Portuguese colonies.

Tobacco interests are represented by Richard Dobson of British-America Tobacco Ltd and Col. Sir Derek Pritchard, chairman of Carreras (which has extensive S African interests, and produces Rothmans, Piccadilly, Dunhills, Consulate, and Peter Stuyvesant). But Sir Derek's interests are a lot wider than just tobacco. He is a director of the Midland Bank, and also of: Allied Breweries Ltd, Caribbean Developments Co Ltd (Trinidad), Cussons Group, George G. Sandeman Sons & Co Ltd, Grants of St James Ltd, Guardian Assurance Co Ltd and Pye of Cambridge.

Other business figures who feature in the BNAC list include the chairman of Unilever, Dr. E. Woodroffe and Sir Frederick Catherwood, who was head of the National Economic Development Council, and is now managing director of John Laing.

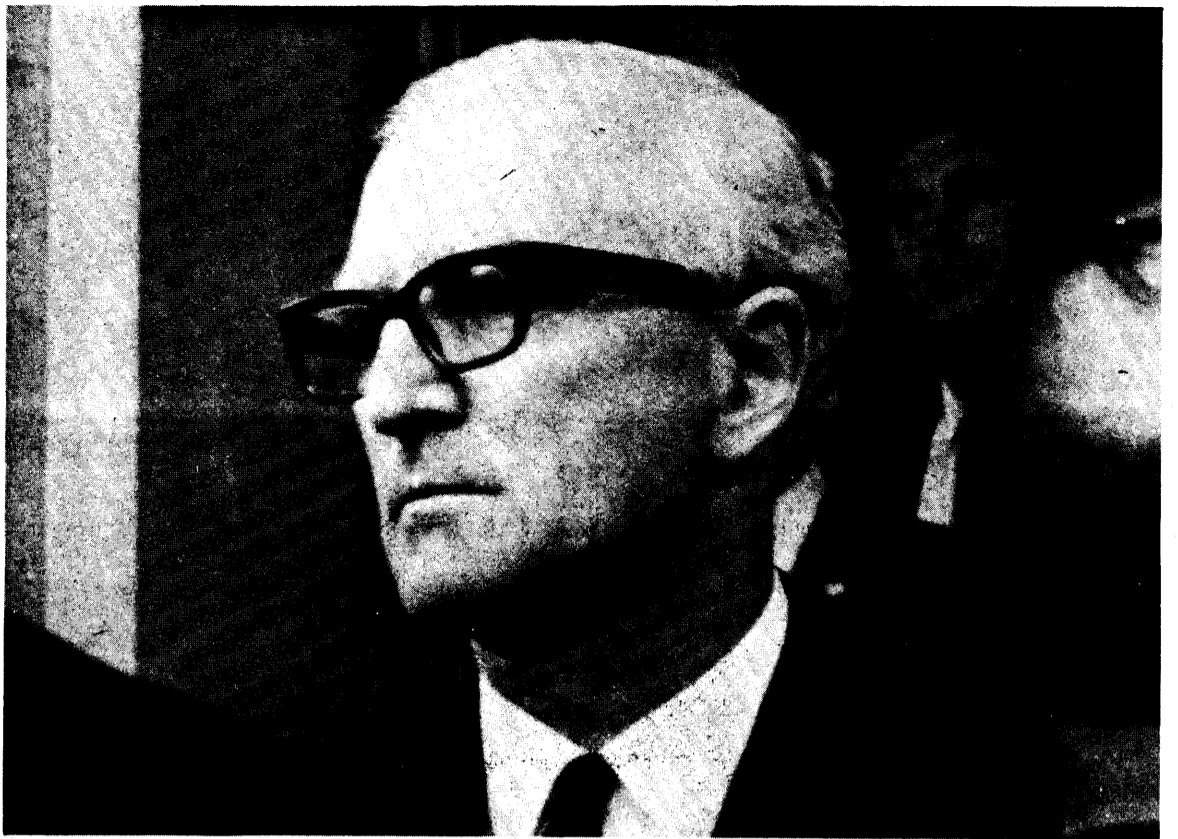
But now, let's look at the American side of the committee. Here, besides Sweatt of Honeywell, we find, among others, James H. Binger, of the same company; Joseph B. Flavin of Xerox; A. E. Balloch, of Bowater Incorporated; Silas T. Cathcart of the Illinois Tool Works Inc., Chicago; and General Lauris Norstadt, formerly of the USAF and NATO, and now chairman of the board of the Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corporation of Toledo, Ohio.

Also in BNAC are Tom Killefer, vice-president of the Chrysler Corporation; Augustin S. Hart, executive vice-president of Quaker Oats Co; and, last but by no means least, Henry J. Heinz II, Tsar of all the 57 varieties.

DIVERSE

Altogether, the BNAC looks like a top capitalists' transatlantic club. But remember, it is not only big business that is represented. As the 'handout' tells us, 'membership is drawn from businessmen, labour leaders . . . a diverse, broadly representative private group. . .'

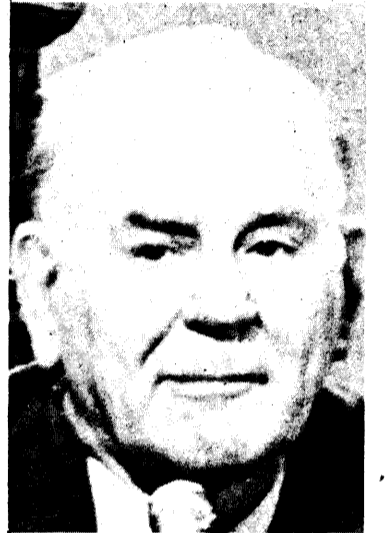
Trade union leaders involved in BNAC include, besides Jim Conway of the AUEW, Lord Collison, former leader of the National Union of Agricultural Workers (now head of the Supplementary Benefits Commission); G. F. Smith, of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers; and Lord Cooper. The late Les Cannon, of the EPTU, was also a full member of BNAC.



James Conway of the AUEW: one of the trade union men with BNAC connections



Mboya: links with CIA and Fabian Society, Commonwealth bureau



Lord Cooper: member of the club

It may be remembered that Cannon, the scourge of communists and militants in the EPTU, was posthumously knighted for his services to 'the nation'.

Some EPTU members might also remember how, under Cannon's leadership, the union journal 'Electron' frequently used to feature the virtues of Cannon's buddies, the leaders of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO. Well, by a coincidence Cannon's old pals turn up in BNAC tool Joseph Keenan, international secretary of the American union, is a member, and so is William Ladyman, international vice-president, from the union's Toronto office.

Lord Cooper will be well known to readers of Workers Press. During the struggle at Pilkington's in 1970, and the fight for reinstatement and jobs since then, the G&MWU refused to back the strikers.

The G&MWU is affiliated to the Public Services International, an American-based organization which has become known as one of the main channels for Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) interference in the trade union movement the world. Between 1958 and 1964 PSI's London office received \$60,000 a year from the CIA by means of various conduits.

Two affairs in which the CIA and the PSI were involved were the downfall of Dr Cheddi Jagan in British Guyana, and the rise to prominence of Tom Mboya in Kenya. (See 'Mboya—Death of an Agent', in 'The Newsletter', July 1969.)

In 1959, Cooper of the G&MWU, together with four other PSI members, one of whom had CIA connections, and James Farmer, the American 'Black Power' man who also had CIA connections, went on a 15-nation 'organization and recruiting' tour of Africa.

The purpose of their mission was to encourage the development of pro-western unions in Africa.

HOPES

The man on whom their hopes came to centre was Mboya, whose Kenya Federation of Labour began to receive regular CIA subsidies. Mboya himself became a prominent Kenyan politician. He was closely linked,

besides his connections with the CIA, with the Commonwealth Bureau of the Fabian Society.

We might conclude our references to the involvement of the G&MWU and the CIA, not to mention the Fabian Commonwealth Bureau, in Kenya, by observing that in 1962, their protégé, Mboya, became Minister of Labour.

PRINCIPLES

He introduced an 'Industrial Relations Charter'. The Fabian Commonwealth Bureau magazine was very impressed with this legislation, and commented that it was 'splendidly outlining principles which should and possibly could be applied in Britain. . .'. Mboya's Charter set up a permanent Industrial Court, and made the unions responsible for disciplining their members at work, and for discouraging 'negligence of duty', 'damage to property', 'interference with or disturbance to normal work', 'insubordination', etc.

When Cooper went out to Africa in 1959, one of the people who accompanied him was Arnold Zander, then President of the Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. It was via the International Affairs Department of this US union that CIA money was channelled to the Public Services International. Zander admitted the CIA connections to the 'Washington Post' (February 23, 1967).

Closely associated with Zander at the International Affairs Department of the AFL-CIO, was its director, Jay Lovestone. A former right-wing renegade from the American Communist Party, Lovestone has been named as the overall co-ordinate of CIA activities in the international trade union movement. Certainly his department was the main channel through which CIA funds passed for these activities.

It should come as no surprise then, and help us to understand the BNAC's role when we find that Messrs Arnold Zander and Jay Lovestone are both members of the Committee.

But perhaps most union members were not aware even of the existence of the BNAC, let alone of their leaders being involved in this 'broadly representative' group. Well, that would seem to fit in with the, shall we say, 'discreet' way in which the com-

mittee apparently prefers to do its work.

As a BNAC policy document explains:

'Its process of seeking to achieve a consensus among private views is free from the glare of publicity and public pressure of political forces. It can thus often avoid or moderate unwise private action that may invite undesirable government responses.'

The interests represented in BNAC want to maintain the 'special relationship' between British and American capital. This does not mean they are opposed to the Common Market in itself. In fact, Unilever is represented both in the BNAC and in the ranks of contributors to the British European Movement. In a sense, the BNAC grouping wants to have it both ways: to obtain the benefits for monopoly capital of the European Common Market, while at the same time keeping the links between British and American capitalism strong.

Of course, this attempt to overcome the contradictions breaking out in the capitalist system is only one aspect of the sort of problems that are likely to worry the capitalists in BNAC at present. A far bigger problem presents itself in the working class. In order to compete with their rivals, each grouping of capitalists must try to maintain its profits by holding down wages and increasing the rate of exploitation.

At the same time, faced with the threat of massive unemployment, the working class, far from being cowed, is being aroused to forms of struggle which are increasingly political in their implications.

If the working class succeeds under these conditions in forcing the Tory government to resign, there will be a big demand for the nationalization of industries; and parallel movements will develop in Europe and internationally.

Nationalization, particularly when it comes as a result of this sort of situation, must certainly come under the heading of what BNAC calls 'undesirable government responses'!

So it is easy to see the importance for the big business interests represented in BNAC of having experienced right-wing union leaders in their Committee, to advise them on the best ways of conducting their affairs.

THE SPECTRE of Trotskyism is haunting the reformist bureaucracies of the world.

Having slandered the Trotskyists as 'fascist agents' in the 1930s and having pronounced Trotskyism as 'dead' or 'effete' in innumerable editorials and in the past, the Stalinist and social democratic press is presently undergoing painful convulsions trying to account for the rapidly growing influence of the Socialist Labour League.

Their political agony is made no less bearable by the remarkable success of the Right-to-Work marches and the Empire Pool rally on March 12.

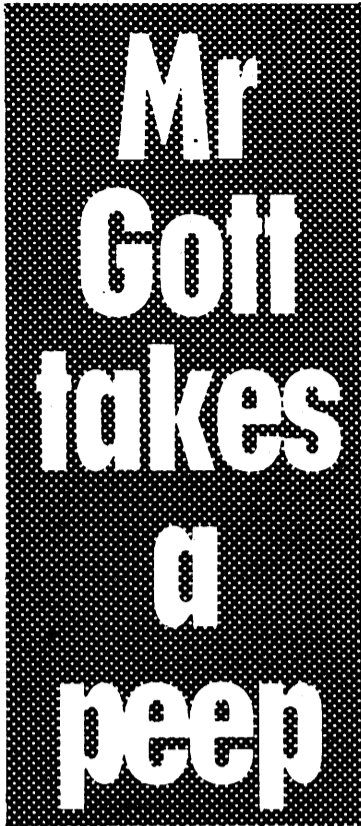
Reformist apprehension now turns into deep anxiety and alarm as the editorial scribblers in Moscow and London begin to discern the growing threat of revolutionary Marxism and the prospect of their political demise in the not too far distant future.

What animates this chorus of hatred against the Leninist theory and organization elaborated and created by Leon Trotsky is a genuine fear of a resurgent working class, combined with a wistful longing for the return of the post-war boom and an end to the monetary and economic crises of the late 1960s and 1970s.

The 'New Statesman', in particular, is extremely worried by the growth of Trotskyism and the imminent collapse of the post-war boom because for many decades it represented the highest point in the collaboration between labour leaders and the capitalist intelligentsia—a collaboration made possible because of the objective economic conditions.

These conditions no longer obtain today. The crisis propels millions of new layers of workers to the road of struggle and—to the same extent—undermines the 'New Statesman's' credibility and reduces its circulation dramatically despite format changes and the sacking of its editor.

The credibility of middle-class Philistinism has never been at a lower ebb and nothing expresses this more crudely and distastefully than Richard Gott's attempt in this week's issue to bury the SLL under a mole hill



BY MICHAEL BANDA

of innuendo and misrepresentation.

The purpose of Gott's essay 'Where is the Revolutionary Party?', is to discredit Marxism by slandering the SLL and rehabilitate revisionism by lavishing praise on the International Marxist group in the most slavish manner.

The SLL, writes this pedant, has a 'special attraction for middle-class intellectuals with guilt feelings about their class origins'. How profound! Gott's incredible sneers reflect his abysmal ignorance of Marxism and one of the salient ideas of the Communist Manifesto:

... in times when the class struggle nears the decisive hour, the process of dissolution going on within the ruling class, in fact within the whole range of society, assumes such a violent glaring character that a small section of the ruling class cuts itself adrift, and joins the revolutionary class...

Immediately prior to this passage Marx remarks that sections of the ruling class who are 'threatened in their conditions of existence... also supply the proletariat with fresh elements of enlightenment and progress'. ('Communist Manifesto', p 56.)

Is this to be condemned and laughed at? Only by those who cannot see the imminent hour of the decisive struggle between the working class and its oppressors.

Gott's insinuation that the SLL is predominantly intellectual and middle class is a preposterous insult to the history and traditions of the League. Any competent and honest observer of the League will readily admit that its membership is overwhelmingly proletarian in composition and that its main, but not exclusive, field of activity has been industry.

The League recruits from all sections of society—from unemployed youth, students and trade unionists, as well as actors, journalists and others in the professional groups.

Without this support and this kind of membership the SLL could not have built the basis for a daily paper.

Curiously Gott, who accuses Gerry Healy and his group of being 'wrong, too often for one to have much faith in their present showing', remains silent about the majority of Young Socialists joining the SLL in 1964 and on the Workers Press. The daily press could only be achieved through the youth. It is not only a major conquest of the revolutionary movement, but is a distinctive tribute—Gott withstanding—to the correctness of the SLL's perspectives and principles.

It is impossible to build a mass revolutionary Marxist party of the working class without a daily paper. Gott ignores this all important fact of history.

In his desire to save the IMG from political oblivion, he has discovered that a history of struggle, the construction of a press, and a respect for principles does not distinguish a revolutionary movement. Instead he substitutes the awareness of the significance of 'pop culture' and 'Third World Revolutions' as constituting the new dynamic of the revolutionary left.

'Pop Culture' and 'Third World Revolutions' are both aspects of the capitalist world in crisis.

Acceptance of pop music in organizing Young Socialists discotheques does not connote in any way the acceptance of the middle-class and idealist philosophy which is the basis of John Lennon's 'pop culture'. (We will take the music, but Gott can keep the marijuana.)

But then Gott's obsession with 'pop culture' is not really so surprising. As he asks in bewilderment:

'But does a revolutionary party in Britain have to be Marxist?'

It is perfectly clear from his writing that this is only another way of trying to replace Marxism with the reactionary method of English empiricism. And it is this method which leads him to support the sectarian ultimatum policies of the International Marxist Group in refusing to support—critically—the Labour Party against the Tories.

This does not end the astonishing ignorance of Gott or his penchant for distortion. He states that the SLL 'is characterized by an insufferable arrogance and intolerance'. Nowhere does Gott adduce any evidence to prove his allegation.

Apparently anyone who accepts the necessity for democratic centralism and the conquest of state power by a disciplined cadre party based on the working class and armed with Marxist theory is both 'arrogant and intolerable'. Gott's scepticism in this matter is too glaring even to need extensive comment.

'Even the most dedicated Marxist must admit that it is a Herculean task in the advanced industrial world to create a new revolutionary party when the allegedly vanguard class—the workers—are already organized in reformist unions. Might not other groups perceive their oppression more vividly—as women have already begun to?'

Is there any necessity to continue? The poverty of Gott's thought is only exceeded by the extent of his middle-class arrogance and hatred of the working class and Marxist theory—a feature he shares in common with Tariq Ali and the IMG.

TV

BBC 1

9.38-11.50 Schools. 1.00 Paul. 1.30 Fingerbobs. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-3.33 Schools. 4.00 Boomph with Becker. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Aeronauts. 5.44 Crystal Tipps. 5.50 News and weather.
6.00 MAGAZINE.
6.20 YOUNG SCIENTISTS OF THE YEAR.
6.45 A QUESTION OF SPORT
7.05 SPY TRAP. 'The Defector'.
7.30 SONG FOR EUROPE
8.00 PANORAMA.
9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather
9.20 STEPTOE AND SON. 'Loathe Story'.
9.50 THE REGIMENT. 'The Recruit'.
10.40 24 HOURS
11.15 DOCUMENTARY: LONG LIVE OUR ENGLAND. 'Mother Country?'.
11.45 Weather.

BBC 2

1.00-11.25 Play School. 5.35-7.00 Open University.
7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.
8.00 FILM: 'DUEL AT SILVER CREEK'. Audie Murphy, Faith Domergue, Stephen McNally. Claim jumping and murder.
9.20 FACE THE MUSIC.
9.50 HORIZON. 'The Man-made Lakes of Africa'.
10.35 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
10.40 THEATRE: 'Under the Age'. By E. A. Whitehead.
11.10 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

10.20 Schools. 2.33 This week. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.10 Tea Break. 3.45 Danger man. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.50 Land of giants. 5.50 News from ITV.
6.00 TODAY. Bill Grundy.
6.20 CROSSROADS.
6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! Hughie Green.
7.30 CORONATION STREET.
8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.
8.30 BLESS THIS HOUSE. 'Parents Should be Seen and Not Heard'.
9.00 HOME AND AWAY. 'Hands at Midnight'.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
10.30 FILM: 'THE SHADOW OF THE CAT'. Andre Morell, Barbara Shelley. Thriller.

All regions as BBC-1 except:
BBC Wales: 1.30-1.45 Ar lin mam. 6.00-6.20 Wales today, weather. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. 11.15-11.35 Croesi'r bont. 11.47 Weather.
Scotland: 6.00 Reporting Scotland. 6.20-6.45 Se ur beatha. 11.47 News, weather.

N Ireland: 6.00-6.20 Scene around six, weather. 11.47 News, weather.
England: 6.00 - 6.20 Look North, Midlands today, Look East, Points West, South today, Spotlight SW, weather. 11.47 News, weather

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20-2.33 London. 4.05 Once upon a time. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Yoga. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.15 Pursuers. 6.45 London. 10.30 Weather. 10.32 University challenge. 11.02 Marcus Welby. 11.55 News and weather in French. Weather.
WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sports desk. 10.59 News. 11.55 Faith for life. 12.00 Weather.
SOUTHERN: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.15 Yoga. 3.40 Tea break. 4.10 Houseparty. 4.20 Heckle and Jeckle. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Richard the Lionheart. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Beloved enemy. 11.00 Marcus Welby. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. Discoverers.
ANGLIA: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.55 News. 4.00 Tea break. 4.25 Romper room. 4.55 Felix. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.05 Marcus Welby.
ATV MIDLANDS: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Stars. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Nanny and the professor. 4.40 Origami. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Aquarius.
HTV: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.45 Women only. 4.10 Tinkertainment. 4.25 Crossroads. 4.50 Tom Grattan's war. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'Hysteria'. 12.00 Weather.
HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.
HTV Wales as above except: 4.10-4.25 Cantamil. 6.01-6.22 Y dydd.
HTV Cymru/Wales as HTV Wales plus: 8.00-8.30 Yr wythinos. 10.30 Sain, cerdd a chan. 11.15 Strange report. 12.10 Weather.
ULSTER: 10.20-2.33 London. 4.00 Yoga. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Joe 90. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Best of Lucy. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.35 Film: 'Spare the Rod'.
YORKSHIRE: 10.20 London. 2.34 Out of the shadow into the sun. 3.00 Pied piper. 3.05 Yoga. 3.35 News. 3.45 Farmhouse kitchen. 4.15 Dick Van Dyke. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 HR Puffnstuf. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.25 Country calendar. 6.45 London. 10.30 Untouchables. 11.30 All our yesterdays. 12.00 Weather.
GRANADA: 10.58-2.33 London. 3.40 Yoga. 4.05 News. Odd couple. 4.35 Hatty town. 4.50 Spiderman. 5.15 It's fun to be fooled. Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Film: 'Nightmare'.
TYNE TEES: 10.20 London. 2.33 Out of shadow into the sun. 3.05 Pied piper. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 News. 3.45 Portrait of a villain. 4.15 Dick Van Dyke. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 Love, American style. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the press. 11.00 Seaway. 11.55 News. 12.10 Epilogue.
SCOTTISH: 10.20 London. 2.33-2.50 Another way. 3.30 Origami. 3.45 Simon Locke. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Smith family. 6.45 London. 10.30 Aquarius. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Work of giants.
GRAMPIAN: 11.00-2.33 London. 3.37 News. 3.40 Junkin. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Rupert Bear. 4.55 HR Puffnstuf. 5.20 Bright's boffins. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Viewfinder. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 University challenge. 11.00 Saint. 11.55 Epilogue.

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WIDGERY REPORT SOON?

HEARINGS of the Widgery tribunal into the Bloody Sunday killing of 13 civilians in Bogside, Londonderry, on January 30 are due to end today.

Lord Chief Justice Lord Widgery will later submit a report to Tory Home Secretary Reginald Maudling. Cabinet Ministers will then decide when the report should be presented to parliament.

The tribunal's terms of reference were to inquire into the incidents in the Bogside which led to the 13 deaths.

But two of the three QCs who have appeared before the tribunal have pointed out that it has turned into an inquiry as to whether the paratroopers were justified in opening fire.

A SHOT was fired early yesterday at the home of Stormont MP Austin Currie, while he, his wife and three young children were inside. Mrs Currie said it was the fourth time that shots had been fired at the house. On Saturday another Stormont MP, Paddy Devlin, was shot at while driving through Belfast.

DEMO AT PEARCE OFFICE

OPPONENTS of the Smith-Home Rhodesia deal begin daily demonstrations this morning outside the Pearce Commission's London office.

Organized around the Rhodesia Emergency Campaign Committee, which embraces several anti-apartheid groups, the demonstrators will call for:

Negotiations with representatives of the African majority; one man-one vote; no independence before majority rule; sanctions to be maintained and strengthened until true independence is won; support for the struggle of the Zimbabwe people.

Some white Rhodesians living in Britain will also hand in an open letter to the Pearce Commission which has just returned from Rhodesia.

'From our personal, and often painful, experience of most of the white Rhodesian community, when faced with any challenge to their political and economic supremacy over the African majority, we know that the white honesty and goodwill on which, under the "Proposals", meaningful post-independence African advancement would depend, simply do not exist', says their letter.

The Commission is expected to report on the deal by mid-April.

TOMORROW on the 12th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, the Anti-Apartheid Movement will hold simultaneous pickets outside the S African embassy and Rhodesia House. Demonstrators will also picket the offices of Rio Tinto Zinc and ICI. Both companies have big investments in southern Africa.

£1,250 MARCH FUND NOW £403.40

ONLY 12 days left to go. Not a moment can be wasted in the campaign to raise our Appeal Fund this month.

Each day in the fight against the Tories, Workers Press becomes more vital than ever. In the struggle against the Industrial Relations Act, unemployment and huge rent increases, Workers Press alone speaks out for an alternative revolutionary leadership to be built.

The reformist and Stalinist leaders inside the labour movement remain on their knees before this Tory government.

So back up Workers Press in every way you can. Go all out immediately for our March Fund. Collect as much as you can and post donations immediately to:

Workers Press March Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High St,
London, SW4 7UG



ALEC REESE, AUEW CONVENOR

Test case

● FROM PAGE 1

example, the adjoining rolling mill has been in production one week and idle the next.

The miners' strike has also had an effect.

News of the sit-in spread quickly through Stockport and within hours delegations from Davies and Metcalfe and Nettles Accessories came to Bredbury and pledged their support. Later that evening 120 Stockport shop stewards met and brought forward the

deadline for the overtime ban by one week. It will start today.

The employers, too, are likely to present a united front and attempt to suspend any workers who demand the day-rate. Indeed all the evidence suggests that the employers are resigned to fight out the claim the hard way.

If the dispute does spread, it will put the prospect of a national and united fight throughout the industry right back on the agenda

The Bredbury men were sunning themselves outside the plant gates this weekend. They were undemonstrative but quite firm:

'This one is to the bitter end', one slinger crane-driver told me.

Stockport workers made international news in the late 1960s when the entire town turned out in support of Roberts Arundel factory workers who were fighting against an employer who wanted to destroy the unions.

LABOUR-TUC TALKS ON OWN UNION LAW

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE
WITH ENGINEERING employers all over the country preparing to use the full weight of the Tory anti-union law against their workers, Labour Party and TUC leaders will meet today to discuss a substitute Industrial Relations Act.

Oak-pannelled Congress House, London, will be the venue for this rarified discussion about the policy of a future Labour government.

Not only are Harold Wilson, party chairman Anthony Wedgwood Benn and TUC chief Victor Feather completely without a mandate for this discussion, workers are already tasting the bitter fruits of their betrayal of any fight against the Tory law.

And in Reading last week, we saw the grave potential consequences of this for the engineering pay fight. A patched-up settlement on Friday night between Ideal Casements Ltd and the Transport and General Workers' Union in no way alleviates these dangers.

On Thursday, Ideal chairman James Wallace obtained from the National Industrial Relations Court an order restraining three shop stewards at his Reading factory calling a strike.

Wallace had refused to recognize the stewards as legal representatives of the workers following the breakdown of talks on dismissal procedures. Theoretically under the Act, he argued, the union did not exist in the plant.

Although the company is now going to apply for cancellation of the order and resume negotia-

tions, it is now clearly open for any employer to make a strike illegal during re-negotiation of a procedure.

British-Leyland could have done the same during their recent negotiations.

Since large sections of the engineering industry are still procedureless, following the scrapping last year of the 50-year-old York Memorandum, this opening could be made use of by thousands of employers during the now-fragmented pay struggle of 2.8 million workers.

A recent circular to member firms from the Engineering Employers' Federation called for use of the Industrial Relations Act during the engineers' struggle.

● At Pilkington's, St Helens, Lancs, unions claim to have achieved a procedure agreement similar to that recently negotiated with British-Leyland.

The vexed principle of *status quo* does appear to be granted by a clause saying that should changes in pay or working practices 'result in a dispute between the management and the union, the practice shall revert to what it was'.

But rank-and-file militants who have seen the procedure are suspicious. As at Leyland, they say, national union officials could be brought in to sell out even more quickly than under the York Memo.

BANK UNION IN LAW DEAL WITH BUILDING SOCIETY

THE NATIONAL Union of Bank Employees has negotiated its first pay and working conditions agreement with a building society under the terms of the Industrial Relations Act.

NUBE has made the agreement with the Dewesbury and West Riding Building Society and pay

WEATHER

E Scotland, E and central England will have fog at first, clearing during the morning and becoming dry and sunny, but thundery showers are expected to develop over central and SE England.

Wales and most W England will have some showers but also periods of sunshine.

Central and W Scotland, N Ireland and the Lake District will have a dry day with sunny periods.

It will be generally rather warm in the NW, and very warm in the S, but temperatures will be about normal in NE.

Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Some rain or showers in the S, dry in the N. Warm at first in the south, but temperatures becoming normal generally.

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increases under the agreement will be backdated to January 1, 1972.

NUBE's general secretary-designate Leif Mills said that the settlement was an 'historic' one since it represented the first agreement between a trade union and a building society to be signed in this country.

He added that he felt that the positive attitude of the building society in negotiating with a recognized trade union would be of benefit both to the society and to the staff.

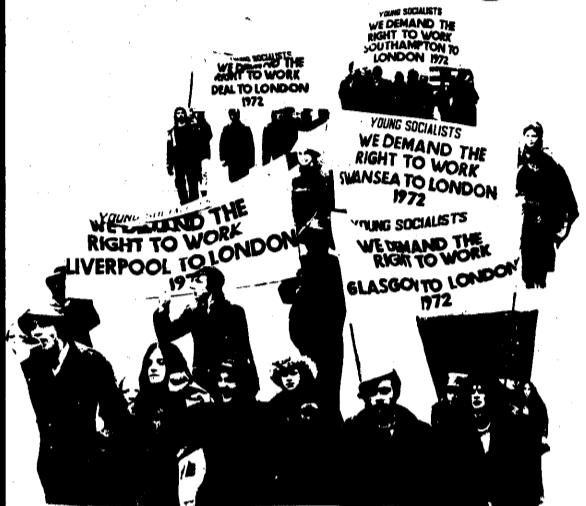
New salary scales for clerical staff range from £575 at 16 (£11 per week) to £1,250 at 25 (£24 per week) for Grade I. Grade II salaries range from £16.80 per week at 18 to £27.60 a week at 25.

The union has also agreed the salary ranges for the senior staff subject to detailed discussions on the placing of people in the various senior grades and to a definition of salary progression through these grades.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

WILLESDEN: Monday March 27, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Rd., NW1. 'Right-to-Work Campaign and the fight to force the Tories out'.
CROYDON: Thursday March 23, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, E Croydon. Report back from Empire Pool, Wembley, rally.

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



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