PRICE 6d.

# As morale of U.S. troops gets lower

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At the same time these same workers are greatly perturbed over the rising cost of living, the reduced purchasing power of wages and the anti-working-class role of Wilson's government.

Our campaign has deliberately sought to connect these vital issues with the Vietnam war, and we have had to fight every inch of the way in order to do this.

It has, however, been an extremely worthwhile struggle because important sections of workers have been politically convinced about the international implications of

Vietnam. For this reason also, our campaign is not concerned with press publicity and so-called con-

frontation with the police. For us Vietnam is a vital international issue which requires, above all else, a serious conflict with the backwardness of the English working class.

Just because the 'left' leaders of some unions oppose the war does not at all mean that their rank and file take the same position. This has to be fought for.

Once they do, the defence of the Vietnamese Revolution will become inseparable from the fight against our own ruling class in England-because they, after all, together with their puppet Wilson, are the main allies of US imperialism.

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BY JOHN SPENCER

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The failure of the Paris peace talks has been a further blow to the hopes of many US troops, who now realize they may be forced to continue in letnam for years.

Wilson's Washington visit comes at a crucial stage in the Vietnam war, when Nixon desperately needs every ounce of support he can muster to continue his genocidal campaign against the Vietnamese workers and

'A massive demonstration against Wilson's visit on the eve of the NLF's offensive will be a powerful combined blow against US imperialism



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McLean's 1918 High Court speech against the first imperialist war has recently been republished, with an introduction by the revisionist Bob Purdie, of the International Marxist Group.

In the second part of his study, which will appear in Saturday's Workers Press, Bob Seaton replies in detail to Purdie's anti-Marxist estimation of McLean's role.

Make sure of your copies by placing a regular order with our circulation department. Phone 720-2000.

## N. Yorkers face huge fares rise

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The fare rise was slapped on by the City's transit authority after it had been forced to pay transit workers an 18 per cent pay rise spread

Passengers on the subway pay a single fare regardless of the distance travelled, and the increase is a particular penalty against people travelling short distances to work.

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Despite a legal requirement that only elected officials can vote a fare increase, and that any fare rise must be ratified by a public referendum, the City Council has allowed the Transit Authority management to rush through the fare rise.

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The visit is seen as an endorsement of US imperialism's genocidal war in Viet-

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The committee also agreed to send a letter to 10 Downing Street opposing the Wash-

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Dublin next Saturday.

# Briefly

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LAW REPORT to DPP: A Tory-inspired police report on T&GWU road haulage official Mr Alan Law has been sent to the Director of Public Prose cutions, a Birmingham CI' chief announced yesterday.

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Gurden is not known have taken up T&GWU ge eral secretary Mr Jack Jone marks outside parliament.

BUS CUTS TALKS: London busmen's negotiating committee held talks yester day with the chairman of the new London Transport Exec tive over the GLC's plans fo service cuts now that it controls the Executive.

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Special appearance



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### DEMONSTRATION

Stop Wilson's visit to Washington

For the defeat of US imperialism in Vietnam

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ASSEMBLE: Speakers' Corner (Marble Arch

MARCH: via Oxford Street, Regent Street Trafalgar Square past Downing Street.

**MEETING: 4 PM** Lyceum Ballroom, near Aldwych Speakers will include

leading Oxford car worker and T&GWU shop

Details from 186a Clapham High Street, London, . Tickets for the whole weekend 12s 6d

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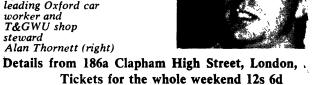
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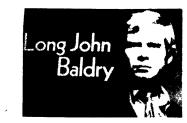
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**Special** appearance



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THE MAIN AIM of automation and speed-up in offices for the capitalist employer, as yesterday's article emphasized, is inevitably to throw workers out of their jobs.

Some idea of the immediate reductions in staff possible were given by the Ministry of Labour publication 'Computers in Offices', published in 1965.

The report estimated that the number of jobs taken over by installation of automatic data processing (ADP) systems with computers up to January 1, 1964, was 51,000 (managers and supervisors 700, clerks 33,300, non-ADP operators 14,600, typists 2,400).

The same report puts the number of jobs created by ADP and computers at 18,500 (of which 3,090 were programmers and 13,325 were ADP machine operators.)

In many cases, because of the shortage of labour the jobs eliminated were unfilled vacancies and in other cases the expansion of business that followed enabled other jobs to be found within the organization—but outside the sphere of the computer system.

The report sees the new systems as doing no more than helping towards the filling of situations vacant.

Future expansion of business. it concludes, will continue to mean plenty of jobs available.

These conclusions, often quoted by management consultants to prove that no danger of unemployment exists, can be faulted on a number of counts:

By the report's own admission, the surplus workers were found jobs only the non-computerized offices, very large at the time of the report, but a section that dwindles rapidly as more and more computers are installed. When 90 to 100 per cent of office work is computerized, where do the workers go then?

Forecasts of future developments by the 'experts' are nearly always made in a purely quantitative way; that is, by assuming that existing machines will be the same in ten years time, but that there will be more of

But so long as money is laid out for research, improvements in quality will constantly occur and in fact the present range of 'third generation' computers make those existcompletely obsolete.

In many cases existing computers are used only as glorified addingmachines and run at nothing like full capacity, i.e. displace nowhere near the number of staff that maximum use would allow. Some computer firms are now devising courses to teach managements how to run their equipment at full capacity.

No account is taken of the use of O and M and work-study systems in offices which, if successful, would cut back the number of workers (note the PIB's 15 to 60 per cent quoted earlier).

From the rapid development of computers that has taken place, it might be thought that computer programming and associated work at least offer a chance of longterm job security. Various sources emphasize the shortage of staff in this direction and enthuse over 'careers' available in this field.

In fact, more and more computer research is being directed towards eliminating the skilled programmer alto-

With the new 'software' technology, it is only necessary to type out a job specification in ordinary language, on a machine which itself changes the material to a form that the computer can use.

Also, further research is being conducted into data machines which respond to spoken instructions.

On this basis, the skilled programmer is only a temporary product of the development of data - treatment systems.

The conclusion that all problems will be solved y continuing expansion of inustry is, at the very least, ishful thinking, but much nore likely a deliberate cover-

of the real situation. In the United States conually falling production, s and stock market prices 1 businessmen and econists to predict the inevitity of recession. In Europe, mpts to develop the Com-1 Market prepare the way

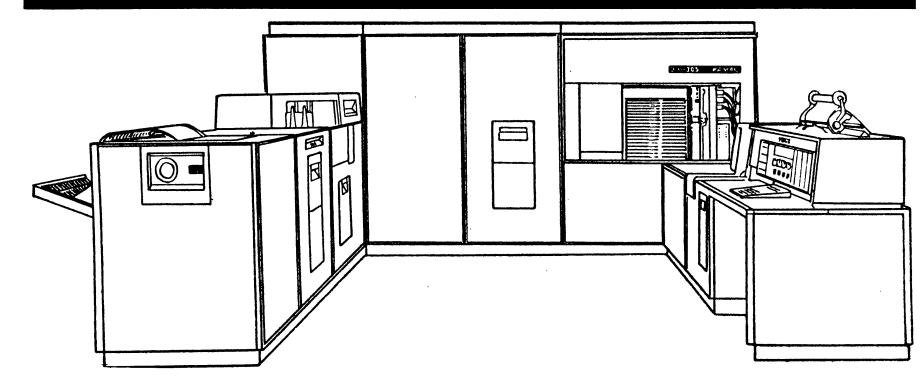
further attacks on the

The major build-up of food rpluses (sugar, fruit, dairy

# Office workers and the crisis

## **PART TWO**

## BY BERNARD FRANKS



THE SECOND part of BERNARD FRANKS' article dealing with the planned re-organization of offices which could make thousands of clerks redundant in a very short time. Today he deals with the impact of work-study.

products, wheat, coarse grain) in Europe, North America and Australia deepens the crisis, while within the past year a tendency towards over-production and many consequent accusations of 'dumping' have occured over transformers. paper, fishing tackle, files for metalwork, rasps, filleted fish, washing machines, synthetic fibres, plastics, tea and shoes.

Even for the computer producers recent warnings have been sounded that many firms coming newly into computer making, by cutting the corners, could lead to 'surplus capacity' in the industry.

Far from the problems being solved by 'unlimited and continuous expansion', the prospect for capitalism is inevitable economic crisis.

Virtually all tasks, whether manual or non-manual, are capable to some extent

in the introduction of time-and motion methods into the work being undertaken.

The main aim of time-study is to institute the actual process of speeding-up the worker. Stopwatches are used to find the present times for all operations, then new, faster times are devised by eliminating all so-called ineffective time, idle time and excessive rest. What is left is called the standard time for the job.

The main timing techinques used in office work are:

#### Activity sampling

In this system a stopwatch is not used. Instead, a note is made of what the worker is doing at periodic intervals 'samples', so it is claimed, a picture can be built up of what amount of time the worker spends on each task.

periods because they are not

time for the job.

interested in how much rest the operator actually needs. They have their own lists of 'scientifically' worked-out tables of how much rest should be allowed in any par-

The work-study people do

not record the workers' rest

ticular type of work. A man bending down to pick up a heavy box and putting it on a table for example,

might be timed in the following way:

Operation Time Rate per cent Bend down ... 1 second **100** Grasp box ... 1 second 90 ... ... 5 seconds ... Put down on table ... 1 second 110

time

the job.

During this operation the worker may have hesitated for a second to note the best way to grasp the box and rested for two seconds when the operation was complete.

not be recorded, so this task would be timed as eight seconds instead of the 11 seconds it really took.

is Methods - Time Measurement (MTM). This was devised in the

USA. The standard times were

made up after a frame-by-

Pre-determined motion-

Under this system, no times

The work-study people then

put down a time for each

action which they take from a

standard manual of times for

movements. When added up

these give the final time for

The PMTS most commonly

are taken. The worker is

simply watched at work and

every motion is noted.

frame examination of films of workers carrying out different actions. The times in the manual cover body motions, eye motions and various twist and

cranking movements of the arm, hand and fingers.

A variation of this system specially devised for office work is called Master Clerical

#### Group capacity assessment

Data (MCD).

As work in offices is closely inter-related and workers act as a team, a group instead of individual may be examined.

Also, instead of work elements, the actual work processes are timed as a unit, e.g. type and dispatch a letter and file a copy.

The new standard times are the times in which the group must carry out the various operations. This system was devised in the USA in 1958 and is usually introduced in three phases.

It is significant that the specialist magazine 'Work-Study' outlines step six of phase one of this system thus:

by a predetermined policy, e.g. natural wastage, transfer or

Variations of these four systems may appear under different titles and it is becoming increasingly popular to name work-study systems after the firm that is attempting to introduce them, so as to imply that they are 'personalized' to fit the needs of the workers

The reason why so many work-study systems exist is simple.

As soon as one system is exposed as a fraud by some section of workers, the consultants promptly cook up another one which, they claim,

which cuts out the 'non-scientific' method of rating by opinion. Along with the systems out-

instead that all workers do any work as instructed by management.

Already job-evaluation is being tried out in some offices associated with industrial plants. This system puts all workers concerned into a number of pay grades and requires that they do any work within

their grade.
Also, the enormous outlay on computer systems make it imperative for the employers to run them for at least 20 hours a day.

For this reason shift-work is being increasingly demanded by managements.

All office staffs can be sure that the ultimate aim of all these systems will be the introduction of Measured-Day Work into the office.

This system, over which major struggles are occuring throughout industry, demands a tremendously high level of working tied to a fixed wage reflecting neither output nor cost of living.

The government and the employers are relying on a combination of the outlined measures to strengthen the employers' ability to impose a

new strict working discipline. While any shortage of staff exists, employers can do little to enforce faster working, but

with the rapid drop in the

2.45 p.m. Every Picture . . .: The story behind the photographs in the papers. 3.45 More Best Sellers. 4.17 Diane's Magic Theatre. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Bugs Bunny. 5.20 Magpie. 1.00 p.m. Ryan A Ronnie. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News and Weather. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Journey To The Centre Of The Earth. 5.44 Hector's House.
6.00 London-Nationwide.

ITV

5.50 News.6.30 Peyton Place.7.00 A Present For Dickie. 7.30 The Thursday Film: 'Sword Comedy Playhouse: 'An Officer and a Gentleman'.

of Sherwood Forest'. With Richard Greene and Peter Cushing. Sportsnight With Coleman. 9.00 The Dave King Show.

9.30 Whicker In Europe: Prince Hohannes von Thurn und Taxis. 10.00 News At Ten.

10.30 Cinema. 11.00 I Spy. 11.55 Modern Man—The Loser?

#### **REGIONAL BBC**

World Cup soccer news.

Featuring the European Lightweight Boxing Championship.

US violinist interviewed.

**THURSDAY** 

BBC-1

6.45 The Doctors.

9.30 24 Hours.

11.05 Isaac Stern.

Top Of The Pops.

8.00 Softy, Softly. 8.50 News and Weather.

Sportsnight:

Regional programmes as BBC-1 except at the following times:

Midlands and East Anglia: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Midlands Today, Look East, Weather, Nationwide. 11.37 News Summary, Weather.

North of England: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Look North, Weather, Nationwide. 11.37 News Headlines, Weather.

Wales: 6.00-6.45 Wales Today, Weather, Nationwide. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. Scotland: 6.00-6.20 Reporting Scot-land, Weather. 11.37 News Headlines,

land, Weather. 11.37 News Headlines, Weather.
Northern Ireland: 6.00-6.45 Scene Around Six, Weather, Nationwide.
11.37 News Headlines, Weather.
South and West: 6.00-6.45 Points West, South Today, Spotlight South-West, Weather, Nationwide. 11.37 News Headlines, Weather.

#### **REGIONAL ITV**

CHANNEL: 4.50 p.m. Puffin's Birthday Greetings. 4.55 London. 6.00 Channel News and Weather. 6.10 Police File. 6.15 Channel Sports Roundup. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 The Thursday Film: 'The Young Land', with Patrick Wayne. 8.30 This Is Your Life. 9.00 London. 11.00 The Prisoner. 11.50 News and Weather In French followed by Weather.

SOUTHERN: 2.45-3.45 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 London. 4.55 The Forest Rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day By Day. 6.35 The Saint. 7.30 The Thursday Film: 'Johnny Nobody', with Nigel Patrick, Yvonne Mitchell, Aldo Ray and William Bendix. Murder mystery in a small Irish village. 9.00 London. 11.00 Southern News Extra. 11.10 Peyton Place. 11.40 The Papers. 11.55 Weather followed by Cardinal Heenan.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 4.23' p.m. News Headlines. 4.25 Peyton Place. 6.00 Westward Diary. 11.55 Faith For Life. 12.01 a.m. Weather.

Faith For Life. 12.01 a.m. Weather.

HARLECH: 2.45-3.45 London. 4.20 It's
Time For Me. 4.26 Castle Haven. 4.55
The Forest Rangers. 5.20 London. 6.01
Report. 6.20 Batman. 6.35 Crossroads.
7.00 Mid-week Movie: 'Carry On
Sergeant', with William Hartnell, Bob
Monkhouse, Shirley Eaton, Kenneth
Connor and Kenneth Williams. 8.30 On
The Buses. 9.00 London. 10.30 A Run
Called Nos Galan: Celebration of the
anniversary of Guto Nyth-Bran's great
victory when he ran 12 miles from
Newport to Bedwas in 53 minutes.
11.05 Hadleigh. 12 midnight Weather.
Harlech (Wales) as above except:
4.26 p.m. Interlude. 4.29-4.55 London.
5.20-5.50 Tins A Lei. 6.01 Y Dydd.
6.24 The Ghost and Mrs Muir. 6.517.00 Report.

ANGLIA: 2.45-3.45 p.m. London. 4.05 Castle Haven. 4.30 Anglia Newsroom. 4.35 Wind In The Willows. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'Ill Met By Moonlight', with Dirk Bogarde and Marius Goring. 9.00 London. 11.00 Living and Growing. 11.30 Parkin's Patch. 11.58 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 4.00 p.m. News Headlines. 4.02 Women Today. 4.15 Peyton Place. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 Sting-ray. 5.20 London. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Action

ULSTER: 4.30 p.m. Romper Room.
4.50 Ulster News Headlines. 4.55 The
Adventures of Seaspray. 5.20 London.
6.00 UTV Reports. 6.35 Crossroads.
7.00 Feature Film: 'The Philadelphia
Story', with Cary Grant, Katherine
Hepburn, James Stewart. 9.00 London.
11.00 Dangerman.

YORKSHIRE: 4.00 p.m. Houseparty, 4.15 News. 4.17 London. 4.30 Room 222. 4.55 The Forest Rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Calendar and Weather. 6.30 Castle Haven. 7.00 The Dave King Show. 7.30 'Hell and High Water' with Richard Widmark. A submarine goes to investigate Communist activities in the arctic. 9.30 London. 11.00 Manhunt. 11.55 Late Weather.

GRANADA: 4.15 p.m. News. 4.17 London. 4.25 The Short Story. 4.55 The Secret Service. 5.15 Magpie. 5.50 News. 6.00 Newsview followed by Campaign. 6.35 The Beverly Hillbillies. 7.00 'The Young Ones', with Cliff Richard, Carole Gray, Robert Morley and The Shadows. Nicky's tycoon father plans to buy up the land on which his son's youth club stands. 9.00 London. 11.00 The Untouchables.

TYNE TEES: 4.15 p.m. Newsroom. 4.17 Sara and Hoppity. 4.30 Doctor On Call. 4.53 Newsroom. 4.55 Ivanhoe. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today At Six. 6.25 Police Call. 6.30 Castle Haven. 6.55 The Saint. 8.00 Marcus Welby MD. 9.00 London. 11.00 University Challenge. 11.30 Late News Extra. 11.47 For Me To Live.

SCOTTISH: 4.20 p.m. Scotland Early. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 The Forest Rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Scotland Now. 6.35 High Living. 7.05 Feature Film: 'King Richard and the Crusaders' with Rex Harrison, Virginia Mayo, George Sanders and Laurence Harvey. 9.00 London. 11.00 Late Call. 11.05 Joker's Wild.

GRAMPIAN: 4.17 p.m. London. 4.30 Arthur. 4.55 Captain Scarlet. 5.20 London. 6.00 Grampian News. 6.10 The Beverly Hillbillies. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Hadleigh. 8.00 The Doris Day Show. 8.30 Manhunt. 9.30 London. 10.30 Horror! 'Son of Dracula'.

#### BBC-2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School. 6.30 The Machines.
7.30 News and Weather.
8.00 Call My Bluff. 8.30 The Money Programme.
9.10 The Six Wives of Henry VIII:

Dorothy Tutin as 'Anne Boleyne'. 10.40 News Summary and

10.45 Line-Up. 'Personal Choice' interview.

Weather.



Far from the economy expanding and providing more jobs for office workers, as a Prices and Incomes Board report suggests, the car industry, like many others, runs into crises resulting in over-production

number of unfilled posts-as well as in the number of workers employed—the managements hope to move into a much stronger position.

'In commercial and industrial life, the major significance of the computer system is that it permits effective control to be regained by management' ('Computers and the Changing World', by John Hargreaves, senior member of IBM's computer staff).

meaningless — capitalism attempts to drive a wedge between the two sections of workers.

non-productive and 'indirect' workers by consultants and managements, implying that they do no real work as com-

operators while the clerks themselves are encouraged to see factory hands, dockers, etc., as people relegated to a lower level of work by their generally inferior capabilities. All employers' slanders

against any section of workers are based entirely on a policy of divide and rule and must be firmly stamped on by the rest. The real enemy is the capi-

talist class, which aims to save itself at all costs, whether by waging a vicious and savage war against the people of Vietnam or by attacking the wages, conditions and jobs of the European and US working

At the same time, many leaders of clerical trade unions have a long history of sell-out of their members and collusion with the bosses, reflected at the moment in support for the Labour government's incomes policy and productivity bar-

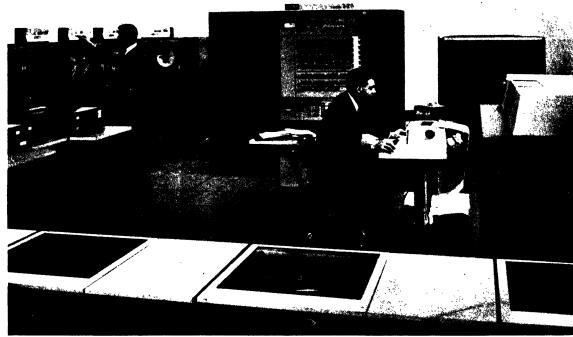
In this they have been

backed up solidly by members and supporters of the Communist Party who have fought to keep all discussion of politics, i.e. the Labour government's attacks, out of trade union branches and have actively worked to hush up union members prepared to explain the real nature of antistrike legislation and the incomes policy.

Clerical workers have the joint task of fighting for 100per-cent trade unionism and of ridding the union leaderships of the renegades replacing them instead with socialists dedicated to the defence of the working class.

But no amount of defensive action alone can stop the closures, sackings and effects of recession.

Only by expropriating the capitalist class and ridding the world of the profit motive can the working class ensure a better life on the basis of modern scientific and technological achievements.



The introduction of computers in offices, says a report published in 1965, has taken over 51,000 office jobs.

being measured . . . the real issue therefore, in relation to non-manual workers, is not whether work can be measured, but what technique of measurement is appropriate for the particular job' (PIB report No. 123).

Work-study exists in two basic parts; motion-study and time-study.

Motion - study examines every movement made and method used to see if it can be simplified, shortened or eliminated altogether. This

(a) saving time by cutting out 'ineffective' motion. (b) streamlining a job to prepare for timing.

Whereas at factory level the time and the motion methods are introduced jointly, in the office the motion-study is introduced first and in fact it is exactly that Organization and Methods system which we have already described.

In other words, the appearance of O and M consultants in an office is the first stage

### Ordinary time-study

In this system a worker is timed with a stopwatch while doing a specific job; only movements directly connected with that job are timed. Mistakes, rest or 'abnormal' movements are left out.

In this way, each action is timed separately and these separate movements are known as elements of work.

For example, if out of 50 samples a clerk is noted down as doing nothing in ten, walking in 20 and writing in 20, the work-study department would deduce that she spends 40 per cent of the day working, 40 per cent 'transporting' and 20 per cent idle.

ver writes down the 'rate' at which he considers the different elements are being carried out (fast, slow, etc.).
Following this, the elements are rated and then strung together, an extra fixed allow-

ance is added for rest con-

tingencies and this is the final

At the same time, the obser-

Next, the elements are rated. In the bend-down movement the one second stands because in the opinion of the observer the worker moved at standard speed. However in grasping the box

he was apparently too slow, rating only 90 out of a 100. He should have taken onetenth less time, i.e. nine-tenths of a second, for this movement. Similarly in the lift move-

ment he should have taken only 4.5 seconds. His put-down time was fast and 'normal' time would be 1.1 seconds. So total time for the job after rating, called the 'basic time'. is 1 + 0.9 + 4.5 + 1.1seconds = 7.5 seconds.Allowing 10 per cent for

contingencies and rest, the final standard time for the operation is made out to be 8.25 seconds, or a saving of 2.75 seconds on the actual time (11 seconds) to do the job. The equivalent for the entire day would be two hours saving on an eighthour day.

'Any surplus labour is handled

involved.

leaves out all the 'unpleasant' parts of the previous method. For example, PMTS is being pushed to the fore as a system which avoids the 'degrading' use of the stopwatch and

lined are introduced a variety of flexibility and interchangeability proposals aimed at breaking down conventional demarcation between jobs (typist, filing clerk, telephone operator etc.) and requiring

pared with the production-line As one computer expert

explains:

At the same time as differences between office and factory work are breaking down the references to modern clerical work as being 'nonmanual' are rapidly becoming

Clerks are referred to as

output.

are 'synchronized' that lasers

have such an enormous power

These properties make the laser ideal for accurate range-

The Apollo-11 astronauts

erected a mirror on the moon to reflect back a laser beam

transmitted from earth. This

enables the distance of the

earth from the moon to be measured to within an accur-

The synchronized nature of the laser's light means that the

laser produces light on a single

wave length in the same way

as a radio transmitter produces

Because of this, a laser beam can be used to carry information—speech, vision, con-

trol signals, etc.—in the same

way as a radio transmission:

but because the wavelength of

light is far shorter than that

of radio waves, far more information can be carried. Many millions of television channels could be carried on a laser beam, but unfortun-

ately laser light is very little

better than ordinary light in

munication links will, there-

fore, have to be carried in

tubes designed to bend the

beam round corners and over

also rules out the misuse of the laser (at least in its

present form) as a 'death ray'

probably the most impressive

result of the laser's properties,

since such photographs possess

quired and two effects not

found in conventional 3-D

No special glasses are re-

An observer can, by moving his position, look around objects in the foreground of

the picture to see what is be-

hind them, in exactly the same

way as when viewing the

Moreover, an observer has to refocus his eyes to look at distant objects after looking at those in the foreground of

graphy, all the expanding light

waves reflected from each

point in the object are con-

centrated back into a point in

the plane of the photographic

In laser photography—called

holography—laser light is used

without a lens and, in effect,

the light waves are 'frozen' in

the emulsion on the photo-

When the plate is then

illuminated by laser light, the

light waves are 'unfrozen' and

start travelling again towards

not differentiate between the

reconstructed image and the

The uses of lasers for com-

munications and holography

are refinements which bring us

some distance from the mere

massive doses of energy onto

They have been used, with

some success, in cutting, weld-

ing and drilling metal and

In the case of hard rock, a

preliminary 'softening-up' with

about five seconds from a car-

bon dioxide gas laser, causes

severe damage and reduces

considerably the wear on tun-

Man has, in the laser, found

a source of radiation with

qualities so unusual and

unique that many years of

intensive work will be needed

before all its potential uses

In the early 1960s, the laser

The early 1970s may reveal

it as the means for cheap

thermo-nuclear oblivion — an

urgent problem for mankind

was called 'a solution in search

have been fully explored.

The viewer, therefore, can-

the eye of the observer.

The ability to produce three dimensional photographs is

for military purposes.

quite unusual features.

photographs are present.

Seeing behind

original scene.

the photograph!

graphic plate.

real object.

small areas.

other materials.

nelling machinery.

of a problem'.

In conventional

film by means of a lens.

the curvature of the earth. The atmospheric obstacle

penetrating mist and fog. Future laser beam com-

finding and surveying.

acy of a few feet.

radio waves.

A SIMPLE and cheap route to the hydrogen bomb may be a lot nearer than is generally realized.

The answer to the problem of triggering off nuclear fusion without using an atomic explosion may be to use a laser beam to produce the necessary high energy.

This is the conclusion of a recent colloquium held in Basle by the Natural Resources Research Development Centre.

Work carried out since this meeting seems to confirm that there are now only technical obstacles to be overcome and that the outstanding problems will be resolved in the near future.

Previously, the possibility of a laser-triggered bomb was dismissed by many scientists because of the enormous temperatures needed to set off a thermo-nuclear explosion.

However, the French Weapons Research Establishment has recently obtained a succession of tiny explosions with what is generally regarded as the world's most powerful laser beam.

#### Consternation

The implications of these developments is causing some consternation in the corridors

Previously, the road to the H-bomb was long and expensive and therefore barred to all but a handful of countries.

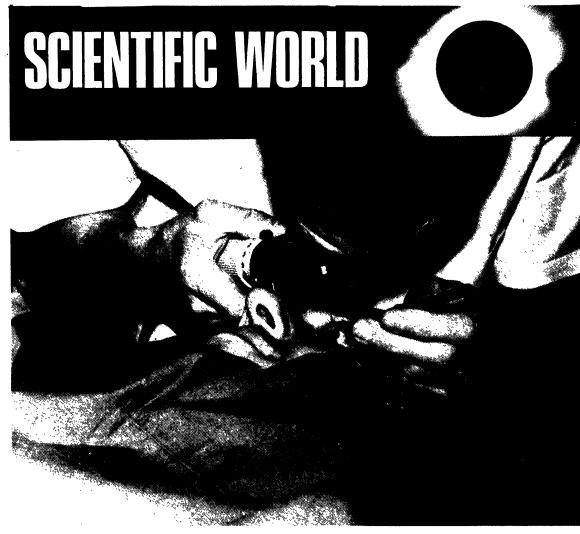
The development of a lasertriggered bomb would require an explosive charge, a comparatively simple and cheap laser, plus associated electronic circuitry, and some heavy water.

Even the smallest and poorest of nations might be able to make a bomb of this sort. Laser beams, a form of radiation first demonstrated in

1960, can be compared to light beams with power densities many millions of times greater than those found on the surface of the sun.

'Light' is not perhaps the right word to use, because today lasers also produce beams in the infrared and ultra-violet domains which are not visible to the naked eye.

The first laser did, however, produce a visible, red beam and the name laser-standing for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation — has been generally accepted.



A surgeon uses a laser ophthalmoscope to 'spot-weld' a detached retina.

# Beam bombs or eye-surgery?

#### **BY MARTIN ZARROP**

The first laser took the form of a synthetic ruby crystal mounted between two mirrors.

When this crystal was illuminated by short, intense bursts of white light, a red light beam of enormous power started to bounce back and forth between the mirrors increasing in strength each time it passed through the ruby.

One of the mirrors was partially transparent and from this mirror emerged the intense parallel shaft of red light that was the first laser

How to kill the

Since then a number of other crystals have been used in lasers and the technique has been extended to lasers using a gas or liquid.

Between them the various types of laser can produce beams of widely differing characteristics; some suitable for one particular field of application and some for others.

It is, for example, the ruby laser's ability to produce intense, short light pulses that

makes it so useful to the ophthalmic surgeon.

The intense light pulses from

a suitable laser will pass through the outer transparent regions of the eye, the cornea, the lens, etc. without causing damage.

They can then be used to retina that has become de-

a second.

No heat is produced: the welding is completed and the laser switched off again, long before any movement of the

acteristics of laser light that makes it much more useful -and possibly more deadlythan light from conventional

treme directionality.

is many millions of times more concentrated than the beam

the earth to the moon, for example, will illuminate an area only two miles in diameter on the lunar surface.

#### **Power density**

Secondly there is the extraordinary density of the power within the beam.

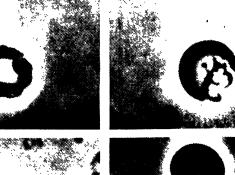
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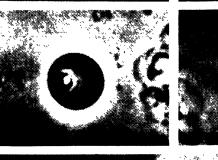
gether to give the total output. busmen or any other section

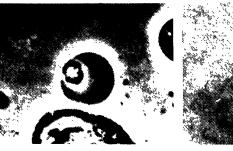
In conventional light sources, random timing.

> stimulated to produce its packet by the packets of light from the other atoms.

It is because the emissions









A laser beam can be focused to a spot, smaller than a red corpuscle.

# CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA By N. Makanda

# The facts behind imperialist 'aid'



Workers dig for diamonds for the benefit of foreign imperialism. Foreign capital dominates the lives of 99 per cent of workers and peasants in Ghana.

IN AREAS like South Africa imperialist investment is direct, through giant financial houses, mainly centred in London.

In other parts of Africa, as in West and East Africa, in addition to direct investment, imperialist investment takes the outward form of 'aid'.

This is both through private capital and by the imperialist states which act as channels and collecting agents for the

great private investors. 'Aid' comes also through international financial agencies of world capitalism, such as the World Bank and United ability of these beams to focus Nations 'development' organizations.

> The various forms of aid go mainly to 'newly independent' states, such as Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, etc. A small fraction consists of non-refundable grants, while the bulk comprises loans.

#### Generosity

The grants themselves are invariably meant for world public opinion, to show how generous the imperialists are.

In reality, they are ancillary to great loan and direct investment projects. The aid, in all known cases

in Africa, has aided not the 'beneficiary', but the donor.

The receiver has usually slowly gone bankrupt. An example of this is Ghana.

When the leader of the Ghanaian government, Dr Busia, was in London on October 23, 1969, he stated that no less than 13 per cent of the export revenue of Ghana went to service debts.

As usual, of course, he blamed the debt on the extravagance of Nkrumah's government, which, in fact, was merely laying what is called the 'infra-structure' for semicolonial investments by Britain, the USA and company in 'independent' Ghana.

#### Crippled

When this government had done its job, it was removed by a timely 'coup' in the interests of imperialism, which wanted a monopoly of Ghana, without the presence of Russian technicians and advisers.

The debt that Busia was talking about is the debt due to British and US 'aid'.

The repayment of the interest gradually caught up with the capital repayments until the total of both crippled the budget.

The consequence of receiving aid, according to Busia himself, has been that the national income was rising by less than the increase in population.

The nominal national income per head in Ghana has, said Busia, been rising by only 1 per cent, while population was rising by 2.5 per cent.

The 'liberals' of Britain, of course, are quick to demand birth-control as a solution in an attempt to hide the 1 per cent figure by focusing attention on the 2.5 per cent figure.

'Over-population' is simply a distorted reflection of 'underproduction', which is typical of the semi-colonies which imperialism under-develops by its entire policy of industrial starvation and of primary production for the export of rawmaterial crops.

#### Reserves

The hue-and-cry of the Malthusians about over-population and birth-control remains one of the propaganda of the South African governments for the past 50 years, in blaming the African peasants for 'over-stocking' the soil with cattle and using this as a pretext to cull the cattle.

What they are really doing, in fact, is to use the question of cattle in order to drive the peasants in the reserves (labour-reservoirs) out on to the British and other foreignowned mines as cheap labour.

At the same time they hide the root cause of 'over-stocking', namely that it is not an absolute but a relative factor and that it is caused by landlessness.

The conquests, land-robberies and consequent subjection of the African peasants are pushed into the background by the propaganda of 'over-stock-

The victims are blamed for the crimes of their oppressors and are further exploited as cheap labour as a result of this propaganda.

It is the same with the propaganda about 'over-population' and the birth-control 'remedy'.

The Busia government's 'remedy' is not to raise the national income, which is impossible without the uncompensated expropriation of imperialist investors in Ghana, but to conduct a deportation battle against 'non-Ghanaians'.

There are two million of these people in Ghana, constituting a quarter of the population.

### Hounded

These 'foreigners' are being hounded and persecuted in an attempt to 'solve' the 'overpopulation problem which imperialist aid helped to aggravate by reducing the national income.

The deportation campaign is part of the divide-and-rule game of imperialism, with Busia doing the job on the

Those being driven out by force and at all times of the day and night are other landless, homeless African workers, whom the imperialists who control the economy of Ghana do not require at the moment for the labour-needs.

They provide a convenient scapegoat for Busia to get out of his domestic problems.

The real 'foreigners', the British, American, West German and other Western investors, businessmen, 'advisers', 'experts', 'teachers' they are not 'foreigners'.

They are not driven out of Ghana. They remain, with the vast properties they guard and

Such is a typical 'independent' African state today.

The real 'foreigners' are the representatives of the foreigners whom the people of Ghana never see in person: the mighty ones who own the financial and raw material companies which dominate the lives not only of the cocoa-producing peasants, but of 99 per cent of the workers and peasants of Ghana.

#### Absentee

They are far away, mainly in the City of London.

They are what one may call the absentee imperialists.

And they cannot be driven out of Ghana unless their investments are seized and their trading interests taken over, without compensation.

If anyone expects a Busia to do this, he is slightly mistaken. For Busia could draw only one conclusion from his description of present-day Ghana. He did not condemn im-

perialism for his stated fact that 600,000 out of the 2.4 million workers — that is 25 per cent --- were unemployed today, in a country where even to be employed still means chronic starvation.

Nor did he show that the imperialism of 'British democracy' was responsible for dictatorships in the semi-colonies, where imperialism could not 'afford the luxury of democracy'.

He merely declared that 'to rule democratically . . . was a difficult problem for an elected government'.

#### **Subordination**

And then Busia, the leader of post-Nkrumah Ghana, declared the subordination of Ghana, and, indeed, of all independent African states, to imperialism:

'He therefore,' reported the 'Daily Telegraph' of October 24, 1969, 'pinned his hopes to western sympathy for a democratic regime in Africa.

As if even a Busia believed that 'Western aid', for which he was clearly pleading, ever had anything in common with or to do with democracy in

Africa or anywhere else!

#### music profession MUSICIANS and actors not normally associated either with militant action or with particularly strong trade union organization — today face threats to their jobs and

threatening many other sections of workers. Two recent skirmishes spot-

wages very similar to those

lighted this situation. The first—and most important—was the 30,000-strong Musicians' Union's fight Musicians' against the BBC's original 'Broadcasting in the '70s' proposals, which would have meant the sacking of some 300 out of 500 staff musicians and the elimination of seven of the Corporation's 12 regional

orchestras. Then last month, at South-wark Cathedral, the English Chamber Orchestra refused to play with non-union harpsi-

chordist Mr Philip Ledger.
This second dispute, which has still not been settled, may blow up again in February when the orchestra is booked to record a recital of Bach arias with Mr Ledger.

#### Blown up

While many members and officials of the union feel that the dispute has been blown up out of proportion to its real importance, it nevertheless indicates the growing anxiety of many musicians about the security of their jobs.

Like the actors—at present negotiating with the BBC for an agreement that they employ a certain percentage of union members in productions—the musicians would like signed job guarantees from the BBC. Whether they will get them

is, to say the least, doubtful. In an interview with the Workers Press, freelance trumpeter Fred Clayton—a leading member of the Musicians' Union in the London areaexplained some of the background.

'The Southwark Cathedral incident', he said, 'was simply a case where an orchestra was asked to play with someone who was not only a non-union member, but refused to join. 'It would be well worth his while to join.

'If he's a member of the Incorporated Society of Musifar as wages and conditions cians, which means nothing as far as wages and conditions are concerned, why won't he join the union which is the

body which does fight for these things? usually in a different category and it's absurd to think we're going to insist that Oistrakh, Fou T'song and others have to

join before we'll accompany 'But was Mr Ledger a solo-

It was unlikely, Fred Clayton thought, that the union would be taking a harder line on this sort of issue as a result of the membership's grave fears for their jobs and

"Broadcasting in the '70s" ',he told us, 'is a separate

#### By a Workers Press correspondent

Here the BBC were simply trying to get rid of musicians in order to save money. The union had to fight it. they did fight it and—I hope

we won the day. 'When I say "I hope", I mean we don't really know what the BBC has in mind. It could be that they'll try and do a "pirate" on us—not in the same form as the "pirate" radio stations did, of course,

#### 'Needle-time'

but vou never know.

'We'd need an agreement signed and in force that they are going to use musicians and

not more "needle-time". 'Our position is that of course the BBC needs more money, but they're not going to get it at our expense. 'If you try this, then in a

few years' time you're killing the profession. There would be fewer openings so fewer would come in. "Broadcasting for the '70s" would have been another nail in the coffin of the music profession if it had gone through

in its original form.'

The sharpness of the situation facing musicians—particularly the younger ones can be indicated by looking briefly at the impact of the

record business. For basic pay-rates little higher than those for a "oneoff" concert, musicians are 'Soloists, of course, are employed in putting their skills

into a form which can be used against them. In return for as little as £18 the standard rate for a morning-and-afternoon recording session—musicians can

produce a record which may later mean the loss of a job. Capitalism in crisis can no more accommodate musicians than it can miners, dockers,

#### of workers. Same methods

And it used the same technique to get rid of them. The groundwork for "Broadcasting in the '70s" was done by the same management consultancy firm-McKinsey and Co.-which has advised port

employers to prepare for a 90 per cent redundancy on the docks. Writing in last Saturday's 'Morning Star', assistant Musicians' Union general secretary Harry Francis essentially ac-

cepted this situation. Distinguishing between 'the "talkies" . . . an inevitable development, a result of scientific advance' and the threat posed by the BBC plan Francis claimed that 'though many musicians suffered' with the advent of the 'talkies', 'the realists among them realized that nothing could be done, at least in a capitalist society, to prevent them being thrown on

the scrapheap'. Unemployment in other words, is all right as long as it is the result of 'scientific

advance'.

Musicians — and actors – must reject Francis's world of 'inevitable development' and unemployed 'realists' if they are to beat back the growing threat to their jobs and wages and fight alongside those thousands of other workers entering the 1970s determined to fight for revolutionary trade unionism and revolutionary change.

## 'spot weld' back into place a No anaesthetic need be used because each weld can be completed in a few thousandths of

eye can take place. What are the unique char-

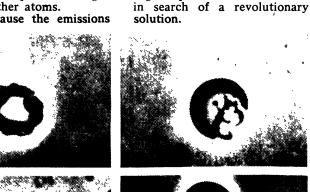
First of all there is its ex-The light output from a laser is transmitted in a beam which

from the best searchlight. A laser beam directed from

This is a result of the 'synchronized' nature of the process by which the light is

Light energy is always generated in small 'packets'. Each packet is produced by a single atom in the generating material and the packets of light from the millions of atoms add to-

the individual atoms produce their packets of energy with In a laser each atom is







can selectively destroy smaller parts as well as the whole

'Pravda'

sharpens

attack

By a foreign correspondent

THE SOVIET bureaucracy

this week sharpened its

attack on China with a

'Pravda' article accusing the

Mao leadership of acting in

collusion with United States

Imperialist propagandists are trying to breathe new strength into the anti-com-

munist campaign', said 'Pravda' on Monday, 'using the events taking place in China under the flag of the "cultural resultation" and the

"cultural revolution" and the course of the Chinese leader-

ship in its internal and exter-nal policy. . . The American hawks and the revanchists on

the Rhine [with whom the Kremlin is in the process of

establishing the most cordial

of relations] are savouring in every way the declarations of Chinese propaganda about the inevitability of war and its calls for a "big war soon".'

This new anti-China offensive in the Soviet press comes at a crucial stage in the current Sino-Soviet border dis-

rent Sino-Soviet border dis-

pute talks, which have been in

recess for the last three weeks.

has not, of course, called for

'a big war soon' as the 'Pravda' article implies.

Be prepared

preparations for a strike against Chinese atomic in-stallations—they were openly

admitted to be under way by

the Kremlin agent Victor Louis—Peking has warned the

Chinese people to be prepared

for such a blow.
The 'Pravda' bluster about

Chinese aggression only con-

ceals from its readers the

Soviet bureaucracy's counter-

who are acting in collusion with imperialism, not only in

It is Kosygin and Brezhnev

revolutionary intentions.

Aware of Soviet military

The Chinese government

imperialism.

# Lessons from the

THE 'ECONOMIC MIRACLE' of Italian capitalism has been based on the ability of many employers to deprive workers of any control over their method and pace of work.

So they are able, whilst conceding wage rises in the past which have allowed workers in industry to improve their standard of living, to squeeze more and more surplus value from each worker by use of the stop-watch and speed-up of the process of production.

This report from our correspondent in Italy is a warning to all British workers. It describes, in the words of Fiat workers, the new techniques of speed-up used by the Italian employers under the pres-sure of cut-throat Common Market competition.

It also reveals that the trade union leaders have retreated under this pressure in the same way as we have seen in Britain over recent years.

There is no doubt that if and when the British employers move into the Common Market, they will be driven to emulate and even surpass the methods described in the interview. Measured-Day Work is part of the international drive of big business for more profits out of less workers. Our fight against it must also be international.

This is understood by the workers of Fiat, who look to us in Britain for a lead in the fight. They can already see that our fight ing revolutionary socialist leadership. So must we.

#### Stop Wilson's visit to Nixon

• FROM PAGE ONE New Parks and Netherhall

estates. Among them were members of the CAWU, AEF, CEU, NUM and T&GWU.

FIVE T&GWU bus drivers and conductors have signed the petition at London's Merton bus garage.

**ELEVEN South London UPW** members have also endorsed the campaign.

THIRTY NUT&GW members -many of them Greek workers exiled as a result of the military dictatorship in Greecehave put their signatures to the campaign at a North London clothing factory.

FORTY trade unionists from Girling's, Bromborough, have

'We express our anger and disgust at the atrocities committed by the American troops in Vietnam.

'We demand the withdrawal of all American troops now. We will fight in our trade unions to compel the government to break with American policy in Vietnam and cancel the visit of Wilson to Wash-

ington. We demand the removal from the leadership of the labour movement of Wilson and Brown and all leaders who support the American govern-ment in their brutal and vicious war against the Viet-

namese people.'
Among the 40 are AEF convenor A. Ogle, AEF deputy convenor J. Burns, ETU senior steward P. Shaw and 11 other

#### **YCLers sign**

SEVEN out of eight members attending a recent meeting of Leeds Young Communist League signed the petition. Other recent Leeds signa-

tories include members of the NUT and a branch committee member of the T&GWU, who is also a delegate to the local trades council.

The wave of strikes in the manufacturing plants of the north were in many cases directed to gaining control by 'squad delegates', directly responsible to the men who elect them, over the conditions and pace of work, and protection from the stop-watch.

The conditions in the Fiat car plant at Mirafiore, Turin, are typical of those in many of the large manufacturing plants of the north.

They provide a warning of what Measured-Day Work holds in store for workers in Britain if control over the organization of work is sold for a temporary increase in

Mirafiore employs 56,000 men on engine assembly, body pressing and final assembly.

#### Strike wave

In the period before the signing of the new national labour contract in December it was swept by a wave of stoppages—for an increase in the basic wage and for control over the organization of work—which carried over into the massive working-class demonstrations in Turin and the whole of Italy against bad housing at extortionate rents. Salvatore Buzzardi and other squad delegates of No. 23 (engine) shop gave an explanation of the use of the stop-watch on piece-work—of which the following is a

Management controls both the type and the quantity of work for each worker. Only in solidarity with his fellow-workers can anyone change these-otherwise he is sacked.

Each worker is obliged to produce the maximum piece-work quota. This is calculated as follows: Suppose four workers are doing the same operation. The time-keeper will time each one on the job, say ten times. He will then take the average of those times for each worker.

Then he makes an assess-

At the most a worker can judged as 100 per cent efficient, but in fact every-one is judged as less efficient than that—in the eyes of the management all workers are

Suppose the average time for a worker is 100 seconds and he is judged 80 per cent efficient. Then his "adjusted time" is 80 seconds. But this

#### Faster

If several workers are on the same job—and this is almost always so—then the "standard time" for the job is taken as the least adjusted

Management here works on the principle that all must produce as much as the fastest.

At this point you might consider that I am being exploited enough. But no.

Fiat considers that there is not only the laziness of particular workers, but also the laziness of workers in general. It therefore takes the position that for a man at work there are 80 minutes in each hour.

### GREET **WORKERS PRESS**



## public meeting

See the film of the first issue being prepared and printed and the film 'Young Socialists, 1969'

Sunday January 25, 2-30 p.m.

Town Hall, High Street **ACTON** Speakers: SHEILA TORRANCE

(National Secretary of the Young Socialists) MIKE BANDA (Editor of Workers Press)

G. HEALY (National Secretary of Socialist Labour League)

# Italian strikes



A new national contract following strikes like that above has given Fiat workers a 12 per cent rise. But they know that the company will use every possible speed-up method to win this back.

Thus production in working week is fixed, not directly according to the standard times, but at 133 per cent of that.

#### Work slow

The only right of workers is to know the standard times for their jobs and to ensure that their quota is not fixed higher than it should be by the foreman.

Naturally, all workers will work very slowly in the presence of the time-keeper. But the management can still shorten the times in these three ways—by allowing for your "laziness', by making all work as much as the fastest, and by forcing 80 minutes into each hour.

In theory, jobs should only be timed afresh when there some technical change in the job, but it is often easy for the management to get round this. In theory we have the power to make Fiat stick to the rules—but the rules are those made by Fiat itself. The result is a terrible pace of work in the factory.

The official unions-Communist, Socialist and Catholic-have done little to fight these conditions, concerning themselves mainly with increases in the basic wage.

Workers have therefore had to organize at shop and sec-tion level to defend themselves — electing 'unofficial' delegates to organize their struggles—men directly elected diately recallable by them.

#### Production loss

The delegates organized as follows. Sections would strike in succession to one another, say for two hours at a time.

Since Fiat cuts its costs by providing very little storage within the factory, this has the effect of stopping a lot of production.

Thus a section will lose only its piece-work payment and a small part of the basic pay, while the loss of production to the management will be very large.

At the same time workers are kept together in struggle, not being dispersed to their homes. During the staggered strikes of the autumn and winter we demonstrated within the factory, held discussions and meetings, and the management could do nothing against so many workers.

Now that the new national contract has been signed we have a 12 per cent increase in basic pay.

But the management will certainly be intending to get that money back. The delegates must now organize to ensure that the contract is implemented in full-for example the management may try at the end of the month avoid reducing the working week to 42 hours.

Also we must fight for a change in the piece-work

system so that, without loss of pay, we get paid for work above a minimum, and are not compelled to complete the

#### Workers' control

During the struggles around the national contract many workers understood the need for socialism and workers' I support the PSIUP.\* but

Workers' Party of Socialist Unity, most left of Italy's Socialist parties.

in Turin the PSIUP is to the left of the Party leadership. We are opposed to the Party to enter the government with the Christian Democrats, but it is unlikely the Communist Party leaders will be able to do this in the near

We are very interested in the shop stewards' movement and in what is happening in the working-class movement

in England.

Will the shop stewards' movement be able to form a revolutionary socialist move-ment? Will there be laws in England to make un-

### **UNEMPLOYMENT HITS** U.S. CAR INDUSTRY

• FROM PAGE ONE

greatly increase the pressure on the US car workers. In the third quarter of 1969 Chrysler's profits fell to 7 cents a share against 63 cents a share a year earlier, while Ford's earnings on the same comparison had fallen by 25 per cent.

Even sales of foreign cars in the US have risen sharply

over the past two years because of the increasing prices of home-built cars. By last year one in nine of the 9,600,000 new cars bought were imported.

have turned an angry eye on They have been looking to their massive investments in

The US car bosses must

Europe to tide them over domestic problems.

But the combativity of the European working class has torn this hope to shreds—Chrysler's failure at Rootes to extract any profits at all being an outstanding case. The growing tension in the US car industry, expressed by the tumbling profits, is forc-ing the American companies

to step up the offensive in their European plants.

## **Procedure talks** at breaking ● FROM PAGE ONE

employers' productivity de-

Interference on the employers' terms with 'status quo' would also call into question the principle of mutual agreement on piece-work prices which is still written into

national agreements in the ndustry. Several recent strikes, particularly in the car and car components sector, have been sparked by attempts to break mutuality.

Engineers cannot afford to relax their vigilance against moves by the union leaders which would undermine this

important principle.
While insisting on 'status quo' in cases of dismissal, changes in working practices and methods of payment, it is known that some Confederation leaders are privately in favour of changes which would undermine mutuality in piece-work agreements.

At the same time, as we

have previously pointed out,

they last year conceded to the employers' demands on 'status

quo' with regard to dismissals in South Wales.
Further, the TUC 'guidelines' on strikes and shop
stewards—against which none
of the Confederation 'lefts'

have so far come out-will concede a big proportion of the employers' demands by the back door if they are approved by member unions. It is all very well for Scanlon to warn against the Tories' plans to make proagreements legally cedure binding if they are returned to power at the next general

election.

The only real defence against the Tory threat to the unions is a linked fight against the engineering employers' demands, the threat of legislation and the TUC's 'back-door' proposals.

#### WEATHER

London area, SE, NW and central Northern England, East and West Midlands, Glasgow area and Northern Ire-land: Freezing mist and fog in many places at first. Becoming cloudy with snow at times.

Maximum temperatures 1C

Central Southern and SW

England, Channel Islands: Cloudy with snow or sleet at first, turning to rain. Maximum temperatures 8C (46F).

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Generally cloudy with rain, sleet or snow in northern districts, but less cold in the south with rain or showers.

**WEST GERMANY** 

# Public service unions to call strike poll

Workers are claiming a

100 mark minimum in-

crease in the monthly

Talks with the govern-

ment broke down just be-

fore Christmas when the

offer of an 8 per cent in-

were awarded an interim three-month increase of 100

marks after the unofficial strikes of last September, accepting 8 per cent would

mean a cut in wages for lower-

Union leader Heinz Kluncker

said that despite his life-long

support for the Social-Demo-cratic Party, he was opposed to the Brandt government on the question of his union's

Many workers involved in

Town renamed

'in honour' of

**Voroshilov** 

of the Second World War, in which the majority of the Soviet general staff and a high proportion of the officer

corps, including I. E. Yakir and Mikhail Tukhachevsky,

were executed on trumped-up

Wednesday's 'Morning Star'

reports without comment the

cynical iustification given for

the renaming in the decree,

issued by the Communist Party Central Committee, the council of ministers and the

presidium of the Supreme

These bodies claim the change in name 'had been decided on at the request of numerous workers'.

In reality it represents a victory for the ultra-Stalinist

faction in the Soviet leader-

ship—the same people who proposed celebrating Stalin's 90th birthday last month.

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● FROM PAGE ONE

As all public employees

By our foreign correspondent

THE WEST GERMAN Union for the Public Services, Transport and Traffic will poll all of its million members on January 21 to decide on selective strike action if the Brandt coalition government does not meet its wage claim.

wage.

crease.

paid workers.

wage claim.

## C.G.T. **STARTS FAKE CAMPAIGN** ON DEAL

By a foreign correspondent

WORKERS in the nationalized French gas and electricity combine EGF, are to take part in a secret ballot on January 14 to decide whether to accept a twoyear pay agreement signed last month by the Social-Democratic and Catholic

The referendum is being organized by the Stalinistled CGT, whose general secretary, Georges Seguy, inaugurated an official campaign against the agreement at a mass meeting of elec-tricians and gas workers in Paris earlier this week.
Seguy's proposal for a

ballot is a manoeuvre designed to win back some of the lost prestige of the CGT, France's largest union.



CGT leader Seguy

Pressure from below and criticism from many wor-kers have forced the CGT leaders to take a more militant-sounding position in industrial disputes.

The referendum has no legal significance. The agreement is valid French law, even under though the signatories represent only a minority of the workers concerned, and the EGF management is expected to operate it regard-

less of the vote.

The CGT is thus able to appear militant without in any way preventing the operation of the agreement.

#### Demagogic trick

Despite Seguy's Paris statement that 'this consultation has nothing in common with the referendum practices used by the Gaullist government' his 'consultation' has all the marks of a demagogic trick.

If the CGT leaders really intended to break the agreement, why did they not call for a strike vote?

## Saigon 'pro-govt' rally exposed

From our own correspondent

A SOUTH VIETNAM senate committee report published on Monday has revealed that the anti-communist rally outside the Saigon 'Lower House' on December 20 was a put-up The report states that mem-

bers of the armed forces, dressed up in civilian clothes were paid to take part.

This is perhaps the most damning proof yet of the total isolation of the puppet Thieu regime from the Vietnamese

It has to disguise soldiers as civilians before it can mobilize an anti-communist rally on the streets of its own capital.

## **Asturian miners** defy Franco

More were expected yesterday to join the strike after the 24-hour 'Twelfth Night' holiday.

The dispute threatens the whole Spanish economy and is seen as a challenge to union leaders rejected an ment.

> strike is political. The management—the mine

is government-owned — has suspended 800 of the strikers on these grounds. savage prison sentences.

the dispute are very badly paid, and have clearly been influenced by the success of last year's unofficial strikes in industry, which won substan-ITALY'S 90,000 urban transtial increases for millions of trade unionists in engineering, shipbuilding and the mines.

THE 8,000 strikers at the Hunosa coalmine in the Spanish Asturias coalfield have been joined by 4,000 of their fellow workers.

General Franco's new govern-The miners claim the strike

is against the inadequate bonus paid at Christmas, but the management have stated that the real reason for the

This is tantamount to a demand for the government to repress the strike: political strikes are banned in fascist Spain and workers taking part in such strikes face

#### Transit strike

port workers struck over pay again yesterday, bringing traffic to a halt in the coun-

## relation to China, but Vietnam and the whole of western Europe. U.S. recession hangs query

over Moonshots REPORTS from this week's lunar science conference in Houston indicate that little headway has been made in unravelling the mysteries of the moon.

The conference was convened to discuss the results of analysing the 48 pounds of lunar material brought back to earth by the Apollo-11 astronauts last July and to give a origin, age and construction preliminary report on the 73 pounds of rocks from

Apollo-12. Most investigators from the nine countries that obtained samples for analy-

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By our science correspondent

had had insufficient time to complete their work. Reports given so far have revealed a great deal of scientific data, but every scientist with a pet theory about the

#### statistics as a support for his own theory!

of the moon has viewed the

Little gold Analysis reveals that the moon is rich in the rare element titanium, but low in such valuable minerals

gold and silver. Evidence suggests that the theory of the moon's forma-tion taking place by breaking away from the earth may be ruled out, but estimates of the actual age of the moon vary from between 3,500 million and 4,600 million years. In view of the conflict at the conference, it is now planned to include a geolo-gist in the Apollo-15 flight late this year, so that a better selection of material is made

available for analysis. It is very clear that the Apollo programme will provide scientific data extremely slowly and at huge expense. America's rush for the moon during the 1960s has cost 20,000 million dollars and has as yet produced only 121 pounds of moon rocks

#### Shuttles

Using the single - shot technique involves an expenditure of 100,000 dollars for every pound of payload.

Plans have now gone before President Nixon the development of re-usable space shuttles and space stations (the main aims of the Soviet programme) with the target of a six-man lunar

base by 1980.

This would reduce transport costs to 200 dollars a pound and allow extended and planned programmes of research on the lunar surface. However, it may be a little late. Even the most modest programme is estimated to cost 4,000 million dollars a year, even without a Mars

landing in the foreseeable future. The development of the American recession may well entail such a cut-back in NASA's budget as to render its programme virtually usefor obtaining relevant

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data from the moon.