

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY MAY 1, 1972 ● No. 753 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## May Day Manifesto of the SLL

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The Tory government rules the lives of every single wage worker in the country with the mailed fist of the National Industrial Relations Court on the one hand while the other is wielded over the cowardly trade union leaders endeavouring to force them to discipline and expel those members who incur the displeasure of the Court.

Here is rule by decree. It is a movement towards a Bonapartist dictatorship, in which Heath will save his 'law and order' and his 'nation' with the help of a bureaucratic military police dictatorship if the working class is forced into a prolonged General Strike.

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**FIRST** the world economic crisis of capitalism has steadily deteriorated. The trade war and competition gets fiercer while the tendency towards recession and growing rearmament for imperialist war becomes more pronounced.

**SECONDLY** in such a situation the plight of British capitalism, its parasitic ruling class and out-dated economy becomes more and more desperate, in the face of growing competition from its rivals.

The haste which motivates the Tory drive into the Common Market underlines their desperation.

Today, more than at any other period of history, the effect of this global economic crisis on Britain tends more and more to aggravate the political crisis. The Tory government is forced by the insoluble contradictions of the capitalist system to make war on the working class and its trade unions.

It is within this context that the Industrial Relations Act makes its appearance. In a last-ditch effort the government strives to reorganize industry through speed-up and rationalization. The threat of over 1 million unemployed and the NIRC are powerful weapons to assist it in achieving changes.

In its efforts to initiate large-scale unemployment and the Act the Tories have been assisted at each stage by the reformist and Stalinist leaderships.

Instruments such as the Redundancy Payments Act, Measured-Day Work, the Devlin report on the docks and the Act itself have been legalized because the reformists and Stalinists will not fight the Tory government.

UCS is the most glaring example. Here, behind the threat of unemployment the yards have been reorganized under the most intensive speed-up methods and harsh disciplinary codes, reinforced by the Industrial Relations Act.

This has been hailed by the reformists and Stalinists as a 'victory' when in fact over 2,200 jobs have been lost and there is absolutely no guarantee that more unemployment will not occur as the economic situation worsens.

Meanwhile, trade union conditions have been slashed and the Tories have set a precedent for similar re-organization of industry to take place at the expense of the working class.

Reformism and Stalinism are counter-revolutionary forces in the present crisis. Every rotten compromise such as UCS not only weakens the working class by depriving it of the imperative need to fight the government politically, but it immediately opens the door for further offensives by the government. This is why the capitalist press make 'big men' out of the Reids and Airlies.

**There is only one way to meet the present crisis and that is by consciously building a revolutionary leadership within the labour movement which will mobilize the working class to fight the Tory government under conditions where it is forced to resign.**

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● **WE CALL** upon the US trade unions to continue this struggle by smashing the two-party electoral conspiracy and launch a Labour Party with a socialist programme.

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In company with millions of trade unionists we demand the immediate reconvening of the Trades Union Congress. It must answer Tory provocation by making its own efforts to call a prolonged General Strike until the Tory government resigns.

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SLL Central Committee,  
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## Press boost for Craig

WILLIAM CRAIG, leader of the extreme right-wing Ulster Vanguard, told a rally in London on Saturday that civil war was 'nearer' in N Ireland.

Speaking to a rain-swept crowd of several hundred on the Embankment, Craig said: 'We believe that the British government is prepared to negotiate with Dublin, and indirectly with the terrorists. We say, "Let us put an end to this. Let the voice of the people be heard".'

'If we are not going to get a fair deal inside the United Kingdom we will, as our fathers and grandfathers did in 1912, take whatever steps are necessary.'

The march from Hyde Park to the Embankment was organized by the Liverpool-based British Loyalist Committee.

Apart from contingents from Belfast and Londonderry, there were groups from Glasgow and Merseyside.

Prominent among the organizers was the extreme right-wing National Front, and the editor of 'Spearhead', John Tyndall, addressed the rally.

The demonstrators were a motley collection drawn from the most demoralized sections of the working class and the petty bourgeoisie.

Although the Scotland Yard press office said the rally was no more than 1,500-strong, newspapers yesterday boosted the figures to 4,000.

And the Vanguard was given even mightier significance by an article in Saturday's 'Daily Telegraph' that 10,000 Loyalists were trained and armed in Ulster.

This unsubstantiated story was the front-page headline in London's afternoon press as the apprentice boys, the bowler-hatted brigade and the Orangemen marched through the streets.

## Trafford Park talks break down

KEY TALKS at the GEC-AEI plant, Trafford Park, Manchester's biggest engineering factory, have broken down over a shorter working week.

The 3,500 workers returned to the plant last Tuesday on the basis that negotiations would cover the hours question.

AUEW district officials leading the 2,400 workers involved in 26 sit-ins, three lock-outs and four strikes had pinned hopes on a breakthrough at Trafford Park.

So far management has offered £3 on wages and two extra days holidays, but is sticking to the employers' association line that hours are a matter for national negotiation.

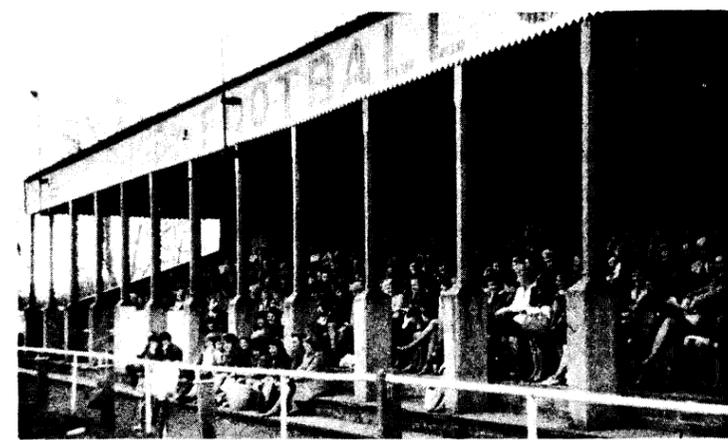
At Bredbury steelworks, Stockport, where 1,000 workers began the first sit-in six weeks ago, a wages and holidays deal has been rejected. Only four men voted for acceptance.

At Mather and Platt, Manchester, where 2,000 workers last week accepted a wages-only deal, 50 pattern-makers who opposed the settlement have re-imposed sanctions.

The latest sit-in began last Friday at Bason and Sons Stockport engineering factory when 50 workers occupied the plant after a management lock-out threat.

They had turned down an offer of £2 a week.

● More engineering news p.11.



A MEETING of over 500 women and junior workers at the Plessey, Beeston works, Nottingham, on Friday gave a unanimous vote for equal pay.

The demand, for equal pay for work of equal value, is part of a seven-part claim put in by

the policy committee on behalf of the factory's manual workers.

This was the second mass meeting at the factory in a week. At an earlier meeting, night shift workers gave overwhelming support to the point in the claim calling for recognition for four 10-hour shifts on nights.

## Glaring contradictions in UPW's jobs policies

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

POST OFFICE union leaders will face a fight on two main fronts at their annual conference in four weeks' time.

The conference agenda, just out, clearly reveals the two areas of conflict: productivity and the Industrial Relations Act.

While union leaders say they expect few rows at the conference, which is to be held in Blackpool, the contradictions of their policies are glaring.

A special report from the UPW executive on the future of the troubled postal service points out that the Post Office's

temporary retreat from the massive cut-backs which were expected earlier this year is not a once-for-all decision.

There is a continuing need for 'constant vigilance', it points out.

But the report continues: 'Our task is to ensure, whatever changes come about, that our members will not become part of the army of the unemployed, and we are certain in this we have the full support of management'.

Later in the report this trustful attitude towards management—contrasting completely with the call for vigilance—is reflected in a recommendation to continue

uncritical co-operation with mechanization of the postal service.

This section of the report insists that replacement of labour by capital can be extremely beneficial to union members. 'It will, in the long run, reduce the size of the labour force and thus make more easy the aim of higher wages for a smaller workforce.'

Quite how agreement to a smaller workforce squares with opposition to unemployment is not explained, but the report goes on to attack sharply union members who 'argue that the union should resist all forms of increased productivity and mechanization.'

'Those who argue this', it claims, 'are condemning postal workers to a continual reduction in living standards and the postal service to a continual decline. It is an argument which the executive council rejects absolutely.'

However, at least one section of workers who face mechanization intend to challenge this policy.

Overseas telegraphists from London's Electra House cable headquarters intend to challenge a paragraph in the report of general secretary, Tom Jackson.

They want conference to break off all productivity negotiations with the Post Office, except where money is due for past productivity. Two other branches—Paddington No 1 and Liverpool Amalgamated—want the executive to fight for a 38-hour week.

On the Industrial Relations Act, the conference will hear in private: a report on action taken to protect the union's funds against attack as an unregistered organization.

The conference will take place, however, shortly after Jackson expects to appear in the National Industrial Relations Court, whatever the TUC advises. A bitter reaction against this is expected from several branches.

AROUND THE WORLD

## Decisive battle for Quang Tri

FIERCE fighting was in progress yesterday around the city of Quang Tri close to the demilitarized zone between N and S Vietnam.

Liberation forces broke through the S Vietnamese defences on Friday, driving southwards with a large force of tanks against the puppet armies.

The S Vietnamese and Americans stopped flying helicopters in Quang Tri yesterday because of intense anti-aircraft fire. They were able to bring in a certain amount by road for Hue, though their convoys were hit by several ambushes.

On Saturday, the liberation troops captured a large district of Binh Dinh province and pushed government forces from foothill defences of Hue, the old imperial capital.

In the central highlands, the city of Kontum is cut off and its S Vietnamese defenders are thought to have little chance of holding out against a big push from the 20,000 liberation troops reported in the area.

Despite daily air surveillance by US planes, the liberation forces have succeeded in concealing two roads running from the Laos/Cambodia border almost to the besieged town. The roads were discovered only a few days ago.

Kontum is extremely difficult to defend because it lies in a basin of hills which are now completely commanded by the liberation troops. The S Vietnamese units in the town have already taken a mauling in the retreat from the frontier area.

The S Vietnamese have begun evacuating relatives and dependents of all military personnel in the city as the command waited

for the attack to begin. Tanks have been spotted close to the city.

In Saigon itself, the government's morale has slumped still further as a result of its defeats in the last few days. Many of the American advisers now admit that the fall of the puppet is only a matter of time.

## Panthers back Democrats

THE Black Panther Party has announced its support for Black congresswoman Shirley Chisholm in this year's presidential contest.

The move represents a further swing to the right by the Panthers who have now dropped their 'revolutionary' rhetoric to throw their weight behind the Democratic Party of big business.

Party chairman Bobby Seale, making the announcement at the Panther's headquarters in Oakland, California, said the entire party membership would work for her re-election.

'With this announcement the Black Panther Party puts forth a call to every black, poor and progressive human being across this country to unite together and join Sister Shirley Chisholm's campaign,' Seale said.

Mrs Chisholm is seeking the Democratic Party presidency nomination.

## BRITISH CP SHOWS CONTEMPT FOR SPANISH WORKERS

ON the eve of mass May Day rallies and demonstrations in fascist Spain, 3,000 San Sebastian shipyard workers walked out in support of the anti-Franco movement. Groups of workers demonstrated in Barcelona and Bilbao distributing leaflets calling for May Day action.

Already police have arrested 20 strike leaders who will be charged shortly with illegal association.

At a meeting called by the British Communist Party on Saturday in the Conway Hall, British and Spanish Stalinists, in a supposed expression of solidarity with the anti-Franco movement, showed their contempt for socialist principles and the heroism of the Spanish working class.

A central committee member of the Spanish CP outlined the Party's freedom pact which supports Spain's entry into the Common Market by seeking an alliance 'with those sectors of the big bourgeoisie who want more civil liberties and authority in Spain as preparation for entry'.

To avoid embarrassment, this section of his speech was not included in the translation handed out for British CP members.

When asked whether the Spanish CP was prepared to accept Heath and Pompidou, who were not mentioned in his speech, he 'declared': 'Pompidou and

THE Soviet body for importing agricultural produce, Sojuzplodoimport, has bought \$14m worth of oranges from Spain.

Heath are not our business; we are only interested in Spanish émigré workers.'

He also refused to give a straight explanation of CP secretary Santiago Carrillo's latest statement on relations between Franco and the Stalinist bureaucracies of E Europe.

For Gollan's guest speaker, condemnation of these relations was a question of principle—but certain economic relations had to be taken into consideration!

Spanish Stalinism's embrace of the Common Market is in full accord with the Kremlin leaders who would like to see unity between the Stalinist bureaucracy in the E and the capitalist countries of W Europe, including Franco's Spain.

Only recently a Barcelona daily pointed out the agreement between Madrid and Moscow on the need for an all-European security conference:

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# REVOLT OF THE AUTO WORKER

The militant centre of the American working class are the auto workers. These men, many of them black, work in the vast industrial complexes owned by the big three car producers.

They labour under the fiercest of management regimes. The driving quest for more and more productivity was summed up recently by Joseph E. Godfrey, head of General Motor Assembly Division. He said: 'Within reason and without endangering health, if we can occupy a man for 60 minutes we've got that right.'

GMAD is responsible for 19 of General Motors' plants. It is strictly an efficiency outfit and is known within the huge combine as the 'Gestapo of the GM.'

Godfrey displays trophies of war in his plush Detroit office. On his wall is a picket sign from Lordstown — the plant where auto workers were recently forced to accept a bad pay deal handed to them by the leadership of the Unified Auto Workers.

But Godfrey may be counting his victories too soon. This week the policy-making conference of the union begins and the leadership, headed by Leonard Woodcock, the man who came to Britain to advise our bureaucrats during the big Ford strike, faces an attack from the militant rank and file.

Bitter criticism of Woodcock's delay in leaving the government Pay Board comes from the key River Rouge plant in Detroit. It was here that the UAW was born when Walter Reuther and a group of militants fought bloody battles with paid Ford company scabs to establish the right to organize.

One Rouge workers' committee member recently told 'Bulletin' — organ of the Workers

League: 'Meany had the right idea about walking off the Board. And Woodcock was dragging his goddam foot when he didn't walk out with him.'

The Pay Board revolt came when it slashed the dockers' pay rise. Chief of the American TUC George Meany was forced to resign, but Woodcock attempted to hang on and only moved when the second-tier leadership in the union urged him to.

The other source of widespread discontent is the steep increase in productivity and automation.

American wage agreements are settled by contracts. The auto workers signed their own in 1970 and one of the conditions was the company should 'improve conditions' as much as possible. The committeeman described what this meant:

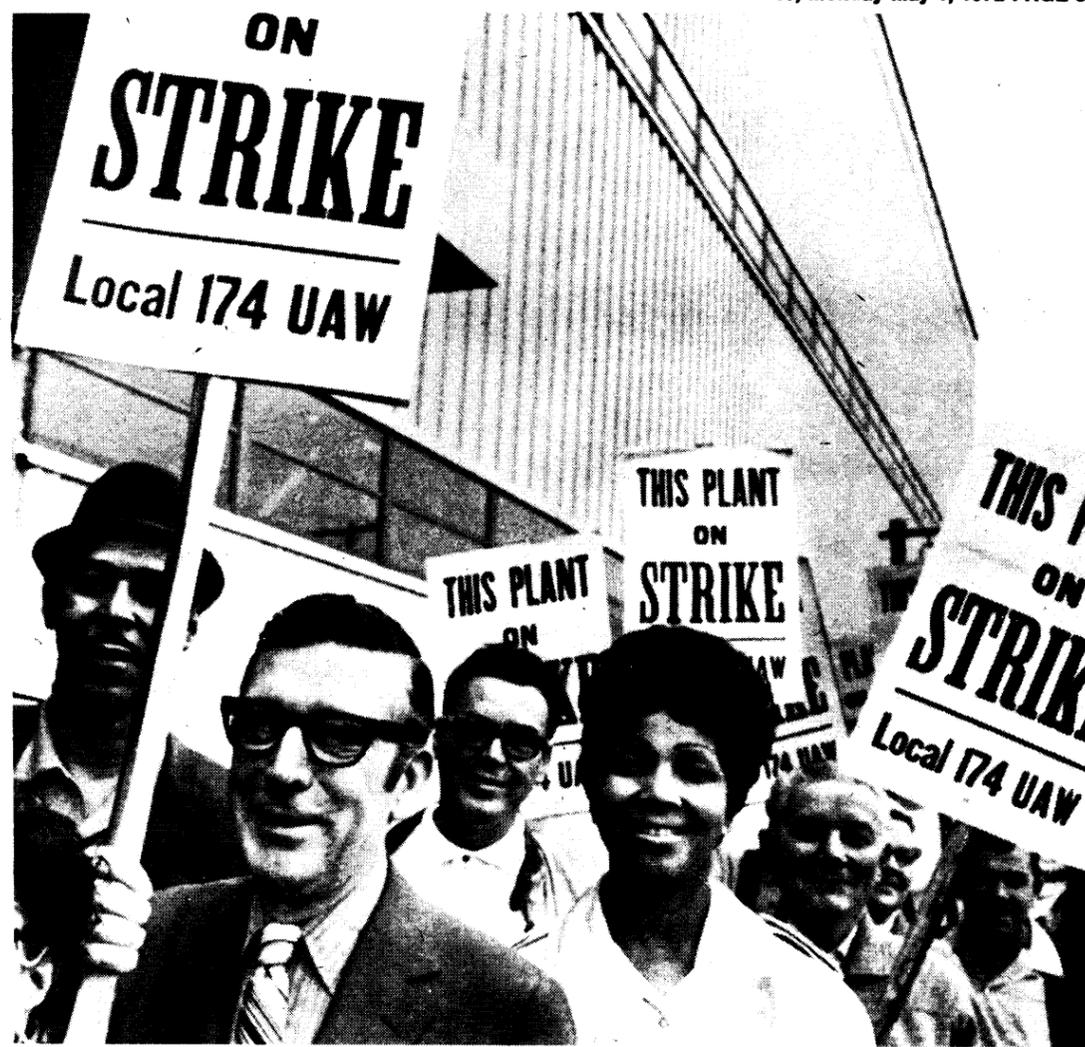
'When you say they can improve conditions, you're saying that they can automate as much as they want and automation means elimination.'

American carworkers are now pitting themselves against these attacks. Many are simply militant, others can fall prey to racialism or Black Power, but a small minority are beginning to realize that the employers' offensive demands a radically different strategy. They call for a Labour Party in the US to organize all workers on socialist lines.

Below we publish an interview by 'Bulletin' Labour Editor Dan Fried...

task ahead with Nat Mosley, chairman of the black caucus at General Motors' St Louis plant. Nat Mosley represents the most conscious element of the auto-workers.

**Bulletin: The GMAD management at your plant is conducting the same sort of attack on the workers through lay-offs and speed up as at Lordstown. What is the situation now?**



Leonard Woodcock: the man who came to Britain to advise our bureaucrats, head of auto workers union.

Mosley: Well, last March there were 9,500 men here. Now there's 8,500. They just moved the blazer truck line out which meant 215 men were laid off.

These lay-offs and speed-up got started with GMAD (General Motors Assembly Division) which began at Fremont, California. They came here on October 1, 1971, and immediately there were massive layoffs. Paragraph 78s (speed-up grievances) piled up. Would you believe it that 5,000 grievances were settled in March and there are still 6,000 open.

They produce 57 cars per hour. One thousand men were eliminated. The remaining men take up the work at no reduction of line speed—it's still 57. Sometimes they try to sneak in an extra car per hour.

In my plant, on the Corvette line, the line speed is seven per hour. You have 8.4 minutes per job. But it's hell. A lot of guys think, well, 7 per hour is nothing, but this car is almost all hand made.

The work is nothing but chaos and confusion, and you can't transfer. Plantwide transferring according to seniority is allegedly in the contract but you cannot do it.

**Bulletin: What have you heard about the Lordstown settlement?**

Mosley: They kept it hush-hush. We know there was a big rebellion there against it.

The chairman of the bargaining committee at Lordstown sent a letter to the bargaining committee chairman here, and said that the International 'had pressurized them into accepting a bad deal.' Before that six plants were supposed to go out together, including Lordstown and St. Louis. The International put pressure on, and our local leadership went along.

They appeared militant about a strike, but when the time came—we're still waiting. There was an 87 per cent vote in favour of a strike.

Now the leadership says in the union paper: 'Although bargaining is slow, things are much improved since the strike vote. Our committee is trying hard to avoid a strike.'

They announced that in the month of March, GM gave us \$230,000 in cash settlements. Well, if a man is willing to pay \$230,000, then he must think he's going to get off easy—it could cost them a lot more.

The local leaders have caved in to the International. The International just comes in and settles the grievances over their heads, even though last March we defied the International with a wildcat strike.

**Bulletin: What happened last March?**

Mosley: We shut down the entire plant for one day in a wild-cat strike against speed-up and racialism. Ninety-three per cent of the workers participated—all of the black workers

together with the militant younger white workers. We were demanding a 35-hour week (at 40 hours pay), unlimited transfer rights based on seniority, retirement after 30 years at any age, and a fight against work overload.

This goes back to the General Motors strike. In September, 1970 we went to Detroit to talk to Woodcock and Bluestone. They wined us and dined us and said they would put all these demands into the bargaining. But none of these demands were met in the settlement.

They came back down here in February, Bluestone, Douglas Fraser and Bill Oliver, to talk us out of trying to void our local contract.

An FEPC (Fair Employment Practices Commission) man was sent down from Washington to meet with 13 men over the charge of racial discrimination. They tried to buy off the 13 men by offering to get them \$1-an-hour wage increases—just for them, of course. They said, 'Be patient, give us time.'

Then, we had interference from representatives of the black bourgeoisie — the representatives of the middle class, CORE, as parasites on the workers' struggle. During the strike, they totally disregarded the strike as a strike of the working class, but stressed the racial aspect only. Their purpose was to separate the white from the black workers.

After the wildcat strike began on March 23, the top leaders of management were sent down from Detroit because we were on the verge of breaking the local management. They brought in \$17,000 worth of camera equipment to identify the strike leaders. Then, after we returned they disciplined 203 men—gave them DLO's (Disciplinary Lay-offs). Twenty-three were dismissed outright.

My reinstatement was filed as a grievance. I constantly kept on the backs of the UAW officials. On March 10, I was reinstated with \$3,000 back pay—only one-third of what was owed me.

It was part of a deal—I got back in exchange for 900 grievances. This is the kind of horse-trading going on. The conditions of reinstatement contained special conditions to try to shut me up. If I violate any shop rule at all, or I'm late, at any time during the next five years, I cannot only get the maximum penalty of 60 days, but even be fired.

But now I'm running for Committeeman in the Corvette body shop, to represent my shift, where there are 170 men. About 60 per cent of the men are black, and 40 per cent white in the shop. My programme is to unite all the workers. My position on unemployment is a fight for all the workers—black and white. These workers are now being forced to think and that's

what I want to get them to do even if I'm defeated.

Naturally the leadership is doing everything to try to stop me because of the programme. I'm running on, especially against unemployment. I call for a pension of \$750 per month after 25 years, regardless of age; for a 35-hour week, with time and one-half after seven hours.

Not this baloney about four ten-hour days, that the International is for. Thirty-five years ago they were demanding the eight-hour day. Now they want ten hours a day with no overtime.

Instead, with a 35-hour week, we can put on a third shift at seven hours per shift and have a lot more jobs.

**Bulletin: What do you think should be done about plants and businesses that close down and throw men out of work such as in the auto industry in Detroit and at the Ballantine brewery in Newark?**



George Meany

Mosley: One of the demands of all national contracts is that the workers should have control over this issue.

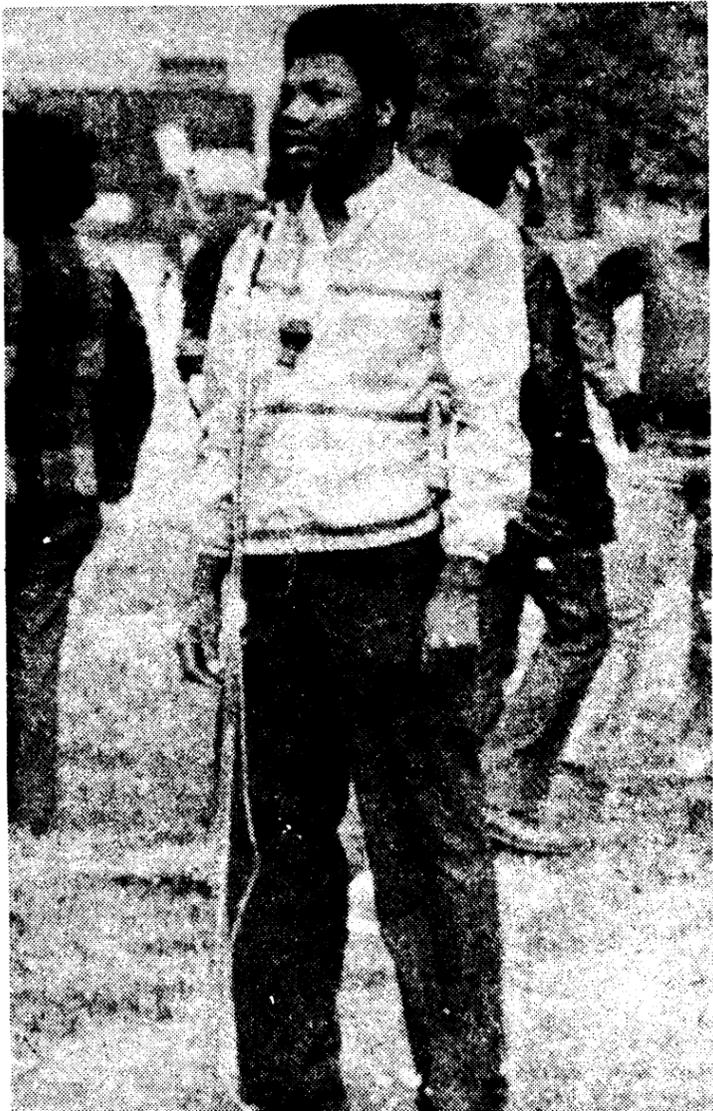
**Bulletin: But isn't the only way to do this through nationalization of these plants and industries?**

Mosley: Yes. If we come to realize that we, as workers, can control the entire economy, then we can take care of unemployment.

Capitalism is the basis of the Vietnam war. They are there trying to indoctrinate everyone with bombs. The Stalinists are helping them. Nixon was trying to make a deal in China, while Ford wants to put a truck plant in China.

**Bulletin: What are your relations with the local UAW leadership?**

Mosley: They talk with a forked tongue. But they must be afraid of me. Two days after I came back to work there was a huge fire in the Fisher body building. They tried to blame me. They're worried about the election. They were trying to stir up racism and anti-communism in order to divide the workers. What they were trying to say was, 'Mosley's been away one year and he still ain't stopped.'



Nat Mosley: represents the most conscious element of auto workers.

# THE DOCKERS FIGHT FOR JOBS

The first in a series of articles in which Dave Maude, our industrial correspondent, shows how the dockers' leaders, official and unofficial, allowed the Devlin 'modernization' scheme to destroy jobs and conditions.

'Where do we go if we don't win this one?' Jimmy Symes, chairman of the Merseyside dockers' stewards, asked recently.

Good question. For the industrial terrain through which the dockers are now battling is as uncharted as the moon-mountains three American astronauts were exploring as he spoke.

## New period of class struggle

Since Sir John Donaldson, president of the National Industrial Relations Court, slapped his first, £5,000 fine on the Transport and General Workers' Union four weeks ago, a new period of class struggle in Britain has opened up.

Jimmy Symes' question must express the thoughts of millions of workers, in every industry.

But it is no accident that it should come first from the docks.

If the Merseysiders lose their struggle to make the packing and unpacking of cargo-containers their work, many of Britain's 41,000 dockers will very soon have no jobs at all.

The reformist union leaders—backed up and protected at every turn by the Stalinists of the British Communist Party—have presided over the destruction of 21,000 dock jobs in the last seven years. A further cut-back of 3,000 is planned by the employers in the next eight months.

On the other hand, the 'black-ing' action taken by the Mersey dockers in support of their demands has been declared an unfair industrial practice by Donaldson.

This 'stuffy, old-fashioned, Victorian' judge, as one legal journalist described him on BBC radio last week, has already followed up his initial fine on the T&GWU with a further £50,000. And there is no reason to believe he would stop short of paralysing the union by seizing all its £22m funds.

When Jimmy Symes asked his question in Liverpool Friday week he and the city's other docks' stewards had just decided to maintain the black on the three road-hauliers who took them to the NIRC.

There would therefore seem to be just three immediate next moves possible:

1 Further action against the T&GWU for contempt of court, which could lead to an order for the sequestration of the union's entire assets until the blacking was stopped.

2 A union climb-down from its policy of no co-operation with the court. The T&GWU leaders could then appear before Donaldson to argue that they were not responsible for their members' actions.

3 National strike action in all the major ports, raising the demand that the Tory govern-

ment immediately resigns.

This is the sharpness of the situation facing Britain's port-workers today.

They must either accept destruction of their livelihoods, allow a virtual state take-over of their union or embark on a fight to the death with the authors of the Industrial Relations Act.

But if Jimmy Symes' question is to be really answered, we must first examine how it is that the industry has been decimated three times over since the publication of Lord Devlin's committee of inquiry report in August 1965.

If reformism and Stalinism are bankrupt what is the alternative? What are the lessons of the fight against redundancy on the docks?

The Devlin committee was established by the Labour government of Harold Wilson, entirely within its perspective of running capitalism better than the Tories.

Since 1945, the dock and shipping companies had amassed profits estimated at £3,000m. Yet only £200m had been spent on dock construction and mechanization nationally.

The volume of tonnage handled had more than doubled, while the labour force was slashed from 78,000 to 63,000.

Whatever was wrong with the docks could not easily be laid at the dockers' door. Nationalization proposals, however, were not brought forward by the Labourites until four years later.

Set up by right-wing Labour, the Devlin committee was given credence by Jack Dash, the CP leader of an unofficial port-workers' liaison committee based on the Royal group of docks in London. He called for 'a public inquiry' into the industry and later boasted that some of his ideas had been adopted in the final report.<sup>1</sup>

Dash's policies were in bitter hostility to those of the Socialist Labour League and its weekly paper 'The Newsletter', forerunner of Workers Press.

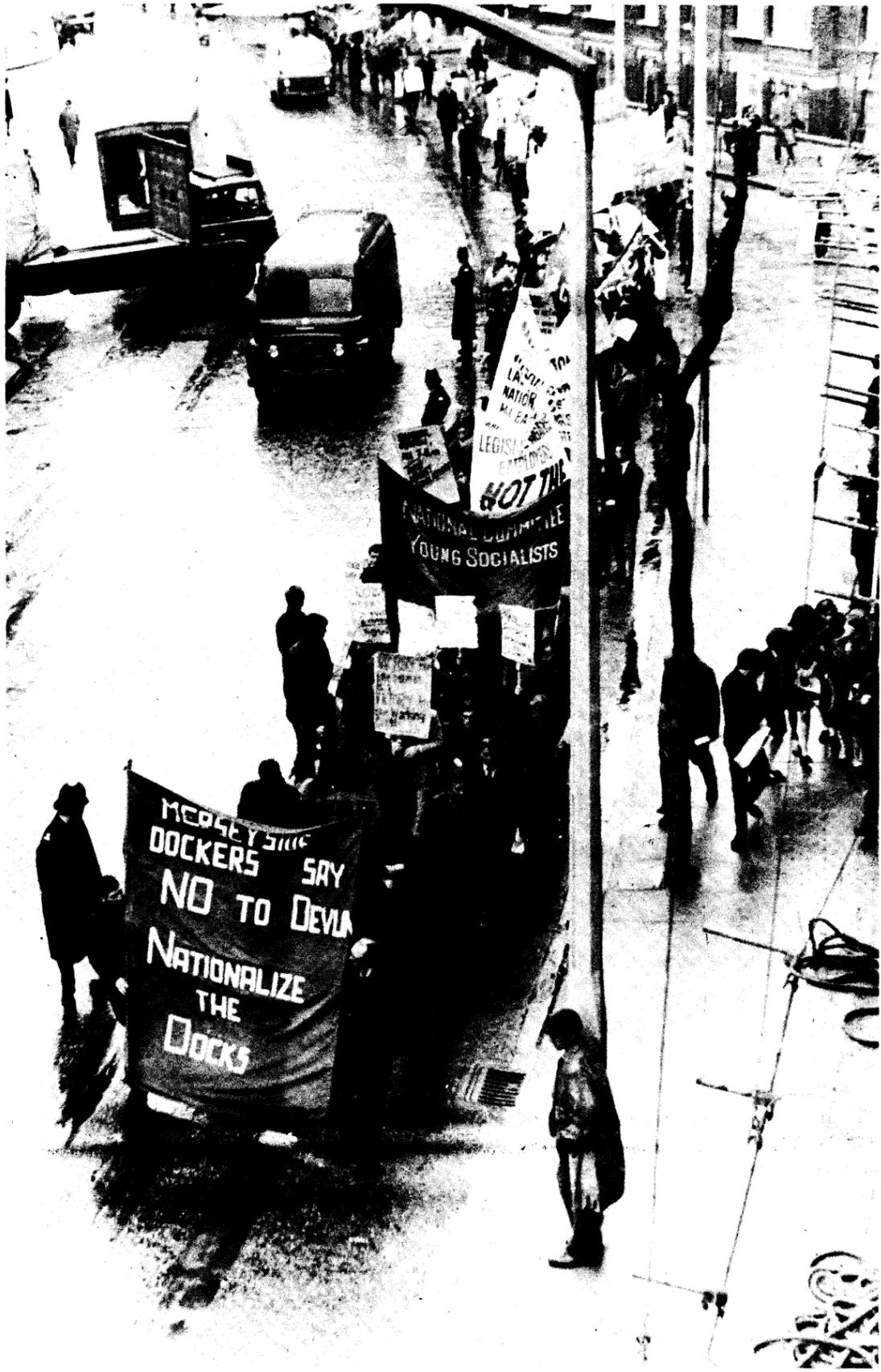
Three months before the Devlin report was published, a 'Newsletter' editorial pointed out that it was being 'prepared with the sole interest of profitability and efficiency for the big employers'.<sup>2</sup>

And the paper gave consistent support to those elements in the industry—particularly the rank and file of the 'blue' National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers—who wanted a straight fight against the whole philosophy of the report.

In answer to the Labour leaders' announcement that the report was to form the basis for a phased programme of legislation, the SLL proposed all-out opposition behind the demand for total nationalization.

This was fought against by the CP, which wanted to avoid any breach with the 'white' T&GWU bureaucracy.

Phase One of the Devlin scheme was to involve fixing dockers with a regular employer, making a start on flexibility and mobility of labour, starting to cut down manning-scales and setting up severance arrangements. 19,000 redundancies were



The Young Socialist march and lobby of Parliament on May 25, 1966. Merseyside dockers joined the march even though Dash and the CP called on dockers to boycott it

expected in the first two years.

Also implied was a clampdown on trade union democracy.

Dudley Perkins, then director of the Port of London Authority, remarked towards the end of 1965 that Devlin had recommended very strongly that the 'blue' union's rules should be changed.

It should 'be able to allow their chief officers to behave like those in any other union and negotiate confidentially, only reporting back when terms have been discussed, which the general secretary can recommend'.

On April 24, 1966, the Young Socialists' National Committee issued a call for a mass lobby of parliament against the Devlin report and the Labour government's proposed pay-restraint legislation.

This was to take place a month later on May 25.

The Merseyside dockers decided soon afterwards to stop work in support of the lobby on the day in question.

On May 1, the Mersey men's leaders met Dash and his liaison committee after a march to Downing St. They moved united support for the lobby.

A surprised Dash claimed they were 'jumping the gun', but agreed to raise the issue on the various London bodies of which he was a member.

The CP then set to work to prevent a united strike, and the start of the seamen's strike on May 15 made them even more determined to do so. A separate lobby was called for June 22.

The morning before the YS lobby, Dash spoke to dockers from the Royal and warned them to have nothing to do with the Mersey men, who, he said, were being led astray by 'irresponsible elements'.

He said there should be no unofficial strikes in support of the seamen. The London 'Evening Standard', part of the Tory Beaverbrook empire, thought he was 'to be congratulated on his plea for moderation'.<sup>3</sup>

## CP activity

Dash's attempts to keep the seamen isolated from the dockers were mirrored in CP activity in every port.

When the eventual sell-out came on June 29, CP industrial organizer Bert Ramelson attempted to cover it up as 'a victory for trade union sovereignty'. Three weeks later the government introduced a total wage-freeze.

Dash's refusal to assist in the formation of a national liaison committee during the seamen's strike hit the dockers hard during their own struggle 18 months later.

In the weeks before Phase One of the Devlin scheme was due to be introduced, on September 17, 1967, dockers were subjected to a barrage of T&GWU leaflets eulogizing the scheme. They were signed by Harry Nicholas, now retiring secretary of the Labour Party but then a union functionary.

A 'Newsletter' pamphlet,<sup>4</sup> however, told a different story.

It put forward as a basis for struggle a programme of nationalization under workers' control, stopping the Labourites' pay-freeze legislation, forcing the port employers to open the books and making the government implement socialist policies.

Dash's added contribution to the propaganda battle was a red-herring; all dockers wanted from Minister of Labour Ray Gunter, he said the day before decasualization was due to be implemented, was 'a written notice in every pay-packet guaranteeing no redundancy'.

On the Monday morning, however, dockers stopped work on the Merseyside, at Manchester and in London's Tooley St, Tilbury and Royal docks.

But in each area there was a 'local issue': he fought against the development of any national strategy.

On September 25, the Royal docks went back to work, on Dash's recommendation, 'until January 1'. There were heated arguments as he told the men he didn't want to see them 'out on a limb' with no one supporting them.

The return of the London, men, and the dropping of their demand for higher fall-back pay, enabled the Liverpool committee to change the emphasis of the strike from the terms of decasualization to improved piecework and bonus rates.

But on October 3, some of the Merseyside men, who had been left to fight on alone, forced a vote that the Royal support them by coming out again the following Monday.

Dash waited breathlessly for the result. The strike move was carried with a big majority.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

<sup>1</sup> 'Face the Press' Tyne-Tees Television, March 5, 1968.

<sup>2</sup> May 29, 1965.

<sup>3</sup> 'Evening Standard' May 24, 1966.

<sup>4</sup> 'Stop Devlin Now!' August 1967.



Above: Czech CP leader Husak. Below (left to right): Roger Garaudy, Ernst Fischer and Milovan Djilas who have been lumped together with 'extremists' and 'Trotskyists' in the present slander campaign.



## PRAGUE JOINS IN TROTSKY SMEARING

Prague's Stalinist rulers joined the Kremlin's anti-Trotskyist campaign with two lengthy articles in 'Rude Pravo' at the end of last week.

The articles closely follow the line laid down at the beginning of this year by Boris Ponomarev, secretary of the Soviet Communist Party central committee.

This is not surprising, as the Czech leaders owe their positions to the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968. They have become notorious even among E European Stalinist leaders for their servile attitude towards the Kremlin.

As the chief opponents of the popular upsurge against bureaucracy which led to the Soviet invasion, the Czech leaders have special reason to fear the development of revolutionary politics, especially among the youth.

The 'Rude Pravo' article, penned by one M. Altaiski, tries to establish an amalgam between Trotskyism and Maoism. Altaiski is here simply copying Ponomar-

yov's earlier article in the Moscow journal 'Kommunist'.

By means of this totally unjustified amalgam, he hopes to smear Trotskyism with the Peking leaders' anti-working class policies in Bangla Desh and the Sudan.

The article, like others of its genre, is entirely innocent of any source material, and Altaiski makes no attempt to justify his assertions with quotations or facts.

This does not inhibit its author from emphasizing the 'considerable ideological and political similarity between the platforms of Maoism and Trotskyism'. Since his readers are deprived of the opportunity of familiarizing themselves at first hand with these 'platforms', the assertion will be hard for them to challenge.

In the same vein, Altaiski states: 'It is not by mere chance that "Mao Tse-tung's ideas" suit ultra-leftists, extremists and Trotskyists as well as right-wing opportunist elements like [expelled French CP leader Roger] Garaudy, [expelled

Austrian CP leader Ernst] Fischer and [dissident Yugoslav CP member Milovan] Djilas.'

Altaiski even states: 'Trotsky and the contemporary Trotskyists had priority in working out most of the political and theoretical problems and slogans which are being used by the Maoists in their struggle against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, in attacks on fraternal parties.'

The purpose of all this tortuous argument is to 'prove' that both Trotskyism and Maoism are working hand-in-glove with the White House against 'socialism' in the USSR and Czechoslovakia.

In this way the Czech Stalinists manage to lump together the irreconcilable opponents of Stalinism with the chief worshippers of Stalin.

The fact that the Trotskyists have long opposed the bureaucratic policies of both the Soviet and Chinese bureaucrats—both of which collaborate with imperialism against the interests of the working class—is of no importance for these Czech stooges of the Kremlin.

# GUERRILLA 'EXPERT' EXPOSED

Sir Robert Thompson, the British so-called counter-insurgency expert, now acts as adviser to the American and S Vietnamese high commands.

He won his reputation during the 1950s in Malaya where he elaborated the policy of 'strategic hamlets'—concentration camps into which the peasants were herded so as to isolate the guerrillas.

## Strategy in tatters

In Vietnam, however, he appears to have more than met his match. His counter-insurgency campaign there is in tatters, as the following article, taken from the Hanoi newspaper 'Quan Doi Nhan Dan', clearly shows:

In an interview in 'US News and World Report' on November 1 1971, [Sir Robert] Thompson remarked: 'The communists cannot launch attacks at all in 1972, because Vietnamization has succeeded and the Saigon army has been so greatly improved, with the best generals in the world, that if it were necessary to put the British Army under their command I would not hesitate at all'. On April 12 1972, nearly two weeks after the attack by the southern armed forces and people, he explained in another interview: 'The communists are launching the offensive because they are clearly aware of the results of Vietnamization. There has been no unit, not even a Civil Guard platoon, of the Saigon army which has gone over to the enemy.'

Not to be able to launch an offensive because Vietnamization is successful and to be able to launch an offensive because Vietnamization is successful—this is not a joke by a clown on a stage, but a statement which is the result of analyses demonstrated on the basis of reality by Thompson, a specialist in counter-insurgency, the US President's special adviser on pacification and a principal creator of the strategy of Vietnamization.

Four years ago Thompson wrote a book suggesting to the newly-elected President Nixon how to oppose the revolutionary war in Vietnam. Grasping at bubbles after falling into the water, Nixon praised him, appointed him adviser and often sent him to study the situation in Vietnam on the spot. Trusted by

his master, Thompson has tried to propagandize and justify Nixon's plan for Vietnamization, especially when this plan is in serious difficulties. He has despised the truth in finding ways to serve his master.

Thompson's remarks on the success of Vietnamization help one easily to see his true nature as a strategist. In less than six months he has made two completely contradictory remarks about the adversary's ability to launch an offensive. This alone is sufficient to demonstrate that Thompson's sense of strategy is only mediocre.

At the most, he saw only superficial and temporary appearances in a few strategic hamlets and certain localities that he inspected on his visits. He boasted that he is a counter-insurgency specialist. He regards the situation in Vietnam the same as that in Malaysia, where he was Governor, and has asserted that the revolutionary war in the S is only a guerrilla war. He was asked: How can guerrillas annihilate one battle group and force another one to surrender in Loc Ninh? The southern liberation armed forces' large-scale offensive completely refutes Thompson's reasoning on the war in the South.

## Mutiny by puppet regime

Thompson is also famous as a specialist who advocates oppression and police action. But oppression is the cause of insurgency. Is he a counter-insurgency specialist, or a man who causes insurgency? Moreover the fact that Thompson praised the Saigon puppet army shows that he knows nothing about this mercenary army and the latest events on the battlefield.

Recently the 56th puppet regiment in Quang Tri mutinied; its commander even took part in the mutiny. A whole puppet battle group in Loc Ninh surrendered. Thousands of people's self-defence men and militiamen have returned to the people after revolting against the US puppets.

The fact that Thompson has often changed his views shows the bankruptcy of the US strategy of Vietnamization. Thompson's inability and his habit of changing his views are proof of Nixon's difficult position, because he is Nixon's trusted adviser.

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# MAURITIUS MOVES TOWARD DICTATORSHIP

Sir Len Williams, former general-secretary of the Labour Party, presides over an island of fear in the Indian Ocean.

He is governor-general of Mauritius, the former British colony recently visited by the Queen. While he was welcoming the Royal Party to the island, left-wing opponents of the Mauritian government were slapped into prison to give a phoney impression of political peace.

In fact the island has been under a state of emergency since last December, sweeping constitutional changes have been made to allow the ruling parties to hang on to power and 13 big trade unions have been banned.

The present Mauritian government is a coalition between the Labour Party, led by premier Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, and the Parti Mauricien Social-Démocrate, led by Gaetan Duval, the Foreign

Minister who favours closer ties with S Africa.

The formation of the coalition in 1969, one year after independence was a direct result of pressure from Britain and France, the main customers for the island's staple sugar crop.

One of its first measures was to postpone until 1976 the General Election that was supposed to take place in 1972. This followed an unsuccessful attempt to unseat all MPs who opposed the coalition.

The coalition brought into the government the representatives of the French plantation owners organized in the PMSD, who had consistently opposed independence.

These planters are closely tied with the S African government, which encourages investment and tourism in Mauritius. S African entrepreneurs have moved into the Mauritian hotel business on a large scale. They also own a

slice of the country's industry. This reactionary alliance has now been blessed by the Peking Stalinists, who gave a fulsome welcome last week to a delegation headed by Ramgoolam which included Duval's mother and other extreme rightists.

The Chinese CP leaders promised 'resolute support' to the coalition 'in its struggle to safeguard national independence and state sovereignty'. The two governments established diplomatic relations at ambassador level as a result of the visit.

To bolster the shaky coalition regime, Peking also agreed to provide aid to the tune of at least £15m—a vast sum for such a small island.

China's support for Ramgoolam is a betrayal of the working people of Mauritius whose basic rights have been systematically destroyed by the coalition government. The mass left-wing organization, the Mouvement

Militant Mauricien, has been subjected to rigorous persecution in a bid to smash the workers' movement.

The MMM was formed at the end of 1969 by left-wingers influenced by the Paris student movement of May-June 1968. Its policy is to try and win power through the ballot box, though its leaders claim adherence to Marxism.

The MMM underwent a spectacular growth following the formation of the coalition government. Its weekly paper, 'Le Militant', soon became a daily with a big circulation and it won mass support among the dockers and other workers in Port Louis, the capital and other towns.

**Mauritius has 30 per cent unemployment, yet workers are forced to do overtime. Conditions on the island are squalid, for worker and unemployed alike.**



Its members and supporters faced a continual campaign of violence from the hired thugs of the PMSD and its leaders were repeatedly imprisoned on trivial charges.

Yet it rapidly became clear that the MMM enjoyed overwhelming support among the populace—it won 75 per cent of votes in the Prime Minister's own constituency in a by-election in September 1970 and was victorious in municipal and village elections. The MMM has yet to lose a contest at the polls.

Racked by financial scandals and corruption, the coalition knew it had no prospect of holding power at the polls. But with the General Election postponed to 1976, Ramgoolam could proceed to use full state powers against the working class. Things came to a head in August last year, when a strike called by the Union of Bus Workers was declared 'illegal'. The police riot unit—armed and trained by the British—was used against the strikers.

The repression sparked near-riots in many parts of the island and a number of important trade unionists were imprisoned. Finally, the strike was called off and the leaders released from jail to allow compulsory arbitration.

The arbitrator, a High Court judge, found the strike had been perfectly legal and severely censured the government for its intervention in the strike. The same arbitrator clashed again with the government after the dockers struck the following

month. He attacked the employers' attitude as 'most unreasonable' and ordered them to recognize the MMM-backed union supported by the majority of dockers.

The situation on the docks continued to simmer into the autumn, with repeated walk-outs against employers' attempts to whip the dockers into line.

The PMSD turned its thugs on the union and its organizers, and Duval, in his capacity as mayor of Port Louis, threatened the dockers with the sack.

Temporarily at a loss, the coalition sought guidance from its paymasters in London. Ramgoolam flew to Britain for urgent talks with Sir Alec Douglas Home and Defence Secretary Lord Carrington.

Finally, the government acted to bring the situation to a head. The Trades Disputes Ordinance was rushed through parliament out-lawing all strikes on the docks and raising the minimum penalty for striking to six months' jail.

Having outlawed the strike, the government brought troops on the docks to unload ships, provoking the MMM's General Workers' Federation to call a General Strike.

Events moved rapidly towards their climax. With docks, buses, sugar factories, electricity and municipal workers out on strike, Ramgoolam instituted a state of emergency, arrested militants and threatened dockers with deportation.

Under a barrage of government propaganda, the strike was

broken and the workers forced back with the loss of all seniority. They were forced to sign undertakings that they would not refuse overtime (in a country where 30 per cent of the work-force is unemployed) and had to accept a year's ban on strikes.

Since that victory, the government has pressed home its advantage under the emergency powers. More than 100 MMM members have been jailed, some charged with having been 'about to agree to conspire with certain persons to overthrow the government'. Others are held without charge.

Two sections of the constitution protecting individual liberty and outlawing political and racial discrimination have been suspended. MMM leaders have had their passports withdrawn and during the Royal Visit all without exception were rounded up and put in prison.

'Le Militant' has been closed down and the government has banned a weekly paper planned by the MMM. All gatherings of more than five people are banned on the island—a measure which applies in practice only to MMM and trade union meetings.

Only a month ago, the acting premier Sid Abdul Razack Mohamed stated: 'I am sure the longer the period of emergency is extended the better it will be...' a clear indication that the government intends to continue rule by decree.

This is the situation of virtual dictatorship which the Tories and the Chinese Stalinists are collaborating to keep in being on the island of Mauritius.



BY STEPHEN JOHNS PART 1

# THE POLITICS OF PRIVATE EYE

Since it began to circulate ten years ago among Chelsea's café society, the magazine 'Private Eye' has attracted a growing following. People read it because of its apparent radicalism and anti-establishment humour. The radicalism, however, has turned out to be more apparent than real. Recently the clique who run the 'Eye' took a significant step to the right. They published a cartoon which suggested that the role of the provisional IRA in N Ireland was no better than that of the British army. Reaction followed reaction when, in a later edition, they portrayed the IRA as a group of psychopathic morons. The attacks would not have appeared out of place in the most right-wing section of the capitalist press. Some of the radical intelligentsia who were drawn to the 'Eye's' brand of satire and 'exposure' journalism were disturbed by the new turn. But what could pass as radicalism in the last days of the Macmillan administration now appears as reaction. As one ex-fellow traveller of the 'Eye' put it: 'Today, without the swear words and the joke, "Private Eye" could be the Tory "Spectator".' In this first article we chart how this exposure has occurred and the origins of the journal.

The big guns of 'Private Eye' have one thing in common—their upper middle-class background. They received the same training in life even to the extent of attending the same public school.

This was Shrewsbury. Not in the front ranks with Eton and Rugby — a place where one needed the backing of a fat cheque book, but not academic brilliance, to gain entry.

Richard Ingrams, editor of the 'Eye' since the early days, describes the impact of public school this way:

'It would be nice to say that the harsh authoritarian air of

public school nurtured the first seeds of savage indignation in the breasts of the young satirist, but that was really not the case. The school was no worse than most public schools and we conformed along with the rest.'

At public school Ingrams and William Rushton both contributed to the school magazine called 'The Salopian'. In 1955 Ingrams left and turned over the work to two new recruits — Christopher Booker and Paul Foot. These men were to come together after their university days and provide a nucleus for 'Private Eye'.

These are the origins of the 'Eye' team and a heavy public school humour still characterizes

their journalistic out-pourings.

One 'Guardian' report compares the atmosphere in the 'Private Eye' office to the prefect's study just before a beating. It continues:

'The traditions of the public school undeniably linger in the "Private Eye". There is a tendency to refer to everyone on the paper by nickname and there is a constant search for a raspberry to blow at one of their political masters.'

The language of the magazine is still laden with the upper-class imagery of the public school. Men are 'beasts', 'swots', 'loonies', 'frogs', 'wops', 'little shits'.

But the connection goes deeper.

A study of the writings of the 'Eye' men and their attitudes to personalities and politicians reveals an approach to the world that is essentially a product of public school ideology.

This institution gives the offspring of the ruling and upper middle class their training for life.

They try to teach the young gentlemen to be honest, upstanding and tolerant of the masses they were born to rule. The 'lads' are encouraged to worship the key image of the English gent. This mythical figure is a compendium of Socrates and the Duke of Wellington—a kind of warrior, philosopher king.

This myth—which has been developed by the ruling class to perpetuate its power—is particularly potent for Ingrams and Booker.

Beneath the 'Eye's' outrage and nose-thumbing there is a keen disappointment that members of the ruling class and politicians do not match the image so dear to their hearts. Their so-called savagery is born out of a sense of betrayal that the modern leaders of the Tory establishment are not like the legendary characters who inhabit the public-school dream.

Hence they hate most the 'whiz-kids' of the Tory government like Environment Minister Peter Walker and feel a nostalgic regret for patricians like Harold Macmillan who cultivated the gentleman's art of amateurism.

John Wells, a major contributor to 'Private Eye', laid this bare when he made this comment on the magazine: 'Underneath the wreckage of good intention there

is a core of seriousness and fundamental decency. Ours is a different sort of decency. Perhaps a better word is goodness, what it tries to stand for is individual honesty.'

Ingrams characterized himself as: '... upper class. People expect me to be ghastly... and embittered. I'm not. I'm a great patriot. I'm terribly British.'

This ingrained respect for the values of old Tory England reveals itself time and again in the magazine.

For example they have the minor public schoolboy's fear of big finance and social climbers who amass great fortunes—occasionally this almost lapses into traditional anti-Semitism and mistrust of foreigners.

The figure of Lord Gnome, created by Ingrams, represents all they hate in the world of cash and monopoly. Gnome is transparently corrupt; venal, a megalomaniac and sexually deprived.

The suggestion is that, though money and profit must be made, it should be made in a clean and honest fashion. Capitalism is not a corrupt and bankrupt system in itself—only the one or two 'greedy Jews' and foreigners spoil the show.

Hence their emphasis on their coverage of the Savundra case on the swindler's Asian origins. After the prosecution of the washing machine tycoon John Bloom, the 'Eye' continually spotlighted his East-End Jewish origins.

Bloom in fact touched on another nerve of prejudice nursed by the 'Eye' team—he was a poor boy made good.

True to their training, Ingrams and Booker have a contempt for 'individuals' who rise above their 'station' in life. Booker is quite specific about his dislike of social change and this will be examined in tomorrow's article but Ingrams had this to say about David Frost, the TV impresario of middle-class origins:

'There was something ungentlemanly about a man who was so obviously on the make. His astonishing industry ran counter to the public school amateurism which characterized... "Private Eye".'

To the working class the 'Eye' plays the amused patrician.

When workers do appear in the journal they are portrayed as

ignorant, xenophobic — a mob easily manipulated by the media or the politicians (shades of the Greek 'polis').

Thus they lampooned the working-class hero of one of the best films of the British realist school, 'Saturday Night and Sunday Morning':

'Twenty-five bloody quid a week and what have you got to show for it at the bloody end but a cupboard full of filthy shirts and a hangover from Saturday night. Being alive these days you might as well be bloody dead, what with the government and the price of beer.'

Their attitude towards the left is consistently hostile.

In 1968 they passed their verdict on the May-June days in France, when workers and students almost brought down the reactionary de Gaulle regime.



PAUL FOOT



Claud Cockburn: aging ex-Stalinist who brings 'politics' to the 'Eye'.

These events were, according to 'Private Eye': 'A lot of Frogs running about as per usual' and 'A lot of Frogs are setting fire to cars and ripping up sheets.'

The humour is weak and juvenile, but the contempt for revolutionary developments is quite obvious.

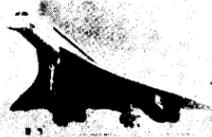
'The Observer' commented in 1962 after one year of 'Private Eye': 'They are against "social nonsense" attached to marches and plan to attack CND in the next issue.'

In Oxford, Ingrams made his position quite clear. He had no interest in contributing to the

# Socialist Worker

WEEKLY PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## £900m LAME DUCK



The current annual spending on Concorde represents more than the estimated annual saving of increases in charges for school milk, school meals, Health Service charges, and council rents.

**We want more pay**

We want more pay  
Said the Royal Fair  
Without delay  
Said the Royal Fair  
Our barefoot kids  
Said the Members of  
Parliament  
Poor starving things  
Tobacco they'll do  
To vote themselves  
thousand or two  
With the Members of  
Parliament  
We want more pay  
Said the coalface  
Twenty shillings a d  
Said the coalface  
You greedy wretches  
per cent  
must be your fair  
That's what you'll get  
That's what you'll get  
I wonder why they  
going on strike?  
Are the coalface  
Alex GI

**Torchlight  
march  
through  
West E**

A PROFOUND CRISIS is threatening the lives of Britain's wealthiest businessmen. It is a transport crisis and it is probably the most serious of its kind since the threat to the QE2, the last of the luxury liners.

The problem can be stated simply: how to get to New York in time for lunch. Even with the time advantage, it is still impossible even in the fastest Jumbo Jet or VC10 to leave London at a decent hour in the morning and get to the lunch table at the Waldorf Astoria.

Now, however, the businessmen's government has come to their aid once more. Last week, Mr John Davies, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, took a flight in the prototype of the Concorde aeroplane.

By all accounts, the flight was so smooth that the gin and tonics could be filled to the top of the glass without fear of spilling. It was, he said, a 'fabulous' experience.

It was enough to convince the Minister that the Concorde project should go ahead. You have no more worries' he told Sir George Edwards, chairman of the British Aircraft Corporation that makes Concorde.

Sir George is delighted. His Concorde has always represented for him the best form of 'co-operation' between business and government. The government pays for all research, all development and all losses. The firm gets the prestige and the profit, if there is any.

### DOUBLED

So far, nine years after the decision to build Concorde was taken, the British government has spent £265m on the project. One prototype is built and another is nearly completed.

The same amount of money spent over the same period in building technology could have rebuilt all the slums in the city of Glasgow or Liverpool. It could have doubled the hospital building programme.

The current annual spending on Concorde represents more than the estimated annual saving of all the recent government increases in charges for school milk, school meals, Health Service prescription charges and council house rents.

Not a penny of the £265m will ever be recouped. Completion of Concorde will require another £168m in research and development costs, none of which will ever be recovered.

Total estimated cost of the British and French Concorde is a colossal £600m.

### by PAUL FOOT

Even when Concorde is ready for sale, there is no guarantee that this fantastic government subsidy will end. Unless the hundreds of Concorde are sold, BAC will get a 'sales subsidy' from the government.

If hundreds are sold, the effect on mankind in general could be catastrophic. For only a tiny handful of rich individuals will ever be able to afford the benefit of Concorde's speed.

A standard joke in Bristol is that the Concorde prototype is called 002 because only 0.002 per cent of the British people will ever be able to fly in it.

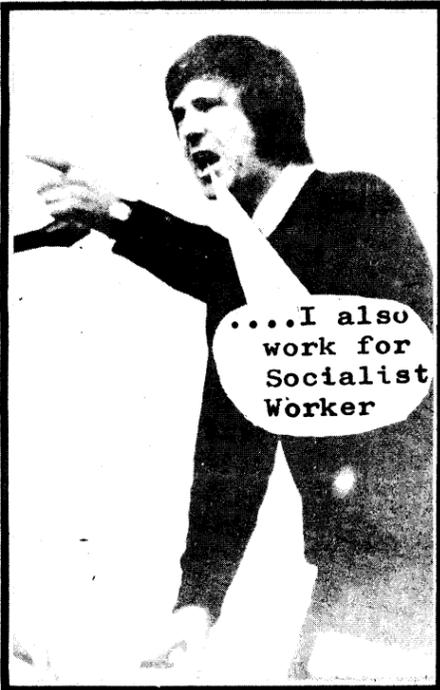
Those who live in its flight path will suffer all kinds of damage to their property, their hearing and to their environment. On the recent test flights of the prototype down 'boom alley' on Britain's west coast, the government (taxpayer) was forced to pay out compensation for damage which amounted to £50 for every mile.

Houses damaged, windows broken, animals panicked, individuals partly deafened—all these horrors and many besides have been experienced.

How does the government justify producing this monster at such enormous expense and so little benefit to the community at large? It boasts that the Concorde project employs 36,000 people.

A famous pre-war economist, Lord Keynes, used to argue that the best way to solve the lunacies of capitalism was more government-sponsored lunacies—such as employing large numbers of men and women at high wages to dig holes in the ground and fill them in again.

The story of Concorde shows that the lunacies of modern capitalism society are more ludicrous and very much more dangerous than Keynes himself ever imagined.



university magazine 'Isis' because it had fallen into the hands of the 'infantile left'.

Instead he plumped for 'Parsons Pleasure' where he could continue his childish sniggering at 'personalities'.

In the early days, after the magazine's first libel battle with the reactionary Tory journalist, Randolph Churchill (son of Winston Churchill), Ingrams revealed:

'He [Churchill] even admitted to liking the "Private Eye" . . . The Randolph action was a matter for regret. Had it not been for the animosity created, Randolph, I am sure, would have contributed to "Private Eye" . . .'

On one occasion they went so far as to invite Enoch Powell onto the staff, though they claimed it was only a joke.

But nothing more reveals the 'Eye's' class position than their reaction to the collapse of the Tory government in the early 1960s which precipitated a major crisis of ruling-class values.

Their attitude towards Tories is in line with their disgust at 'dishonest money'. They do not hate the Tory ruling class—but simply become outraged and afraid when members of it become incompetent and corrupt, thus revealing the true nature of the class. Again, this behaviour threatens the 'Eye' man's love of 'British decency'.

Hence the magazine was at its most strident during the Profumo scandal and its aftermath. The whole affair was an open betrayal

of their belief that government ministers should be gentlemen and rule with an incorruptible honesty.

While socialists were rubbing their hands, enjoying the spectacle of the ruling class literally caught with its pants (and knickers) down, Ingrams struck a note of alarm, and almost fear.

He wrote of this period: 'The pack of cards was collapsing about our ears in an unexpected and lurid manner and events themselves had overtaken satire.'

' . . . I felt a strong abusive note should be sounded and that Booker's rather more restrained approach was inadequate to cope with the horrors of 1963 . . . In the ensuing months the tone became more strident, abusive and left wing.'

The left wing bit was provided by a new recruit, Claude Cockburn, a Stalinist relic from the 1930s who Ingrams had dug up in Eire.

He took charge of one issue of 'Private Eye' and steered the 'lads' past a crisis that they could not manage alone.

(Men like Cockburn and other 'lefts' who live in the 'Eye' milieu, like Paul Foot, are the subject of article three.)

When Wilson came to power he drew the wrath of 'Private Eye' not because he had betrayed any socialist principles, but because he was a middle-class climber and politically dishonest.

Says Ingrams: 'It was not until the financial crisis of July 1966 that the real disillusionment with Wilson set in. It was then that his grandiose economic policy was seen to have been a sham. The resulting anger was more intense for the wild hopes that had preceded it . . . From then on the magazine's attacks were as savage as any on the Tories.'

'Sell out succeeded sell-out, culminating with Mr Callaghan's Kenyan-Asian immigration bill which finally destroyed any claim that Wilson might make to moral superiority over the Tories.'

Now under the most reactionary Tory regime of the century, 'Private Eye' confines its attack to Heath's middle-class mannerisms.

John Wells admitted that

political attacks of the old kind was now off the agenda. He told 'The Guardian': 'Its [Private Eye's] concession to the onset of the Tory regime has been "Heathco" which sees the government as some dreadful Neasden outfit.'

'But otherwise its sour and spirited assault on the English political machine has been put into abeyance.'

(But not apparently assaults on the Irish working class using legitimate terror against their army oppressors.)

The lines of conflict are now more clearly drawn in society and the 'Eye' men are begging to embrace the class to which they belong.

Ingrams, who retreats each day to his olde worlde cottage and plays cricket with locals, Booker, the sour public schoolboy turned Jesus fanatic, Wells, who writes for the Tory 'Spectator', all know where they belong when the battle begins. And this should be no real surprise to those who read the journal.

Beneath the naughty 'jape' lies the good old reactionary values of the public school with a radical varnish provided by Foot.

The men of 'Private Eye' are really a disenchanted section of the upper middle class. Their journal is essentially a safety valve for the ruling class. Their rages are the rages of the public schoolboy who wants society to fit the myth taught at school.

Their real world is the world of the country squire; a world where people know their place and where the get-rich-quick boys do not disturb the order; a world where leaders are clean and honest and where the workers are happy in their squalor and do not intrude on the business of living away from the 'smell' of the town with a quiet, humble wife.

There were similar individuals who inhabited society during the late 1920s and 1930s—youth, upper-class radicals and Tory 'anarchists' displaced by the traditional ruling-class institutions. Many found their way to Oswald Mosley's New Party. The progress of the 'Private Eye' team will also be interesting.

● Tomorrow, Christopher Booker and Malcolm Muggeridge and the philosophy of these two right-wing contributors to 'Private Eye'.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## Stamps

The Crown Agents, that curious body recently under official investigation for its business connections with Vehicle and General, among other things, has a new client.

The Soviet Union has just asked the non-profit-making organization to take over the multi-million-rouble business of selling Russian stamps throughout the world.

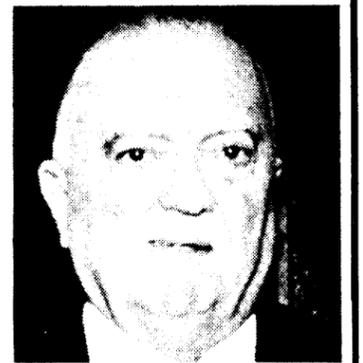
The Crown Agents already carry out this function for 56 of the 200 countries in the world which issue stamps as well as advising former British colonies on investment.

## Lawman

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, has posed for half a century as the man standing resolutely in defence of law and order in America.

His reputation has taken a savage debunking this week, however, with the publication of a biography by Hank Messick.

Messick accuses Hoover of completely failing to take on the Mafia during his service under six presidents.



Top: Hoover, above: David Oluwale

## I will

The advertisement says, 'In Australia . . . I will' but as far as Mrs Julia Freebury is concerned she most certainly won't.

Mrs Freebury, who has lived in Australia for two decades, has arranged for a brochure attacking Australia's social, educational and medical services, to be distributed outside Australia House.

It is called 'Facts About Australia That Australia House Did Not Tell You'.

'I've become completely disenchanted with the quality of life in Australia,' Mrs Freebury said.

'In fields such as censorship, education, and social services Australia is behind the times.'

She quoted the brochure as saying: 'The press, radio and television suffer from restrictions, bias and external pressures. Censorship is still considered necessary on books, films and plays.'

## Hounded

Jeremy Sandford, writer of 'Cathy Come Home' and 'Edna, the Inebriate Woman', has launched a new crusade.

This time he's looking into the death of Nigerian David Oluwale in Leeds two years ago.

Following Oluwale's death, two senior police officers were jailed for beating him up.

The prosecution alleged that the two officers hounded Oluwale, a local tramp, to his death in the River Aire.

The real cause of his death has never been established.

## No surprise

A surprise 11th-hour candidate for the Southwark parliamentary by-election on May 4 is a member of the actors' union, Equity. He is Brian McDermott of Savernake Rd, Hampstead, standing as 'Actor's Anti-Heath's Union-bashing Act' candidate.

Vigorously distributing literature on behalf of McDermott last week was a former member of Tariq Ali's International Marxist Group.

# BOOKS



- LEON TROTSKY: Germany 1931/1932 Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½
- Where is Britain Going? Paperback 37½p
- Revolution Betrayed Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.90
- 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: NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG.



Richard Ingrams

# JOBS AND PROFIT AT GEC



Top: all smiles at the GEC-Electric marriage; Lord Nelson, head of the AEI-GEC gives his hand to Sir Arnold Weinstock of English Electric. Above: 1967, Weinstock and Sir Joseph Latham of AEI on the day the GEC-AEI takeover was announced.

The mammoth GEC electrical engineering combine is back in the news again gripped by strikes, lock-outs and other forms of industrial unrest.

This is because the old policy of sacking and steep productivity increases, masterminded by 'the chief' Sir Arnold Weinstock has been intensified recently.

The great drive for redundancies began back in 1967 when a Labour government encouraged the mergers of GEC, AEI and English Electric with public money. It was all part of the white-hot revolution worshipped by the then Minister of Technology, Anthony Wedgwood Benn.

Through the ill-fated Industrial Reorganization Corporation the Labour Minister encouraged rationalization in the empire.

Not that Weinstock, originally of English Electric, needed any urging.

At the time of the merger Weinstock addressed 500 major shareholders at the Dorchester Hotel, London. The unions were not, of course, invited, but he had this message for them.

'If we are allowed to do this and integrate successfully, the prospect is that we can offer more employment than if we are not allowed to join together.'

Weinstock proceeded to show just how much of a 'concession' this was.

In 1967 the three companies had 268,000 workers between them (GEC 63,000, AEI 85,000 and English Electric 120,000). By mid-1971 the count was down to 225,000—over 40,000 workers had been sacked in three and a half years.

The first bombshell came in Woolwich, SE London where the

closure of an AEI factory employing 5,000 was announced. The decision caused a storm of protest, but the plant closed and the area is still hit by the depression it caused.

Redundancies continued throughout the massive group and hardly a plant was left untouched. Merseyside was badly hit with 3,500 sackings.

This cut-back has led to vastly increased profits. We quote from the latest facts sheets of the Labour Research Department.

'A follower of the Arnold Weinstock star could have purchased 100 GEC shares in 1960 for £214. In 1960 these would have brought him in a dividend income of £10. With free share issues that lucky shareholder would now have 968 25p shares worth £1,780 (184p on April 17) and his dividend for 1970/1971 was £36. More is promised for 1971/1972.

In December the half-year results were published. These show a massive 36 per cent increase

in pre-tax profits from £23.3m in 1970 to £31.5m in 1971. The increase in sales was 7.5 per cent from £418m in 1970 to £449m in 1971.

The half-year dividend was raised from 5 per cent to 5½ per cent.

The Labour government policy on the mergers was called by some businessmen 'undue socialist interference in industry'—it is thought they have now changed their minds on this point.

# EIRE JOBLESS RISES

Industrial employment in Eire fell last year by over 4,000 in spite of a rise of almost 4 per cent in the volume of production.

Nearly all major industrial groupings in the 26 counties experienced a fall in employment during the year. Total numbers working in the transportable goods industries fell from 209,500 in December 1970 to 205,700 in 1971—a drop of 3,800.

Employment in textiles dropped 2,400 from 25,300; in the clothing and footwear sector from 23,600 to 22,800; in metal and engineering by 600 from 39,100; in the food processing sector from 44,100 to 43,700.

Figures from the recently-published Quarterly Industrial Inquiry results also show that the volume of industrial production in the last quarter of 1971 was 4 per cent up on 1970.

Earnings in the 26 counties rose by 13 per cent and average weekly earnings in December 1971 were £27.99 for men and £13.43 for women. Men worked an average of 45 hours a week and women 38.

Highest earnings were in the brewing and fertilizer industries where wages were £36.03 and £36.04 respectively. Lowest weekly earnings were in the jams, jellies and canned products and leather industries where workers took home an average £21.64 and £21.10 respectively.

Lowest wages for women were in the non-electrical machinery industry where earnings were £9.98 per week. Women took home most in the tobacco and sugar industries—an average of £18.23 weekly.

## ORDER NOW

### TWO PAMPHLETS AND A MAGAZINE

'Fourth International' is the journal of international Marxism published by the International Committee of the Fourth International. 25p (post 3½p)

'We Demand the Right to Work' is a fully documented and illustrated account of the five Young Socialist Right-to-Work marches throughout Britain. 15p. (Post 3½p)

'The Social Security Swindle' by Bernard Franks. A useful handbook in the SLL pocket library series on state restrictions on social security. 5p. (Post 2½p)

All three available from: New Park Publications, 186a, Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG.

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### TORIES ATTACK THE UNEMPLOYED

The Social Security Swindle



# May Day solidarity with BAC workers

MAY DAY in the Lancashire town of Preston will be marked by a massive demonstration in support of the 3,500 British Aircraft Corporation workers who today enter the 13th week of their pay strike.

Some factories have answered the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union's call for a 24-hour stoppage while other leading factories will send big delegations to this morning's march.

Preston dockers, who on Friday voted to strike today in protest against the fines imposed on the Transport and General Workers' Union, will also be there. Students from Lancaster university boycotting lectures have promised support.

The strike is the longest to

hit Preston since the war and it is the first time a complete division of BAC has been completely shut by industrial action.

Mostly AUEW members, the strikers work at Preston and plants at nearby Sablesbury and Walton. Between them the three plants comprise BAC's military division.

Throughout the bitter dispute the strike committee has fought across-the-board, 12½-per-cent, cost-of-living rise without strings with a minimum wage of £20 for a 40-hour week.

Management, however, has taken the opportunity of the strike to try and force through acceptance of productivity dealing, an aim they have had in

mind for at least three years.

What they have in mind is the application of the sophisticated MTM and tape data techniques which would result in the abolition of average earnings as a guide for payment and open the door to fixed payments on a day work basis.

When negotiations were resumed last Friday the position was the same: no increase without acceptance of the strings. Nothing was resolved, but the talks will resume this afternoon.

Chief personnel man at BAC is Labour peer Lord Beswick. And one of the chief shareholders in the combine is Sir Arnold Weinstock and his GEC empire, currently involved in one battle after another at factories up and down the country.

'The men are getting more determined than ever,' a strike committee spokesman told me at the weekend.

'They have seen workers in other factories in the area win large increases without strings and they say BAC have to find out that we're not going to be pushed around.

'The wage claim is by no means large and in some ways is far too small. But management has been wanting the new wage structure for some time and have seized the opportunity to try and enforce it now.

'But like the government with the miners, management has misunderstood the situation and the mood of the men in their determination to win.

'Preston has for a long time been something of a backwater as far as militancy is concerned. A change is taking place in the feeling of the working class throughout the country and this is now reflected in Preston and at BAC,' he told me.

## EE clerks discuss new offer

CLERKS at English Electric, Liverpool, meet this morning to decide on a pay offer aimed at ending their six-week official strike.

Although no details have been released, it is understood that the cash award would amount to about £2.40-a-week rise. The 450 APEX (ex-CAWU) strikers have sought a £6 increase.

At the beginning of the dispute, management offered rises of between £1.50 and £1.75.

The proposed deal came out of talks held on Friday in Rugby between Labour MP Denis Howell, president of the union, executive members Roy Grantham and Ray Edwards, and GEC's industrial director Sir Jack Scamp.

FROM PHILIP WADE IN THE NW

A MASS meeting of Standard Triumph workers, Liverpool, has decided to accept Measured-Day Work payments on the recommendation of a majority of shop stewards.

Twice before, the 2,500 Standard workers at the two plants have rejected management's proposals to abolish piecework. But on Saturday over 2,000 of them split three-to-one in favour of acceptance.

Last week T&GWU stewards voted 56 to 38 in favour of the package, the final embodiment of proposals made by the company ten months ago.

Most production workers will now move on to a fixed payment of £42 for a 40-hour week.

Opponents at Saturday's meeting pointed out that in no real sense was the principle of mutuality retained in the package as union officials claimed.

To back up this point they drew attention to the notorious

## Liverpool Standard-Triumph accept MDW

clause 4.1.8 which declares: 'Output requirements, schedules, line-speeds, processes and organization shall be determined by management.'

Body shop steward Bobby Owens told me after the meeting: 'They say they've got a form of mutuality, but all the customs and practices established



Standard-Triumph workers leave the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, after voting for MDW

in the plant have gone by the board.

'We're not taking a step ahead but going backwards. We have given management the right to re-time us when they like. The control we had on this aspect has been taken away from the rank-and-file on the shop floor. 'If you refuse to accept these

timings they can move you to another section or downgrade you. And the implications are, of course, that a further refusal could lead to you being sacked.

'In a couple of years time Standards will be producing more cars with comparatively fewer men than now as a result of Measured-Day Work.'

Said another T&GWU member Frank Vaudray:

'The have sold themselves for the sake of a few pounds. Up to now we have had local agreements in the factory about manning arrangements and so on.

'Now we will go into work and the foremen will be able to say you do this and that and they will be able to move us anywhere they like.

'In my opinion the whole idea behind this is to cut shop stewards out as far as winning conditions is concerned. The next thing we can expect is a man with a movie camera filming every movement we make. And that will be part of the agreement.'

Warned John Attrill: 'I've worked at Ford's and I know what it's like under Measured-Day Work, having to ask for a relief before you can go to the toilet.

'What management will now try and do is herd us around like sheep with the foremen as sheepdogs. The way it's going, workers will need a pair of roller skates and an extra pair of arms to keep up with the line.'

### BBC 1

- 9.20 Trumpton. 9.38-11.50 Schools. 1.00 How can you be so sure? 1.30 Fingerbobs. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-3.10 Schools. 4.00 Boomph with Becker. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Aeronauts. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.
- 6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.
- 6.20 ENTERTAINING WITH KERR. Salmon St Gotthard.
- 6.45 A QUESTION OF SPORT.
- 7.10 Z CARS. Smoke.
- 8.00 PANORAMA.
- 9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.
- 9.20 MAGIC OF THE CUP. 1872-1972.
- 10.00 LABOUR PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST.
- 10.15 TALES FROM THE LAZY ACRE. The Bitter Pill.
- 10.45 24 HOURS.
- 11.20 CANOE. Slalom.
- 11.45 Weather.

## TV

### ITV

- 10.20-12.00 Schools. 1.10 Time to remember. 1.40 Schools. 2.33 Good afternoon! 4.00 Film: 'King of the Coral Sea'. Chips Rafferty. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 Lassie. 5.20 Pardon my genie. 5.50 News.
- 6.00 TODAY.
- 6.20 CROSSROADS.
- 6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! GALA SHOW.
- 7.30 CORONATION STREET.
- 8.00 WORLD IN ACTION.
- 8.30 BLESS THIS HOUSE. People in Glass Houses.
- 9.00 SIX DAYS OF JUSTICE. Who Cares?
- 10.00 LABOUR PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST.
- 10.15 NEWS.
- 10.45 McMILLAN AND WIFE. The Face of Murder.
- 12.10 THE GEORDIE BIBLE.

### BBC 2

- 11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35 Open University.
- 7.00 CHILDREN GROWING UP — 5 PLUS. Here Comes the Judge.
- 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.
- 8.00 THE STALLION. With Peter Arne.
- 8.50 A HARDY SUMMER.
- 9.00 HORIZON. The Wizard Who Spat on the Floor.
- 10.00 LABOUR PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST.
- 10.15 FACE THE MUSIC.
- 10.45 THIRTY MINUTE THEATRE. The Railwayman's New Clothes.
- 11.15 NEWS ON 2 and weather.
- 11.20 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

### REGIONAL TV

- CHANNEL: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.05 Once Upon a time. 4.20 News. 4.22 Yoga. 4.50 Rovers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sport. 6.45 London. 10.50 University challenge. 11.15 News. 11.19 Marcus Welby. 12.10 Faith for life.
- WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 6.20 Sports desk. 11.15 News. 12.10 Faith for life.

- SOUTHERN: 10.20 London. 3.00 Good cooks. 3.20 Cartoon. 3.30 Lucy. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Heckle and Jeckle. 4.25 Junkin. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.50 Afloat. 11.15 Marcus Welby. 12.10 News. 12.20 Weather. Voyage to discovery.

- ANGLIA: 10.20 London. 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Jokers. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoons. 4.25 Romper room. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.50 Aquarius. 11.45 Theatre. 12.40 Big question.

- ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-2.33 London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Nanny and the professor. 4.40 Nuts and bones. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.50 University challenge. 11.15 Randall and Hopkirk. Weather.

- ULSTER: 10.20-2.33 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 News. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Funny face. 6.45 London. 10.45 Monday night. 10.50 Film: 'The Miniver Story'.

- GRANADA: 11.00 London. 2.30 Dr Gannon. 3.30 Yoga. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.15 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.45 Film: 'Children of the Damned'.

- TYNE TEES: 11.00 London. 2.30 Cook book. 3.00 Film: 'Sea Devils'. 4.35 News. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.25 Ordeal of Signalman Holmes. 6.45 London. 10.45 Times four. 11.15 Saint. 12.10 News. 12.25 Epilogue.

- SCOTTISH: 11.00-2.33 London. 3.30 Nuts and bones. 3.45 Simon Locke. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Arthur. 5.20 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.15 Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 10.50 University challenge. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 Marty Feldman.

- GRAMPIAN: 11.00-2.33 London. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Lucy. 4.40 Pippi longstocking. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Simon Locke. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.50 University challenge. 11.15 Mannix. 12.10 Epilogue.

## CAV pay change

THE joint shop stewards' committee at CAV, Acton, London, has decided to break with plans for a new site deal this year. Instead it will recommend to a mass meeting today that the workforce should support the national pay claim submitted on February 2.

Site deals 'linked to a 12-month wage freeze have become increasingly unpopular with many CAV workers. Last year's deal concluded with a 10 per cent redundancy.

Certain sections, it is claimed, have benefited from these deals, but many other groups have fallen behind.

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## THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4 7UG.

Name .....

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# UCS: THE WORST BETRAYAL

**WORKERS** at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders are facing up to 500 more redundancies and penalties against strikes.

These facts are emerging out of deals now nearing completion over the future of shipbuilding on the upper reaches of the Clyde.

They involve:  
 ● The reduction in the UCS labour force by 2,200.  
 ● Vast increases in productivity.  
 ● The possible introduction of double-day shift working.  
 ● At the very least, binding pledges to stop unofficial strikes or disputes and possibly the acceptance of fines and legally enforceable anti-strike clauses.

The Texan oil rig builders Marathon Manufacturing want a deal which includes fines on men who strike. According to yesterday's 'Observer', trade unions have agreed to this, though many are understood to have pushed down the original penalty of £50 per man per strike day.

Further down the river, Govan Shipbuilders will now be pressing for the signature of the shop stewards on a deal already negotiated between the two sides.

This includes procedures for outlawing what are described as 'unconstitutional' disputes and a plan for breaking down demarcation lines between crafts.

Both Govan Shipbuilders and Marathon intend to double productivity within two years.

The total jobs offer will be around 6,300—2,200 less than the labour force employed at UCS last July when the 'work-in' began under the slogan 'not a job down the road'.

A condition of both deals is that the 'work-in' should end. This does not present an enormous problem, however, because of the tiny number of workers participating. According to a count taken in mid-February, 182 men were still 'working-in' out of a possible number of 1,600. At Clydebank, I understand, not one single man is working-in.

The two deals were hailed by shop stewards' leader and Stalinist James Reid as a 'victory' in yesterday's 'Sunday Times'!

He says of the Tories:  
 'As for the government I have never been one to describe John Davies [Secretary for Trade and Industry] as an ogre. I would rather describe his actions as misguided. He would seem to have been misinformed and misled by either politicians or civil servants within his department.'

## Deals for all four yards mean harsh speed-up and job cuts

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

It is a measure of the counter-revolutionary nature of Stalinism that they can greet such agreements as a victory.

The new plan for the Upper Clyde is exactly in line with Tory strategy of intimidating workers with mass unemployment.

It is the end result of a joint campaign between the Communist Party shop stewards and the union leaders to stop the UCS struggle developing into a political fight against the Tory government.

Reid claimed in his 'Sunday Times' interview that the fact that he was a communist had little to do with the way they ran the fight in the yards. Any militant shipyard workers on the Clyde will realize how totally unfounded this claim is.

At all stages in the Clydeside struggle the Stalinists manoeuvred to avoid a showdown or confrontation with the government and their liquidator. Just one example of this were the repeatedly-broken promises to withhold vessels from delivery. In all seven ships were handed to the liquidator during the course of the work-in.

This latest agreement is a continuation of this reactionary policy and is the worst betrayal of all. It exposes the denuded yard labour force to a massive drive for productivity. It severely curtails the right to strike—with all this means in the context of the Industrial Relations Court.

The Marathon proposals are expected to be put to shipyard workers early this week. It should be rejected and replaced with a policy of removing the Tories and forcing Labour to nationalize the shipbuilding industry.

● In tomorrow's Workers Press: UCS—the final chapter. This article and the earlier ones on UCS will be brought out as a pamphlet soon.



Rector Reid welcomes Marathon no-strike deal

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**BRADFORD:** Tuesday, May 2, 8 p.m. The Rawson Hotel, Tory offensive against the unions. Speakers: Trevor Houldsworth (Bradford AUEW district committee, in personal capacity); Jack Gale.

**E LONDON:** Tuesday May 2, 8 p.m. (Note change of venue): 'Three Wheatsheaves', Upper St. N1 (nr Angel tube), N Ireland.

**W LONDON:** Tuesday May 2, 8 p.m. Shaw Theatre and Library, Euston Rd, WC1. Force the Tories to resign.

**COTGRAVE:** Tuesday May 2, 7.30 p.m. Cotgrave Miners' Welfare. The 'fair rents' Bill.

**OLLERTON:** Wednesday May 3, 7.30 p.m. White Hart.

**COALVILLE:** Wednesday May 3, 8.00 p.m. Barden Rd Working Men's Club. The 'Fair Rents' Bill and the fight against the Tory government.

**SLOUGH:** Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Slough Community Centre, Farnham Rd. Speakers, Frank Tomany, ex-convenor Omes Faulkner, Brian Bailey, AUEW (in a personal capacity). The Industrial Relations Act.

Recall the TUC  
 Expel the traitors  
 Make the Tories resign

**CROYDON:** Thursday May 4, 8 p.m. Ruskin Hall, Coombe Rd.

**SW LONDON:** Tuesday May 9, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4.

**N KENT:** Tuesday May 9, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford.

**DAGENHAM:** Tuesday May 9, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Ave, Barking.

**LUTON:** Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. St John's Ambulance Hall, Lea Rd.

**N LONDON:** Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Bricklayers Arms, Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane).

**SE LONDON:** Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, New Cross Rd (opp New Cross station).

## Castle heckled

IF ANYONE ought to be hauled before the Industrial Relations Court for unfair practices, it was the government. Mrs Barbara Castle told a May Day rally in Trafalgar Square yesterday.

She was faced with continuous shouts of 'OH! OH!' by sections of the 2,000-strong crowd.

Mrs Castle did not mention her own industrial relations programme embodied in 'In Place of Strife'.

'How can anyone expect anything but industrial unrest under a government which has wantonly created 1 million unemployed, forced up prices and charges and elevated means testing into a way of life.'

At a meeting in Sheffield, Jack Jones called for the recall of the TUC to discuss the Industrial Relations Act. In Newcastle Lawrence Daly, the miners' leader, also demanded the TUC's recall to discuss the boycott of the Act.

At a May Day rally in Cardiff, Victor Feather, said he believed the Act would prove the downfall of the government.

The TUC's main priority was to force a General Election, he said.

Feather's call for an election on the Act is in sharp contrast with every single manoeuvre he has made in the past two weeks: urging the transport union to pay its £55,000 fine and recommending union co-operation with the Courts.

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

# Public meetings MONDAY MAY 1

**Mobilize against the Tories  
 Hands off the trade unions  
 Defend the right to work  
 Force the Tory government to resign**

**LONDON**  
 Poplar Civic Hall, Bow Rd. 7.30 p.m.

Speakers:  
 G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)  
 SARAH HANNIGAN (YS London region secretary)

**LIVERPOOL:** Royal Institute, Colquitt St, 7.30 p.m.  
 Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee); Christine Smith (YS); Larry Kavanagh (Liverpool docker).

**LEEDS:** Art Gallery, Headrow, Leeds 1, 7.30 p.m.  
 Jack Gale (SLL); Ken Pearce (OTO in personal capacity); Joan Burrows (YS National Committee).

**SHEFFIELD:** Montgomery Hall, Survey St, opp. Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.  
 Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee); Frank McCabe (NUM in personal capacity); Ray Jaxson (YSNC).

**BIRMINGHAM:** Lecture Room 1, Digbeth Hall, 7.30 p.m.  
 Mair Davies (SLL Central Committee); Alex Mitchell (Workers Press); William Aitken (YSNC).

**NOTTINGHAM:** Co-op Education Hall, Heathcote St, 7.30 p.m.  
 John Spencer (Workers Press); Harry Finch (SLL); Steve Martin (YSNC).

**SWINDON:** Locomotive Hotel, Fleet St, 7.30 p.m.  
 Ray Howells (AUEW personal capacity); Clive Norris (YSNC).

**GLASGOW:** Partick Burgh Hall, Glasgow, 7.30 p.m.  
 Stephen Johns (Workers Press); John Barrie (YSNC).

**EDINBURGH:** Trades Council Club, Albany St, 7.30 p.m.  
 Jim Dormer (EPTU in personal capacity); Dave Barclay (YS).

**READING:** Trades and Labour Hall, Minster St, 7.30 p.m.  
 Dany Sylveire (SLL); Tony Richardson (T&GWU in personal capacity).

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Langley Hall, next to St Peter's Church, Commercial Rd, 7.30 p.m.

Frank Willis (AUEW in personal capacity); P. O'Regan (SLL).

**MANCHESTER:** Wheatsheaf, High St, 7.30 p.m.

Alan Stanley (Vauxhall shop steward in personal capacity); John Simmance (YS national secretary).

**AYLESHAM:** The Legion, Burgess Rd, Aylesham, 7 p.m.  
 Brian Lavery (NUM in personal capacity); Roger Smith (ACTT in personal capacity).

**NEWCASTLE:** Hotspur Hotel, Haymarket, 7.30 p.m.  
 Dave Temple (SLL); Hugh Nicol (AUEW in a personal capacity); Ian Yeats (Workers Press); Keith Radford (YSNC).

**BRISTOL:** Central Hall, 7.30 p.m.  
 Alan Wilkins (AUEW in a personal capacity).

**ABERDEEN:** Trades Hall, 24 Adelphi, 8 p.m. T. Brotherstone (SLL).

**OXFORD:** Cape of Good Hope, The Plain, Oxford, 8 p.m.  
 Alan Thornett (deputy senior steward, Morris Motors. In a personal capacity).

**SWANSEA:** Lecture Hall, Bishop Gore School, Bishop Gore Sketty, 7.30 p.m. Roy Battersby (ACTT in a personal capacity). Gary Jenner (YSNC).

Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists

## MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION

Sunday May 7

**We demand the Right to Work!  
 No retreat from the fight against the Industrial Relations Act!  
 Hands off the trade unions! Defend democratic rights!  
 Withdraw troops from Ulster! Release all internees!  
 Victory to the Vietnamese workers and peasants  
 For the military defeat of US imperialism!  
 MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!**

**ASSEMBLE:** 1.30 p.m. The Embankment, Charing Cross

**MARCH:** via Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly, Regent Street, Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road, Euston Road

**MEETING:** 4 p.m. St Pancras Town Hall.

G. Healy (Socialist Labour League National Secretary)  
 J. Simmance (Young Socialists National Secretary)  
 M. Banda (Socialist Labour League Central Committee)  
 In a personal capacity:

Frank McCabe (NUM)  
 Roy Battersby (ACTT)  
 A. Thornett (Deputy Senior Steward Morris Motors)

**CHAIRMAN**  
 C. Slaughter (Socialist Labour League Central Committee)

I would like to come to the May Day Demonstration

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Please send me details of transport arrangements. Complete form and send to J. Simmance, 186a Clapham High Street, London. SW4 7UG.

## WEATHER

**SHOWERS** and sunny periods. The showers will be locally heavy with hail and will be more prevalent in SW districts. Temperatures generally will be near normal, but it will be rather cold in N Ireland and W Scotland.

**Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday:** Showery at first with sunny intervals. The showers will probably die out but more general rain may reach SW on Wednesday and temperatures will rise to near or a little above normal.

## CORRECTION

THE quotation from Engels which headed our article 'Wigery and Donaldson show meaning of law' on page 8 of Saturday's Workers Press should have read: 'The working man knows too well, has learned from too oft-repeated experience, that the law is the rod which the bourgeois has prepared for him.'