

Issues on the docks

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This murderous attack on jobs—a 30-per-cent cut in the labour force—has been accompanied by a spectacular rise in individual productivity.

For instance, in Liverpool, the storm-centre of the present containers row, close on 30 million tons of cargo passed in and out of the port last year compared to 27 million the previous year. This 12-per-cent increase occurred despite a 6-per-cent drop in the labour force.

Now the world trade slump, combined with the impact of productivity deals, containerization and other new cargo-handling methods, threatens to decimate the dockers' ranks again . . . several times over.

Speaking in early 1970, ports modernization committee chairman George Cattell estimated that by 1975 the docks labour force would be 'considerably below 35,000'. But this estimate must now be revised downwards.

The port employers talk openly about 3,000 more redundancies this year. And a report by the US management consultants McKinsey and Co says that containerization will allow a 1,000-per-cent increase in productivity per man.

So far, dockers have seen only the tip of the iceberg as far as containerization is concerned.

In July 1968, 13 Tilbury dockers unloaded 4,000 tons of cargo from the containership 'American Lancer' in less than 12 hours. The same tonnage would have taken 130 men five days from a conventional vessel. The news was a bombshell.

When it comes, the impact of containerization is rapid. And behind the current toing-and-froing between employers, union leaders and Ministers is the knowledge that a really severe jobs crisis is building up for this autumn, when many conventional contracts are due to change over.

Road-hauliers and warehousemen are not going to grant dockers the right to stuff and strip containers, because the high capital cost of the new methods requires the lowest rates of wages. And the port employers—many of whom are themselves hauliers—know this.

So do the union leaders—despite all their optimistic talks of 'sympathetic' hearings from Tory Ministers.

28 DAYS AND WE COME OUT!

CONTAINERS STRIKE CALL

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT DAVID MAUDE

DOCKERS' leaders yesterday escalated the ports row with the threat of a national strike to start in a month's time.

A two-and-a-half hour delegate meeting called by the Transport and General Workers' Union expressed 'complete dissatisfaction' with the employers' attitude on three key issues.

The 98 T&GWU dock delegates—representing 55,000 dockers in all Britain's ports—gave the National Association of Port Employers (NAPE) 28 days' strike notice demanding:

- An extra week's holiday;
- A big improvement in fall-back pay, bringing it up to the average earnings level for each port;
- The right to all work normally done by dockers, including the stuffing and stripping of cargo-containers.

Meanwhile an emergency meeting of the Cabinet was called to discuss the docks crisis.

Presided over by Tory premier Edward Heath, it was attended by non-Cabinet Ministers including Solicitor-General Sir Geoffrey Howe, the man who obtained the cooling-off period against the railwaymen.

NAPE leaders went to meet Employment Secretary Maurice Macmillan yesterday afternoon.

The T&GWU delegates' decision was almost unanimous. Only one vote was cast against.

'I've never seen them so militant', Alan English, secretary of the Liverpool port stewards' committee, told me afterwards.

'It's been touch and go whether there'll be a strike on Merseyside for the whole of the last week. The full-time officials tried to put the pressure on us again here today, but we're not having it.'

Both Liverpool and London stewards said after the meeting that they would ignore an instruction from Tim O'Leary, T&GWU docks secretary, to call off their blacking action against road-haulage and warehousing firms.

Ron Findlay, a delegate from Aberdeen docks, said he thought the strike would definitely take place.

'We're not accepting any cooling-off periods', he said when told of the emergency Cabinet meeting.

'We've been trying to get a settlement of this issue for three years. The employers have just laughed at us.'

However, many delegates were also extremely suspicious of their union leaders' intentions towards the strike threat.

Jones not there

Jack Jones, the T&GWU general secretary, was in his union headquarters during the meeting but did not attend it.

And docks secretary O'Leary made clear that almost any concession from the employers on the dockers' claim to stuff and strip containers would be sufficient for him to recall the delegate conference.

The delegates will be recalled in any case before the strike starts.

Said O'Leary:

'As a result of the complete dissatisfaction of delegates with the employers' replies, we have been instructed to tender notice of an industrial dispute—which

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Rogers seeks Heath support for bombing?



Rogers entering No. 10 Downing St yesterday

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They also discussed Nixon's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union.

Last night Rogers flew to Brussels to have dinner with NATO secretary Dr Joseph Luns. Before returning to Washington on May 10, he will also hold talks with Common Market leaders as well as visiting Bonn, Rome, Paris and Madrid.

Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists

ALL OUT DEMONSTRATE ON MAY DAY

Sunday May 7

HANDS OFF THE UNIONS

Defend democratic rights! Defend the right to work!
Withdraw troops from Ulster! Release all internees!
Victory to the Vietnamese workers and peasants!

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)

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY MAY 5, 1972 ● No 757 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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Vorster uses armed choppers

HEAVILY armed police, supported by British-made Westland helicopters of the South African air force, burst into an African reserve near Pietermaritzburg yesterday to quell what they claimed was an outbreak of inter-tribal violence.

They said an African constable and two other men had been killed in

fighting between Mabaso and Tembu tribesmen in the Msinga reserve.

The police arrested 42 men and women and were yesterday hunting others who had fled into the surrounding bush.

In Namibia (South West Africa) a new wave of strikes has broken out in connection with the

demand for independence and higher wages.

Only two vessels put to sea from the port of Walvis Bay this week after most of the fishermen had struck for higher pay.

Almost the entire fishing labour force attended a mass meeting which gave the fish companies until today to meet their demands.



Nixon due to see Gromyko again in Moscow

Aluminium slump hits smelter jobs

THE TOTAL number of aluminium workers who have been made redundant in South Wales in the past 18 months has now reached 2,200.

The huge redundancies reflect the world recession in the aluminium industry.

The latest jobs losses announced this week are at Star Wrought Products, Neath, where 430 workers are to be sacked.

The company has decided to close its sheet rolling mill.

The directors said the men would be dismissed during the next three months.

A statement said: 'Due to world-wide depressed market conditions for aluminium and the continuing price-erosion for these products, it has been shown that Wern Works is no longer viable.'

Aluminium has been rolled there since 1942. Before that it was a tin plate works. Two directors broke the news on Wednesday afternoon to the Neath deputy town clerk, John Edwards, and the council's industrial development committee chairman, Frank Evans.

Evans told the press: 'They were courteous enough to come and tell us what is going to happen. They said the works had become completely unviable.'

Four hundred men were given redundancy notices at Alcoa's Wauarwydd plant in Swansea early last year. At the same time 550 redundancies were announced by Alcan at Rogerstone, Newport.

The other Neath area plant affected by the world slump in aluminium is the Rheola works of the British Aluminium Company who, last November announced the redundancy of 550 employees. That was later reduced by 40, and on Tuesday they announced that 110 jobs are to be saved.

British Aluminium also announced 400 redundancies at their Newport plant in January this year.

CORRECTION

YESTERDAY'S Workers Press incorrectly stated ('What we think', page 2) that an industrial tribunal had granted recruiting rights to the Telecommunications Staff Association at London's Electra House overseas cable headquarters.

In fact three TSA officials have been given recruiting facilities at Norwich, Guildford and some London exchanges. The importance of the decision, however, is unaffected. It remains—as our headline said—a dangerous precedent.

SOME 182 coalminers are sitting in a pit near Oviedo in the Spanish Asturias coalfield against the threat of unemployment.

They plan to stay underground until a closure notice posted earlier this week by the management is lifted.

Management claim the pit is to be closed on financial grounds. The Asturias coalfield was the scene of a bitter strike last year, broken eventually with the aid of Polish coal imports.

Mining experts from Warsaw are assisting the fascist management in plans for the coalfield's rationalization.

AROUND THE WORLD

Hue next nail in Nixon coffin

LIBERATION forces were probing around the outer defences of the South Vietnamese town of Hue yesterday and US officers on the spot said they expected a full-scale assault in the next few days.

There were unconfirmed reports that Firebase King, a key defence position eight miles south west of Hue had been abandoned following a two-hour barrage of mortar and artillery shells.

Firebase King covers the route from Hue to Phu Bai airbase. The first strike in the assault on the city is expected in their area.

Law and order in Hue has completely broken down with marauding groups of South Vietnamese deserters pillaging

the inhabitants and fighting in the streets.

On Wednesday deserters from the Third Division routed at Quang Tri set fire to Hue market in protest because their officers abandoned them to face the liberation troops alone.

The only soldiers in Hue actually prepared to defend the city are units of the South Vietnamese marines, who have been involved in several clashes with the mobs of deserters. Hundreds of thousands of refugees have left the city on foot, in cars and buses and by sea.

The collapse of the Saigon army means that Hue will be almost impossible to defend and the best the South Vietnamese can hope for is a rearguard

action to hold off the liberation troops.

Watching yet another nail driven into the coffin of his Vietnamization policy, US President Nixon is thought to be considering even more intensive bombing of the North. Hanoi and Haiphong have already been bombed several times by giant B52 aircraft since the offensive began.

But an intensification of the air war is unlikely to impede the advance of the liberation armies. Supplies take at least six weeks to reach South Vietnam from the northern ports, and the victorious armies of General Giap have captured mountains of abandoned US and South Vietnamese supplies.

BY JOHN SPENCER

'CIA didn't back rebels'

THE United States Central Intelligence Agency was not involved in the left-wing revolt of workers, peasants and students that swept across Ceylon last year, the Prime Minister, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike told parliament in Colombo yesterday.

This claim had been made by Finance Minister and renegade revisionist N. M. Perera but Mrs Bandaranaike said this was only his personal opinion.

Investigations so far had shown that no foreign power was involved, though she could not say what future investigations would reveal.

The US government backed Ceylon's coalition government against the rebellion and, along with the Soviet Union, Egypt, Pakistan and Yugoslavia, gave military aid to crush the rebels.

Meir: Mid-East peace trip?

ISRAELI premier Mrs Golda Meir arrived in Bucharest yesterday for talks with Rumanian leaders on the Middle-East situation.

It is the first time any Israeli premier has visited an East European country at the invitation of the government.

There is widespread speculation that president Nicolae Ceausescu may be mediating between Israel and the Arabs.

He invited Mrs Meir to Bucharest only days after touring Arab capitals in Africa. During his tour he held talks with president Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

Sadat himself is currently beginning five days of talks with other North African Arab leaders on co-ordinating action against Israel.

He will be telling Libyan, Algerian and Tunisian leaders the results of his recent visit to Moscow.



Mrs Meir

WEST GERMAN Chancellor Willy Brandt and opposition leader Dr Rainer Barzel agreed yesterday to debate ratification on Bonn's controversial treaties with the Soviet Union and Poland next week.

Heavy jail sentences as Turks hold plane

THIRTEEN people were given prison sentences totalling 196 years in Istanbul on Wednesday night for allegedly conspiring to overthrow Turkey's constitutional form of government and set up a dictatorship.

Seventy others also before a military court in the nine-month-long trial were acquitted.

The prosecution had originally demanded death sentences for 41 of the accused. The indictment included allegations that the 83 had taken part in clandestine meetings to discuss Marxism.

The heaviest sentences were on four young army officers accused of armed robbery and taking part in the bombing of a general's home.

One of the other chief defendants, Ruhi Koc, the president of Dev-Genc, a left-wing youth movement, had already been

sentenced to 15 years on bombing charges before the trial began.

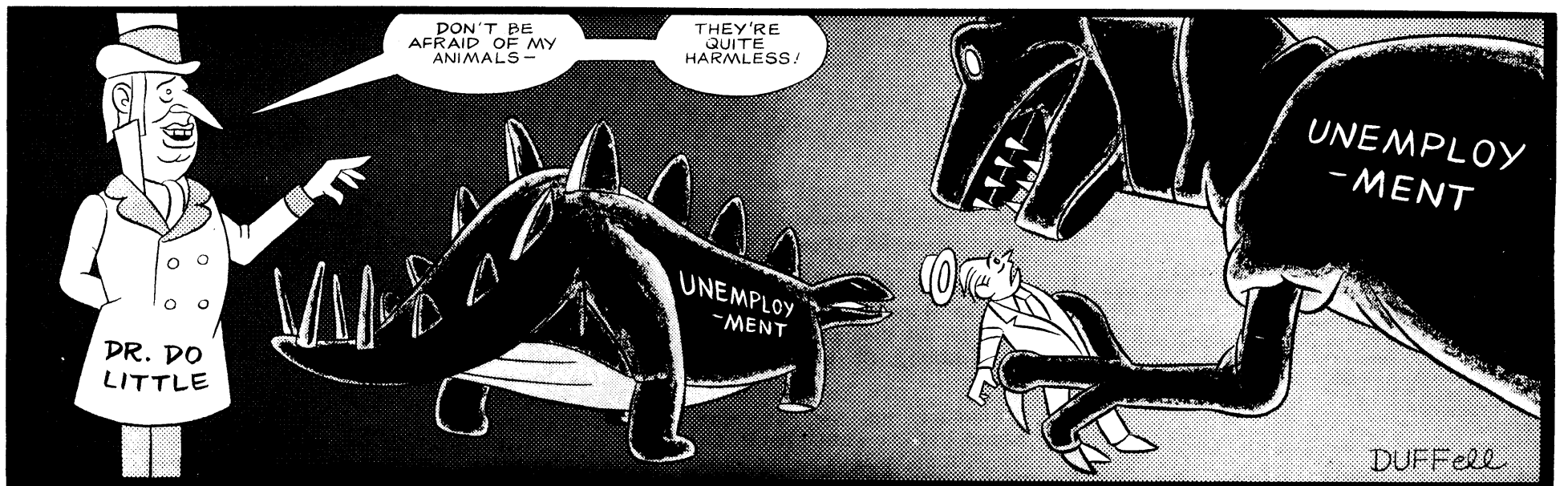
The charge of conspiring to overthrow the constitution is doubly ironic because the present dictatorial regime came to power by military coup on March 12 last year and promptly abrogated large sections of the constitution.

The government is itself passing through a major crisis.

Suat Hayri Urguplu, appointed by President Cevdet Sunay to try and form a cabinet has failed to win the necessary parliamentary support.

Dominated by the army, parliament has ratified death sentences on three left-wing 'urban guerrillas', Denis Gezmis, Yusuf Aslan and Huseyin Inan.

Supporters of the three men were yesterday holding to ransom a Turkish airliner hijacked to Sofia, Bulgaria.



Act forces mail vans to break picket line

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS IN GLASGOW

POSTMEN in Glasgow have been told by their union to break picket lines after being threatened by the Industrial Relations Act.

The instruction came from John Madden, district organizer of the Union of Post Office Workers, on advice from his London headquarters.

The events leading up to the new ruling which breaks past practice within the trade union movement began on Tuesday when a postman driver from Glasgow's Uddington depot turned back from a picket line at Caterpillar Engineering. Engineers are on strike there over a wage claim.

The action was reported by the firm to the Glasgow post office authorities and supervisor John Black warned the men that what they were doing was illegal.

To support the allegation he read out the relevant clauses of the Industrial Relations Act on sympathetic action by workers not directly involved in a dispute, and the Post Offices Act.

At a meeting the next day it was hinted that the union could face big fines if the men continued to respect the picket line.

The issue was reported to Madden who contacted UPW national organizer Mr A. Nash in London. Marsh is understood to have contacted the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in London and in the west of Scotland.

Eventually the drivers were told to go through the picket lines and they began deliveries to the factory yesterday.

Militant postmen in Glasgow are very disturbed by the decision which they say establishes a precedent. Feeling is intensified by the fact that the Caterpillar workers supported the postmen in their own strike last year.

It is believed to be the first time that mail vans have been instructed by the union to break the picket line. For example, at the recent BRS strike at East Kilbride van drivers turned back from the picket line and left mail at their depot for the firm to collect.

Devon demand to recall TUC

BARNSTABLE Trades Council, North Devon, has passed a resolution demanding the recall of the TUC to fight the Industrial Relations Act.

The passing of this militant resolution at Barnstable reveals the country-wide hatred of the Tory government and the determination of the working class to fight.

Barnstable is the parliamentary constituency of Liberal leader Jeremy Thorpe, who has unequivocally backed all of Heath's policies on the Common Market, industrial relations and unemployment.

The resolution declares:

'The Barnstable Trades Council condemns the retreat of the TUC leaders before the threat of the Industrial Relations Act. The Tories are attempting to deprive the working class of its basic democratic rights. The trade unions today are in a position where a struggle to improve wages and working conditions on behalf of their members places them outside of the law.

'We support the decision of the AUEW to call for an immediate recall of the TUC to fight the Industrial Relations Act. The trade union movement must now prepare for a General Strike to bring down this repressive government.'

KING'S COLLEGE (London) branch of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs has passed an emergency motion to be sent to the Association's annual conference 'condemning the capitulation of the TUC to the Industrial Relations Act'.

It says this is in contravention of last September's conference decision, and adds: 'We demand that Congress be reconvened to reaffirm its decision to oppose the Act and that it should mobilize the strength of the working class to force the Tory government to resign.'

SACK THAT CREATES ACCIDENTS

REDUNDANCY fears can make workers accident-prone, an industrial safety expert says.

Ronald Hearn has told the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

that at a factory where the threat of redundancy was hanging over workers, minor accidents trebled in two weeks.

Although there were about 20 million employed people in Britain, he

estimated there were fewer than 2,000 safety officers—'a pitifully small number'.

In industry, including farms and mines, 1,000 people were killed last year and 270,000 workers were injured in accidents.

MANUAL workers at Rolls-Royce Ansty, Coventry, meet today to vote on the company's latest proposals to introduce a Measured-Day Work-type productivity deal in the factory.

Ansty workers were forced off piecework onto a fixed day rate payment last September.

If the new proposals are accepted, many workers could be earning £5 a week less by September 1972 than they were earning in September 1971.

The shop stewards' committee has voted against making a recommendation on the deal.

Fourteen stewards backed a defeated amendment for rejection of the deal on the basis of opposition to the productivity

MDW at Rolls could cut pay £5

and penal clauses contained in the document submitted by management.

They wanted a campaign for the basic demands of the engineers' national wage claim to be taken up instead—£6 a week increase, shorter hours and no strings.

The document contains the usual MDW proposals with one new danger—a 2½p an hour co-operation bonus clause. This will only be payable to those whom management consider are co-

operating with the introduction of these proposals.

This is felt by the opponents of the deal to open the door for the introduction of further disciplinary actions and maybe even fines against workers in the future.

There is a fair body of opinion in the factory against the deal, but workers who oppose it feel the non-recommendation vote by the shop stewards' committee is a stab in the back for all those who oppose the deal.



Docks delegates from all over Britain converged on London yesterday to make their momentous decision (reported on page 1). Above some of the delegates outside the Transport and General Workers Union headquarters—part of the union's £22m assets—near Westminster

Promise of pay review for axle workers

PRODUCTION resumed at Triumph Motors' Radford plant, Coventry, yesterday when 73 rear-axle assemblers returned to work after their two-week strike.

The men have accepted a management offer which includes a slight increase in earnings and a promise that it will be 'coupled with a full investigation into their claims after a return to work'.

They originally demanded an approximate increase of £2.50 to bring their pay in line with average assembly bonuses paid at the main Canley factory.

Shop stewards reported the company was prepared to negotiate a pay increase if the men were prepared to increase output by 15 axles a day.

All that was offered, however, they said was 4 per cent of the bonus—an increase of only 27p a week—which was not acceptable.

During the strike about 8,000 men were laid off in Coventry and 1,500 in Liverpool. Car assembly in Coventry and Liverpool was virtually at a standstill and £12m car production lost.

Gazumping by council

THE Conservative-controlled High Wycombe council has been criticized for offering a council house for sale at £7,500—five months after offering its twin for £4,800.

Ronald Fletcher, a tenant of 24 Woodside Road, applied to buy his home last November and was quoted £4,800—less £480 under the council's tenancy discount scheme.

£250,000 bolt from the blue

THE Ministry of Defence is to pay for a four-year research programme into the effects of lightning bolts on aircraft. The £250,000 contract has been given to the Culham laboratory of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, at Abingdon, Berks. Its job will be to provide new data and test criteria so that flight safety can be improved.

'Leeds is different—especially our T-shirts'

A BOUTIQUE proprietor in Leeds has been fined £20 for wilfully exposing an obscene print to view.

Police Insp Alan Stoneley said a T-shirt was displayed in the window. It showed a four-letter word; there were dots between the letters.

When Insp Stoneley asked the proprietor, Mrs Jane Elizabeth Collins, whether she realized that she had an obscene print on display, she replied: 'What, in this day and age? It's 1972, you know.'

Mr Malcolm Tinger, for Mrs Collins, said that on many occasions

his client had seen far worse things worn in London.

Mr R. Middleton, chairman of the magistrates, in fining Mrs Collins said: 'It may be that these matters are common in central London, but we like to think Leeds is a little different.'

PS: Two senior Scotland Yard commissioners have just completed an inquiry into misbehaviour of a number of members of the Leeds police force. The inquiry, set up by the Home Secretary, followed a wave of complaints about police misconduct.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

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

Recall the TUC
Expel the traitors
Make the Tories resign

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.

CROYDON: Thursday May 11, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Rd.

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).

FLOATS TO LEAD MAY DAY MARCH

Seven floats will highlight the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists' May Day march this Sunday.

They will form the colourful vanguard of demonstration expected to be several thousand strong from all parts of England, Scotland and Wales.

Coaches and trains will bring delegates from out of London to the assembly point on The Embankment, Charing Cross, at 1.30 p.m.

The floats have been designed and constructed as an extension of the themes of last year's displays.

At the demonstration last year the floats portrayed chapters of the history of the working class—from the Peasants' Revolt in 1381, to the Cromwellian Revolution, to the Chartist movement, the founding of the labour movement.

This year the floats have a more direct theme, thus reflecting the intensification of the class struggle over the past 12 months of Heath rule.

A committee of SLL and YS members has been engaged in the discussion on the design of the floats since the culmination of the Right-to-Work marches at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 12. A series of drawings were prepared and they have formed the basis of considerable discussion.

Instead of the pageant-style adopted last year, the committee decided to introduce clear, sharp political messages.

It was agreed, therefore, that each float would represent an aspect of the Draft Manifesto and the Charter of Basic Rights adopted at the All Trades Unions Alliance in Birmingham last November 6.

'It meant studying the Draft Manifesto and trying to see what points could be extracted and given graphic political expression,' said Sean Hudson, head of construction.

'The main points of the Manifesto had to be brought to life visually and hammered home.'

In campaigns like this, however, the question of finances raises its ugly head.

The construction of seven floats costs money: timber, paint, nails, screws and all the other carpentry tools of trade necessary to make their construction a thoroughly professional job. At this point let me explain a little more about Sean Hudson.

Apart from being an assistant film director, photographer, carpenter and cook, he has the uncanny knack of being able to 'arrange things'. Thus while working on a film

set he can produce an elephant or a sword swallower or a giant birthday cake within an hour if the director so desires.

Therefore, when it came to obtaining the timber and the equipment for the big construction job, he came good. Truckloads of pine wood and plywood mysteriously appeared. It was obtained free of charge from sympathizers of the YS and SLL.

Labour at this time is not difficult. But it necessarily varies in quality.

What I mean is this: some of the actors who give their time unstintingly to the movement on the stage are very good thespians. But few great shakes with a saw. So they are given paint brushes.

Many YS members with time on their hands because they are unemployed also gave a hand.

The rest of the construction team was made up from professionals who came in their spare time to help out.

During the past ten days work has been going on all day and half the night to finish all seven floats on time.

When Workers Press went to report on progress on Wednesday, Sean was standing amid the debris of wood shavings and half-painted displays: 'I always start off saying we'll never finish in time. But I've been proved wrong again. We're going to make it!'

The floats in order of procession will be:

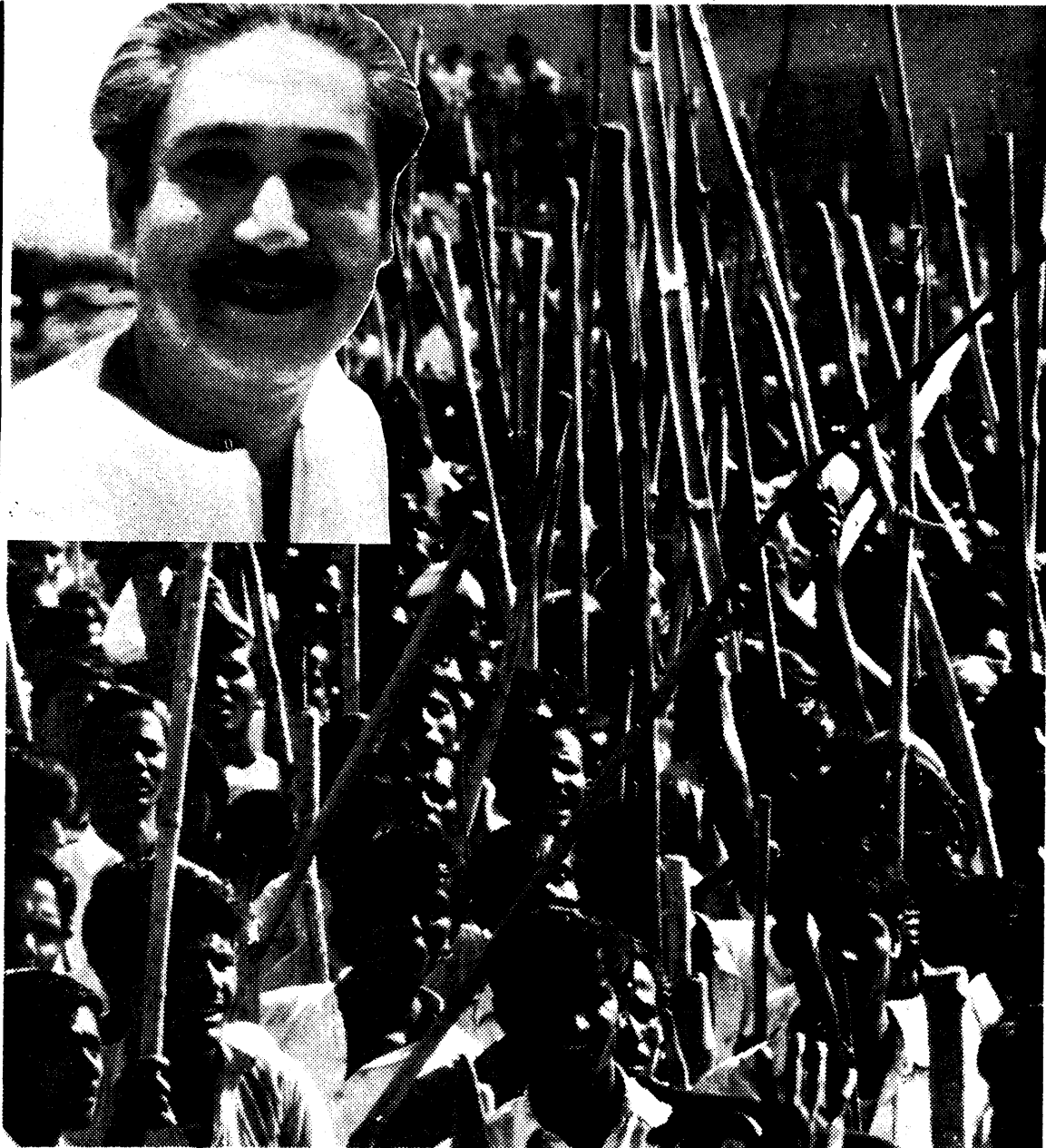
- Defeat the anti-trade union laws, demand the right to work and defend the right to strike.
- Victory to the Vietnamese peasants and workers, withdraw troops from Ulster.
- A history of the working class depicting the rise of trade unions.
- One million unemployed with standard of living down and cost of living up.
- Defend the basic rights of the health, housing and welfare service.
- No return to the 1930s. Kick the Tories out.
- Build the revolutionary party in 1972.

At 7 a.m. on Sunday Sean and his helpers will erect the floats and lash them to the back of seven huge lorries.

When they reach The Embankment they deserve to see the biggest May Day demonstration we've ever staged ready to go into action. They shan't be disappointed.



Top: working on the float with the theme 'Defend the basic rights of the health, housing and welfare service'. Below Sean Hudson and co-workers discuss plans.



'MORNING STAR' AND MUJIB

BY TOM KEMP

General support for Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Bangla Desh regime and his Awami League government is indicated in three articles in last week's 'Morning Star' by Jack Woddis, head of the national Department.

A theoretical defence of this position was attempted in the final article where it was claimed that 'no strong bourgeoisie' exists in Bangla Desh because the economy was controlled by W Pakistan business interests when it was part of Pakistan.

While pointing out that 'a new bourgeoisie, or a petty bourgeoisie, with intentions of rapidly enriching itself soon arises unless prompt and adequate measures are taken to prevent this', Woddis does not draw the necessary political conclusions.

It is precisely in the Awami League that these tendencies express themselves.

It is not enough to talk about the organization and leadership of the working class to oppose the rise of such a bourgeoisie. It is necessary to have the correct programme.

Much of what Woddis describes of his visit to Bangla Desh shows that the bourgeoisie is re-constituting itself and that the Soviet Union is aiding this process.

Instead of putting forward a policy to lead the working class to power with the support of the mass of the peasantry, the Communist Party of Bangla Desh is pursuing a policy of 'national unity'.

Woddis quotes approvingly Sheikh Mujib's speech during his visit to Moscow in which he

thanked the Soviet Union for its support and protested hypocritically that he would carry on the struggle against imperialism.

Mujib has no intention of fighting against imperialism. He depends upon it for support. As for the Bangla Desh Communist Party, Woddis reports it stands for 'a clear constructive policy by the government', i.e. the Awami League government. Its leaders simply talk about mobilizing the people to press 'for improvements where necessary'.

Woddis' visit was presumably the British Communist Party's endorsement of the 'national unity' policy. He certainly has no criticism of the Trade Union Kendra's reformist and class-collaborationist position. This body is largely led by National Awami Party and Communist Party members.

The trade unions call on their members to 'help industrialize the country' and warn against those (?) who are trying to take advantage of the present hardships 'to embroil the working class in anti-national activities. . . . By raising demands which cannot be fulfilled at this stage they are trying to dissuade the working class from their task of national reconstruction. This will hinder national development and will ultimately harm the working class itself.'

This is a familiar tune. It was sung by CP general secretaries Maurice Thorez in France and Palmiro Togliatti in Italy when they helped to restore capitalism and strengthen the bourgeois state after World War II.

In Bangla Desh it can only mean the same thing: the consolidation of the local bourgeoisie, weak as it now is, along lines only too familiar in neighbouring India.



Jack Woddis

What Woddis pretends to warn about in a pseudo-Marxist way is bound to be the outcome of the policies which he supports when carried out by the Bangla Desh CP and the trade unions under its influence.

The same basic principles arise in connection with the peasant question. Woddis does not like Maullna Bashani, whose land policy he probably regards as too radical. He supports the pro-Moscow breakaway from Bashani's National Awami Party, headed by Moni Singh. Singh stands for a policy of comparatively mild agrarian reform in line with the general CP programme.

The CP policy is the road of betrayal and defeat and is designed to kill the revolutionary upsurge of the Bangla Desh masses. And it plays right into the hands of Sheikh Mujib, the darling of the Soviet bureaucracy and the Indian bourgeoisie.

ANOTHER WHEAT DRIVE IN RUSSIA

Faced with a shortfall in the grain harvest this year owing to climatic conditions during

the winter, the Soviet Union is to increase sowing on the virgin lands.

'Pravda' says that millions of acres of land in Western Siberia, Kazakhstan and the Altai territory will be sown with spring wheat. The campaign is to be waged on a 'grandiose' scale.

Extensive farming on the virgin lands was begun by Nikita Khrushchev in the 1950s with results which were often disappointing. Thousands of young people were encouraged to go to these areas where conditions of life were very hard.

Dust storms, drought and soil erosion reduced the yield from the area and brought the virgin lands programme into some disrepute.



Nikita Khrushchev



Honecker: Communist Party chief of East Germany

STATE OWNERSHIP IS EXTENDED

The remaining private and semi-private businesses in the German Democratic Republic are to be taken over by the state this summer according to Communist Party daily 'Neues Deutschland'.

It said that 73 per cent of the private capitalist and 94 per cent of the semi-private firms had agreed to the take-over. About 3,000 private firms are concerned.

The present owners will receive compensation. Honecker's government also intends to fix a maximum income of about £220 per month. A boost to pensions and social security benefits has been announced.

These changes reflect growing pressure from the working class in the DDR for an improvement in living standards and an end to privilege. It links up with the revival of the working class movement in Western Germany and the issues raised by the treaties between Bonn and Moscow.



Left: Cambodia's ultra-right Head of State, Lon Nol arranged a 'liberty' march of the people at Phnom Penh olympic stadium, but the people stayed away. Above: Prince Sihanouk, the paternalist, and leader of the Cambodian Liberation Front, 'tilling the soil' with his peasants before he was deposed by the CIA-initiated coup. Below: Sirik Matak, present Prime Minister (left) with Lon Nol (centre).



CAMBODIA — NIXON'S FALLING DOMINO

BY ANNA TATE

Ever since assuming the Presidency of the United States of America, Richard Nixon has been bent upon selling himself to his nation, and to the world as the ultimate peace-maker.

It is an image the world will buy at its peril, for his Guam doctrine with its concomitant 'Vietnamization' programme provides a sinister smokescreen behind which lurk the contradictions of US capital in crisis.

The Guam doctrine merely spells the temporary eclipse of the GI in Asia in favour of the B52. It is the logical outcome of a political doctrine which Nixon

has espoused for 30 years. It was he, and not Eisenhower (as is generally believed), who coined the 'domino-theory'.

In April, 1954, when Dien Bien Phu was under siege, it was Nixon who claimed: 'It should be emphasized that if Indo-China went communist, red pressures would increase on Malaya, Thailand and Indonesia, and other Asian nations. The main target of the communists in Indo-China, as it was in Korea, is Japan. Conquest of areas so vital to Japan's economy would reduce Japan to an economic satellite of the Soviet Union.'

It was the same Nixon who, as Vice-President, promoted the notion that the 'loss' of Vietnam would set in motion a falling

row of dominoes. Eisenhower used the analogy some days later, on April 7, 1954. This cry of anti-communist hysteria, which was to be covered up by the sweet slogan of a 'fight for the free world' was based entirely on US aims of domination of Asian markets and resources.

During the American occupation of post-war Japan that policy began to be implemented. By May, 1946, the US occupiers had begun to crack down on the Japanese working-class movement in a bid to re-launch Nippon industry. The successful Chinese Revolution of 1949 and the Korean War of 1950 accelerated this determined drive to establish a bastion of capitalist development in Asia.

As Eisenhower put it: 'One of Japan's greatest opportunities for increased trade lies in a free and developing SE Asia... The great need in one country is for raw materials, in the other country for manufactured goods. The two regions complement each other markedly. By strengthening of Vietnam and helping insure the safety of the S. Pacific and SE Asia, we gradually develop the great trade potential between this region... and highly industrialized Japan to the benefit of both. In this way freedom in the W Pacific will be greatly strengthened.'

RESISTANCE

Any nation in Asia which, by its own experience, repudiated participation in this capitalist club; any nation which engaged in a war of resistance against colonial oppression was characterized as a 'Russian' or 'Chinese' aggressor. The Chinese revolution itself was characterized as a purely Russian product by Dean Acheson, who likened it to a 'Slavic Manchuko' on a gigantic scale!

Having done everything in his power to impede the Geneva Conference of 1954, the US Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, walked out on it completely and declared war on peace by categorically denouncing neutrality in Asia as 'dangerous and immoral'.

Laos, Cambodia and S Vietnam were, nevertheless, designated as neutral states by the Geneva Accords. In direct opposition to these Accords, Dulles, the most fervent pioneer of reactionary strategic planning, proceeded to set up the SE Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) in September 1954. SEATO was expressly designed as an aggressive weapon against people's war. Its only Asian adherents were the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan.

Cambodia, under its then Chief of State, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, refused to join SEATO. It was a refusal which was to lead, after many such attempts initiated by the CIA, to the toppling of Sihanouk from power on March 18, 1970, the installation of an ultra-right wing, military, pro-US group in government, and the launching of Cambodia into the front line of the Indo-China war.

The Cambodian coup d'état of 1970 is perhaps the most serious miscalculation in a long series of

miscalculations which State Department foreign policy makers have indulged in. The ultra-right group of Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh which now rules, represents only the interests of an elite number of supporters of foreign-dominated (i.e. US) comprador capitalism. They have ranged against them the minute but militant working class of Cambodia, largely represented by the rubber-plantation workers. These workers have a tradition of political resistance which goes back to 1947, when in the fight for independence, they set up armed units and organized under the very noses of the French. To this day, the Lon Nol government is unable to crush the fighting will of these men, the most determined of whom hold the Chup plantations in the province of Kompong Cham, near the Vietnamese border.

Also ranged against the government are the vast mass of the peasantry. The speed and tenacity with which the seemingly 'apathetic' peasants of Cambodia have mobilized into the Liberation Front in the last two years is proof enough of the disastrous strategy of 'quotient of pain' implemented by the USA in terms of aerial bombardment, chemical warfare and ground terrorization.

The mass of peasants in Cam-

bodia, did, indeed, until March 1970, remain outside the political arena. The reason for this lies in the feudal nature of the economy, with the dominance of subsistence agriculture. This was reflected culturally by a profound and undisturbed religiosity which dominated peasant life, and cemented a strong relationship with the king, who represents for the people the incarnation of Vishnu, Lord of the Universe.

EXILE

Sihanouk, king of Cambodia from 1941 until his abdication in 1955, is regarded by the peasantry as semi-divine. The fact that he has aligned himself with the resistance and is leading the government in exile, has contributed massively to the strength of the Liberation Front. The savage bombardment of the countryside, carried out indiscriminately, has resulted in the adherence to the Liberation Front of the very Buddhist monks whom Lon Nol had hoped to make the bastion of his

power base among the people. As pagodas are demolished by air attack and desecrated by demoralized government soldiers, the influx of monks to the vast rebel-controlled zones grows daily.

The government has also added to its unpopularity by the enormous corruption within its own ranks and more especially within the ranks of the military leaders. While colonels in the capital, Phnom Penh, have acquired villas and cars in two years, their soldiers in battle find themselves unpaid for months. Recently a group of such soldiers set off from the battlefield to march on Phnom Penh, for their wages. They were arrested on arrival.

There is also a tendency on the part of the colonels to conceal deaths on the field of battle so as not to lose income, and it is this fortune-hunting at the expense of human lives which is causing profound demoralization in the ranks of Lon Nol's troops.

Inflation which until 1970 had maintained itself at a moderate level began, in 1971, to skyrocket. Basic food prices have trebled, causing immense suffering not only for the poor majority but also for the civil service and functionary class who are on a fixed income. Only those who are in a position to profit directly from the war, i.e. the govern-

ment, the military and the speculators, are cushioned from these harsh realities of economic catastrophe.

There is almost no section of Cambodian population which is not affected by the growing contempt for, and struggle against the American-supported Lon Nol-Sirik Matak government. Students have been rioting for weeks. The Law Faculty—not known in the past for a radical stance—has been occupied by armed students demanding the resignation of Sirik Matak. Many students have left the capital and are working in liberated zones.

CONTROL

The Popular Armed Forces for National Liberation (FAPLN) and its political leadership, the National United Front of Cambodia (FUNC) have claimed military and administrative control over four-fifths of all Cambodian territory and over 5 million of Cambodia's population of 7 million people.

Reports from well-known French journalists, Jacques

Decornoy and Serge Thion of 'Le Monde' seem to bear out these claims. Thion has just spent three weeks with the guerrillas who control an area just ten miles outside the capital. In that region, armed rebel guerrillas circulate freely during the day, for such is their support among the people that they have little to fear from espionage agents.

The National Liberation Front of Vietnam is at this moment waging a massive offensive for the towns of S Vietnam, for a guerrilla war needs the people and their people have been bombed into the towns by the US.

In Cambodia, the Cambodian Liberation Front has an easier task, for it already controls several provincial towns and is within striking distance of the capital. Its fighters have also shown an amazing ability to mount strikes in the very heart of Phnom Penh and to withdraw without much damage to themselves.

What US policy has succeeded in doing is to ally the three liberation fronts of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. It is an alliance which spells doom for American intent in Indo-China. It is also an inverted vindication of the domino theory.

The US pushed so hard that the dominoes began to fall.



TRADE UNIONS AND THE MIDDLE CLASS

By Gerry Healy, National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League

Trade unions in Britain are the form through which the working class, as a class, has emerged in its struggle with capitalism.

Past relations between the employers and the unions have been regulated by a voluntary negotiating procedure. This is now replaced by the compulsory legal powers of the Industrial Relations Act.

A Tory High Court has powers to enforce its will on the trade unions whenever it thinks this is necessary. Every important wages dispute is thereby transformed into a political issue.

Under circumstances like these, unity on the basis of a common wages policy, such as we saw between the three railway unions, is totally inadequate. Once the government invoked the Court, such unity, no matter how effective it might have been in the past, was unable to challenge the political implications of the government's action.

The working class derives its knowledge from the different class-struggle experiences which throughout its history reflect the actual relations between the employers and their trade unions.

During the reformist era of voluntary negotiation, the workers relied on the unions to act on their behalf and the consciousness of the militant vanguard within them rarely rose above a spontaneous leftist trade union level.

Although the advent of the National Industrial Relations Court has drastically changed this relationship, the working class cannot immediately break from its old form of thinking.

Their consciousness lags behind objective developments. While it is true that within the present crisis there is a leftward movement of hostility to the government and to those trade union

leaders who have capitulated to it—by itself this is not enough.

What we see is a centrist type of development which, as Trotsky said, 'reflects the progress of evolution of the working class, its political growth as well as its revolutionary setback'.

Since all consciousness develops from practice, the working class can only be broken from the old forms of trade union practice by a new form of practice. The essence of this new practice is outlined by the Transitional Programme of the Fourth International on pages 14, 15 and 16, New Park Publications edition.*

The Socialist Labour League refuses to tail-end even the most left expressions of trade union consciousness. This would be nothing more than a capitulation to the present spontaneous centrist evolution of the working class.

The struggle for minimum wage demands is inseparable from the struggle to make the Tory government resign.

This will greatly strengthen the working class and open the door to the election of a Labour government, in which the right-wing leadership would be more and more exposed.

This would be undertaken through the struggle to force them to apply a programme of transitional demands which would lead towards the conquest of power and the emergence of the mass revolutionary party.

The Socialist Labour League campaigns continuously along these lines to provide the leadership which will enable the working class, through its practical experiences, to break from the old forms of trade union consciousness.

Now let us look at the role of our middle-class political opponents, such as the group

which says that there is state capitalism in the USSR, the International Socialists (IS).

They confine themselves to purely left forms of trade union militancy and solidarity actions. The one-day strike is a favourite here. Each group deliberately avoids like the plague campaigning for the working class to utilize its strength to force the government to resign.

One of the best examples of this middle-class tail-ending of the working class is contained in a programme printed in 'Socialist Worker', weekly paper of the IS group, on April 15.

Titled 'A Policy To Win', it says:

1. The USE of the courts to defeat the dockers can be beaten by:

1. Maintenance of the blacking and continued boycott of the Industrial Relations Court. Keep blacking Heaton's in reprisal for its use of the law.

2. Non-payment of the fine. The T&GWU should call official strikes if its funds are seized.

3. Solidarity action from the TUC. Break off talks with the Tory government.

4. Continued total non-cooperation with the Act by the TUC.

5. Massive official support for a one-day strike on May 1.

Every demand here is deliberately tailored to fit within the framework of trade union consciousness. They are designed to keep trade unionists confined to industrial issues and sidetrack them from mobilizing their forces from the political struggle against the Tory government.

The IS talks about a revolutionary party, but in effect it has something else in mind. In 'Socialist Worker' April 22, it explains what that something else is.

'We are living in a highly unstable situation. Unless, in the not too distant future, the employers offensive is decisively beaten, the British working class faces a whole series of defeats. And the offensive will not be beaten unless a powerful grass roots organization of militants can be built.'

So there it is. We need a left reformist trade union programme and an organization of 'grass-roots militants' to carry it out.

Here we see the professional centrism of these middle-class revisionists. Sensing that the workers are moving from reformism to the left, they step in to wall off their development from the revolutionary road.

Although they will verbally criticize the right wing, they in fact have no confidence in the

possibility of the working class establishing its political independence from the right wing and reformist politics. They just provide a left centrist cover to keep it where it is.

The cynical contempt with which they treat the working class knows no bounds. Elsewhere in these two issues they advertise a meeting at which Tory Cliff and Paul Foot are to speak under the title 'Bring down the Tory government'. But this is on May Day when presumably it is the 'in' thing for centrists to let their hair down in a spate of left speechmaking.

Just as the IS use the slogan of 'Bring down the Tory government' for holiday occasions, they use the term 'revolutionary party' in the same way. That is why it becomes so easily interchangeable in their press with syndicalist terminology such as 'grass-roots organization'. One does not have to adhere to Marxist principles to join such an organization; it is sufficient to support whatever group protest and trade union demands which are in vogue at the moment.

*The Minimum Programme and the Transitional Programme

The strategic task of the next period — a pre-revolutionary period of agitation, propaganda and organization — consists in overcoming the contradiction between the maturity of the objective revolutionary conditions and the immaturity of the proletariat and its vanguard (the confusion and disappointment of the older generation, the inexperience of the younger generation). It is necessary to help the masses in the process of the daily struggle to find the bridge between present demands and the socialist programme of the revolution. This bridge should include a system of transitional demands, stemming from today's conditions and from today's consciousness of wide layers of the working class and unalterably leading to one final conclusion: the conquest of power by the proletariat.

Classical Social Democracy, functioning in an epoch of progressive capitalism, divided its programme into two parts independent of each other: the minimum programme which limited itself to reforms within the framework of bourgeois society, and the maximum programme which promised substitution of socialism for capitalism in the indefinite future. Between the minimum and the maximum programme no bridge existed. And indeed Social Democracy has no

Advent of the National Industrial Relations Court has drastically changed workers' relationship to their unions. Above: Heaton's brothers who took out the injunction against the T&GWU leave the Court.

need of such a bridge, since the word socialism is used only for holiday speechifying. The Comintern [Stalinist] has set out to follow the path of Social Democracy in an epoch of decaying capitalism: when, in general, there can be no discussion of systematic social reforms and the raising of the masses' living standards; when every serious demand of the petty bourgeoisie inevitably reaches beyond the limits of capitalist property relations and of the bourgeois state.

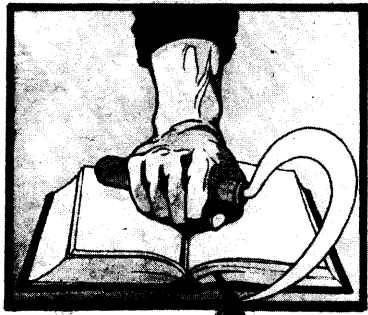
The strategic task of the Fourth International lies not in reforming capitalism but in its overthrow. Its political aim is the conquest of power by the proletariat for the purpose of expropriating the bourgeoisie. However, the achievement of this strategic task is unthinkable without the most considered attention to all, even small and partial, questions of tactics. All sections of the proletariat, all its layers, occupations and groups, should be drawn into the revolutionary movement. The present epoch is distinguished not for the fact that it frees the revolutionary party from day-to-day work but because it permits this work to be carried on indissolubly with the actual tasks of the revolution.

The Fourth International does not discard the programme of the old 'minimal' demands to the degree to which these have preserved at least part of their vital forcefulness. Indefatigably, it defends the democratic rights and social conquests of the workers. But it carries on this day-to-day work within the framework of the correct actual, that is, revolutionary perspective. Insofar as the old, partial, 'minimal' demands of the masses clash with the destructive and degrading tendencies of decadent capitalism—and this occurs at each step—the Fourth International advances a system of transitional demands, the essence of which is contained in the fact that ever more openly and decisively they will be directed against the very bases of the bourgeois regime. The old 'minimal programme' is superseded by the transitional programme, the task of which lies in systematic mobilization of the masses for the proletarian revolution. (Pages 14-16, Transitional Programme of the Fourth International.)

STALINISM: A VIEW FROM THE INSIDE

BY TOM KEMP

BOOK REVIEW



'LET HISTORY JUDGE: THE ORIGINS AND CONSEQUENCES OF STALINISM'. By Roy A. Medvedev. Edited with an Introduction by David Joravsky. Macmillan. £5.75.

The contrast between the propaganda image of Stalin which they were brought up to believe in and the terrible truth about his crimes came as a great shock to many Soviet people of Medvedev's generation.

At the same time, after the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, survivors of the purges and repression emerged from the camps and prisons. Those who had lived through the terror began to speak more freely. Public discussion in the official press gave only a small impression of the ferment which was taking place below the surface in Soviet society.

Medvedev's book comes from this bitter experience. It represents the first independent attempt in the Soviet Union to understand the Stalin era.

'We must' writes Medvedev, a child of the October Revolution, 'respect the memory of our fallen fathers and brothers, the hundreds of thousands and millions of people who were the victims of Stalin's lawlessness. For if we are unable to learn all the necessary lessons from this tragedy, then the destruction of an entire generation of revolutionaries and millions of other innocent people will remain nothing more than a senseless catastrophe.'

Medvedev writes within limits imposed by the legacy of Stalinism in the Soviet Union. The archives are not open to inspection, incriminating documents have been destroyed and many works such as those of Trotsky, are not available. On the other hand, he had the benefit of unpublished memoirs and personal statements from many people who lived through the Stalin era.

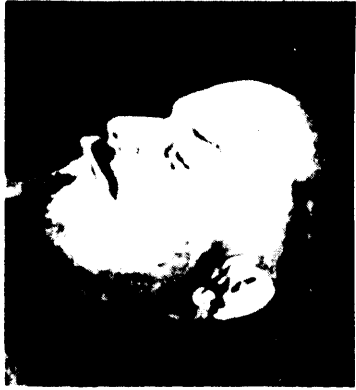
What is more, he writes under the conditions of extreme tension generated by the contradiction between the heritage of the October Revolution and the bureaucratic degeneration resulting from the Stalin era. It is clear, from the way in which Medvedev writes, that the conquests of that Revolution are still very much alive.

The great significance of his book derives from the fact that it was written in a bureaucratically-degenerated workers' state. In its main lines Medvedev's book confirms the analysis which Trotsky made of the Soviet

Union in 'The Revolution Betrayed' and other writings. He elaborates and adds further detail to that picture yet, at the same time, he misunderstands and distorts the history of the struggles of the Left Opposition in the period after Lenin's death.

Rightly Medvedev insists that the Stalinist course was not inevitable. As he says, it would not have happened if Lenin had remained alive — or he would have had to be removed. His book rebuts forcefully those theories which claim that Stalinism was a continuation of Leninism. In fact, Stalin had to destroy the Bolshevik Party, discard Lenin's teaching while canonizing Lenin himself and only kept around a few survivors of the past to substantiate his claim to be the continuator of Lenin's work.

But, although Medvedev believes that Stalinism was not inevitable, he fails to see that the only revolutionary alternative to the policy of Stalin and his allies after Lenin's death was that put forward by Trotsky and the Left Opposition. His treatment of this period, in fact, is one of the weakest parts of the book.



The events of the 1920s in Russia: (top to bottom) the death of Lenin, the rise of Stalin and Trotsky's exile. Medvedev's version depends too much on the official histories and appears unaware of the struggle of the Left Opposition.



Author Roy Medvedev with his brother Zhores: there is great significance in the fact that this book was written by a Communist Party member in a degenerated workers' state.

Medvedev's version of events in the 1920s depends too much upon the official histories of this period. He seems to be unaware of the 'Platform of the Left Opposition' and he seriously underestimates the importance of the international context in which the Stalinist degeneration was possible.

While it is right to say that the effect of Stalinism on the international communist movement prevented the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism during the great slump of the 1930s, the harm had already been done in the previous decade. The events in China, Germany and Britain, productive of defeats for the working class, made possible Stalin's climb to power. A working-class victory in one of the major capitalist countries would have been a sentence of death on Stalinism in the Soviet Union.

In the same way, to explain how Stalin was able to rise to power and impose his will on the Communist Party and the Soviet state, much more weight has to be attributed to social forces than Medvedev generally gives.

Often the impression is given that it was the 'cult of personality' which was responsible for Stalin's crimes. Thus, Medvedev's account in some ways becomes a more extended and truthful version of the 'de-Stalinization campaign' begun under Khrushchev at the 20th and 22nd Congresses of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Medvedev conceives of the degeneration in too narrow terms, not as involving the creation of a whole parasitic ruling stratum of which Stalin was the dominating figure, becoming more and more despotic as time went on. It is true that in places he moves towards such a conception. He shows how the apparatus men had a thoroughly petty-bourgeois outlook behind their socialist phrases and that 'Time-serving and complete submission to those above was their defence against those beneath, the people'.

He rightly says that 'Stalin was not simply a dictator, he stood at the peak of a whole system of smaller dictators; he was the head bureaucrat over hundreds and thousands of smaller bureaucrats'. But it is not true that no scientific analysis of this phenomenon has been made; Trotsky discerned it in its very early stages and provided the theoretical analysis for a struggle against it.

Medvedev's book presents a mass of material and much food for study and thought to which a short review cannot do justice. As an arraignment of Stalin and the Stalinists before the court of history, it is all the more remarkable in coming from the Soviet Union and having been

written by a Communist Party member.

Why, then, was his book not passed by the censor? There is no doubt that the decision not to permit its publication came from the highest level. What makes Medvedev's book objectionable is that he does not subscribe to the 'orthodox' view that despite Stalin's 'excesses' the 'building of socialism' went on virtually unaffected. He shows with chapter and verse just how Stalinism imposed heavy and unnecessary burdens on the Soviet people, as well as calling for the full truth to be shed on the mass purges and repressions of the Stalin era and the rehabilitation of all the victims.

He allows no way of escape for those who by their silence and complicity assisted Stalin's rise to power and benefited from it in their careers. And the present-day leaders owe their position to their fidelity to Stalin and continue to rule as a privileged and parasitic layer. They are unable to give a true account of their past and want to draw a veil over the many uncomfortable facts with which Medvedev's book is studded.

In fact, since 1964 there has been a definite tendency to admit a certain rehabilitation of Stalin or, at least, to stop the investigation into the past which began in 1956. The publication of Medvedev's book in the Soviet Union today would, therefore, be an embarrassment to the bureaucracy.

On the other hand, they may have tolerated its appearance abroad and not taken repressive action against its author for political reasons. After all, there is not very much in the book which cannot be found out by reading works available outside the Soviet Union for many years. Medvedev's book does not come as a shattering revelation, but only as a valuable confirmation of the Trotskyist analysis.

The bureaucracy is perhaps not unwilling for it to be known that such books can be written by Soviet intellectuals, even if they cannot be published. Also, the part of the truth—notably about the struggle of the Left Opposition, which Medvedev is unable to see—together with the fact that he does not specify the social monstrosity produced by Stalinism, the bureaucracy itself, or point to any way of removing it, makes his work apparently harmless for circulation outside Russia.

It has to be critically reworked in order to derive the full lessons from it and to reveal his inadequacies and their source. With the aim of pursuing the struggle against Stalinism to its end we will be publishing a series of articles in Workers Press in the coming weeks.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

Welcome

Just how secular is the Awami League government of Bangla Desh? Secularism is supposed to be one of the foundation stones of the new state. . . . But as the following item from 'Bangla Desh Newsletter' demonstrates this is not all it seems:

☞ Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the beginning there was nothing and God created everything. So let me start in the name of God Almighty, the Creator of Universe, and with all praises for Him, for it is from Him that emanates all Truth, Goodness and Beauty and it is He that bestowed inherent creativeness on human beings and sustained their endless efforts for survival and growth in their journey from the ages of darkness to the age of light. With these humble feelings of thankfulness and praises to the Supreme Being and prayers for the success of our new enterprise, I extend to all our distinguished guests my heartiest welcome to this inaugural ceremony.

We invite the readers to guess what this inaugural ceremony was about! Opening of a church? Raising of a mosque? Or offering a sacrificial goat before goddess Kali? No! You are absolutely mistaken. The sermon was delivered as an introduction to the inauguration ceremony of the first foreign branch of the Eastern Mercantile Bank of Bangla Desh. It took place in the banquet room of a plush hotel in the City of London. The sermon was addressed to a gathering of about 100 guests, most of whom were hard-headed English businessmen.

Eastern Mercantile Bank is a nationalized enterprise. And Bangla Desh, as the Awami League keeps saying, is a secular state. . . .

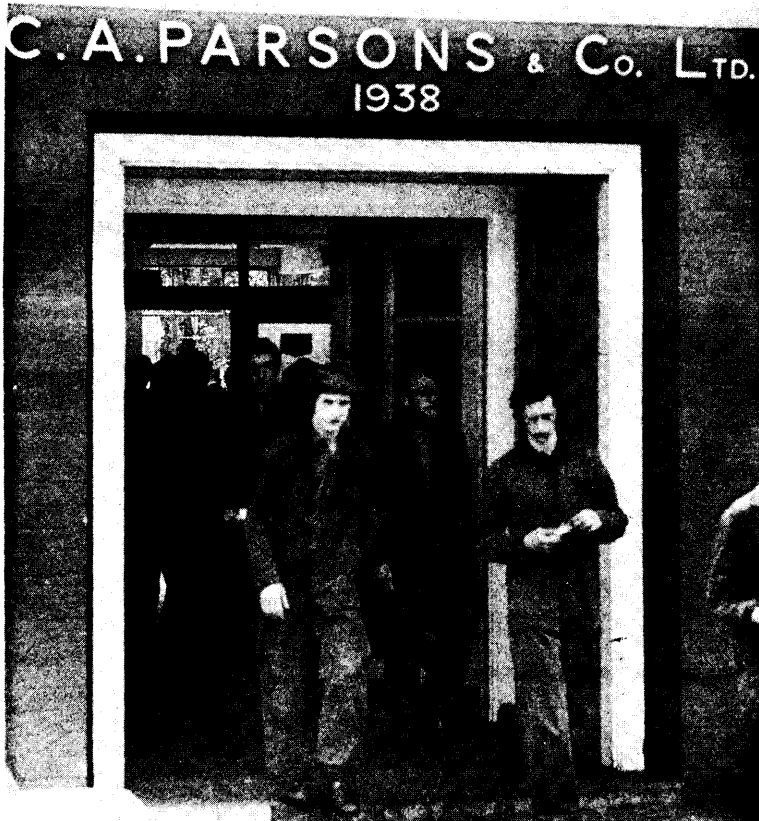
Alternative

No one should be too upset that actor Brian McDermott failed to become the new MP for Southwark in the by-election. His anti-Heath Alternative Party carries this statement: 'The Alternative Party will fight for a fair deal for actors. They've shown what actors can do in America. Witness Ronald Reagan and Jane Fonda.'

Reagan, it will be remembered, is calling for the death penalty for Angela Davis.



Angela Davis



Manual staff leaving the plant

Revisionists and Suicidal campaign against C. A. Parsons' staff sackings

ON-THE-SPOT REPORT BY IAN YEATS

NEARLY 1,000 men at C. A. Parsons' Newcastle turbine generator plant are to be sacked—under their present leadership the only question is when and under what procedure.

Parsons say the slump in industrial growth at home and overseas has led to a severe fall in the expansion of demand for electricity and a 'very small intake of orders since the autumn of 1970'.

Orders for seven to nine large turbine generator sets worth £90m from the Central Electricity Generating Board failed to materialize after the Tory election victory on June 18, 1970.

Major new power stations at Sizewell and Ince in Cheshire were put into cold storage.

In 1971 Parsons made a desperate lunge at the US market via a new company to be known as North American Rockwell, only to have their face slapped by the American turbine giants, themselves feeling the pinch of recession.

Technical staff recruited and trained for this project now languish with scores of other surplus technical personnel in the offices at the Heaton Works, Newcastle.

Prospects of a return to boom conditions in the near future, say Parsons, are remote, with home demand expected to be at a 'low level for a significant number of years ahead'.

Parsons chairman, Edward Judge, announced losses of £8.26m in his end of year group statement earlier this month. While he was speaking on April 28, a shock ran through the Stock Exchange and Parsons' shares plunged 25½p rallying to close 9½p lower on the day at 88½p.

Putting aside a new accounting procedure, which includes estimated losses on Parsons' £200m order book up to 1977, the loss in 1971 was £978,000 compared with a profit of £2.08m in 1970.

Judge told shareholders they would get a token 1 per cent dividend in 1971 compared with 13½ per cent in 1970.

And he said: 'One immediate and vital consequence is the necessity of tailoring the resources in line with the work load which regrettably means reduced employment.'

And the company went on to warn in a prepared statement:

'Because of the long design-manufacture cycle of turbine-generators, any order received from home or overseas in the immediate future will not greatly increase the work load for many months.'

'To remain competitive, the company has decided it must examine ruthlessly all expenditure, eliminating all that is not essential for immediate needs or to ensure its technical competence over the next decade.'

Recognizing the deepening recession, the company noted that the position in which it found itself was 'common to most British heavy industry at the present time'.

It added: 'The steps proposed by the company are common business practice and the level of employment and the daily announcement of redundancies are evidence of the extent to which other manufacturers have had to cut their work forces in line with their work loads.'

Obedient to Tory stand-on-

your-own-feet doctrine and the logic of capital, recession is forcing Parsons to trim their sails drastically.

They freely admit it.

But the revisionist International Socialist (IS) group and reformist leaders of the men threatened with redundancy do not. Nor do their Stalinist advisers.

So they have spent the last four months either trying to wring blood from the Parsons stone or reaching agreements to postpone the inevitable until 1973.

Company statements leave no shadow of doubt that without an upturn in trade not only are the present 950 sackings unavoidable, but they may be followed

to be kept open until the end of the year as well.

Most important the union accepted the company's view that the interval should be used to bring about voluntary redundancy and early retirement—in other words they accepted the very redundancies they had begun by fighting.

'Generous' redundancy payments up to 75 per cent more than workers' formal entitlement were promised to sweeten the pill—which was duly swallowed.

Not only were there to be sackings but Parsons made it clear there would be short time working as well where this was 'necessary and practicable.'

All the men covered by this

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Ken Ternant, TASS works negotiator

by even more substantial redundancies later on among the manual workers.

Without orders there is nothing for technical and planning staff to do—quite apart from the effect of the collapse of the American operation. But because of the length of time needed to make a generator, manual workers can be kept busy on work in the pipeline for some time.

This explains why, when the company announced its redundancy plans on December 16, 1971, the 950 were divided—300 from the manual workers and 650 from the 'indirect' work force.

So not only are the current 950 sackings inevitable, but hopes that there will not be more in 1973 are likely to prove entirely false.

Union response to the redundancy announcement was initially sharp.

Sections of their membership struck one day a week, the 'indirect' staff refused to use telephones and a general go-slow was called.

But almost immediately the reformist leaders of the clerical and manual unions — ASTMS, ACTSS, G&MWU, EPTU, AUEW — threw in the sponge.

They agreed to call off their fight in return for a management promise that there would be no enforced sackings during 1972 — postponing redundancies for nine months.

The drawing office in Erith, Kent, which Parsons had also intended to axe this June, was

agreement will be faced with the same redundancy fight all over again in 1973—only then, by Parsons own admission, with less work in the pipeline the sackings could be even heavier.

The 1,400 members of the technical section of the AUEW (TASS), many of whom were most affected by the proposed sackings, were left to fight on alone.

To date Parsons have sacked 600 TASS members for continuing to work-to-rule and notified 250 that they are permanently redundant—the two groups overlapping.

Communist Party local officials of TASS would accept the same terms as the other unions for calling off the work-to-rule if they were offered—in other words voluntary as opposed to enforced redundancy—but so far the deal has not been offered.

But there are signs that it might be and that large numbers of the technical staff will accept it rather than see Parsons go on to sack the entire work force.

A Parsons spokesman told me: 'The company can't work without a skilled work force and these men would be difficult to replace.'

As one of the technical staff told me: 'We are caught between the management's determination to sack us and the Industrial Relations Act. The situation is one over which we have very little control.'

Many of TASS's members are new to trade unionism. In 1968 TASS (then DATA) had only

Stalinists in deadly combination



Technical staff walk to the plant past an empty vacancies board

450 members, but as a result of a closed-shop agreement signed with Parsons in 1970 (excluding the 39-member United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers, UKAPE) membership has risen to 1,400.

Arthur Scott, this year's Stalinist president of TASS, told me at Scarborough where the union is holding its conference, what many of the men at Newcastle had already expressed: 'The troops', he said, 'were getting battle wearied.'

And they have been encouraged to become battle weary with the suicidal so-called sanctions campaign backed by the Stalinists and IS members.

Having won the closed-shop agreement from Parsons in 1970 the TASS leadership in the plant now refuses to relinquish it even though the fight for 100-per-cent bargaining rights is illegal under the Industrial Relations Act.

Since February 28 the sanctions applied by TASS have been as much in defence of the closed shop as against redundancies.

Last week and again on May 2 the National Industrial Relations Court ordered an end to the work-to-rule.

Though the TASS annual conference at Scarborough passed a resolution on Tuesday pledging defiance of the Act and refusing to order their members to resume normal working, the union's Stalinist leadership is known to feel they could do nothing if the men decided to comply of their own accord.

If it is true, this amounts to a clear-cut back-door acceptance of the Tory Industrial Relations Act over which CPer Arthur Scott was only saying on Tuesday he would be prepared to go to jail.

If, as there is good reason to believe, large numbers of the technicians show they want to abandon the closed-shop dispute

after the next mass meeting and give in to Stalinist officials' pressure to accept a face-saving no-sackings-in-1972 formula, the only way to do it is to call off the work-to-rule.

There is no doubt that the Stalinists favour the suicidal 1972 package. TASS divisional organizer Alex Baxter — also a CP member — told me: 'We would accept an agreement based on no redundancies in 1972 provided we can negotiate voluntary redundancies and early retirement.'

The IS members of the TASS leadership in the works are aware of the short-sighted nature of a no-sackings in 1972 deal.

IS TASS works negotiator Ken Ternant told me: 'The manual workers have agreed to no redundancies in 1972, but there were supposed to be 300 and by 1973 it could be 600. They will just have to face the same problem in a year's time.'

The IS leaders want the work-

to-rule to go on against the scrapping of their closed-shop agreement and against the redundancies—in defiance of two rulings by the NIRC.

Mr Ternant said: 'There will have to be a settlement and it can only be the reinstatement of our men. I think they will have to give in on this one otherwise they will have no company.'

On the contrary, the fight, as far as Parsons is concerned, may well be approaching its close. They have postponed the sacking of 300 manual workers and dismissed 660 technical staff—accounting for ten more than the 950 redundancies originally announced.

With the names of the redundant men known, the risk of a split in their ranks is substantially increased.

If, as it is expected, such a division emerges at the next mass meeting, it will also be on the issue of whether to continue sanctions in favour of the closed shop. In the shadow of further

sackings and the anti-union law, those still with jobs may not want to risk such a policy.

The trouble, Ken Ternant explained, is that 'people accept redundancy and the handouts they get from the state.'

'There needs to be massive education to show the working class that the system is completely unworkable. We can't even get an overtime ban. This is the depths to which people have sunk.'

This is precisely the line of the Communist Party leaders in the area who stress over and over again the utter hopelessness of asking workers to fight for their rights.

Said Ternant: 'I would not say it is an impossible task, but there is a lot of educating to be done. The solution is very hard to see. Workers still don't see the lessons.'

The sackings at Parsons, the freeze on new power stations and the consequent cut-back in generator orders are a direct outcome of Tory policies.

What about an occupation? What about extending the fight for the right to work at Parsons outside the factory? What about raising the foundation issue of the absolute necessity of bringing down the Tory government and return a Labour government pledged to nationalization without compensation and under workers' control? How else can the Industrial Relations Act be dealt with?

'It's virtually an occupation now,' Ternant explained, 'but the men go home every night.'

'You see if we brought down the Tory government and replaced it with a Labour government, it would just take us through another period of administering the capitalist system.'

'It was Labour that introduced "In Place of Strife", allowed unemployment to go up to 600,000 and brought in the first cuts in the social services.'

The International Socialists' argument that Tories and Labourites are the same, leads them logically to their position on the Industrial Relations Act set out in a leaflet distributed to Parsons workers.

'The only way to kill this vicious law is to break it. No fines must be paid.'

Not only has IS abandoned any real struggle at the factory on the grounds that mass education is needed beforehand, but its members refuse to raise political demands on the basis of the fight for jobs on the grounds that Labour and Tories are exactly the same.

And flowing from that, their answer to the Industrial Relations Act is to urge their members, simply, to break the law—a position on their knees from which they could never hope to rise.

The IS share with the CP a deep and irreversible pessimism about the working class. It is this total lack of confidence in the class which leads them to substitute abstract education for the future for a policy of immediate struggle.

The working class learns in the white heat of battle and the first step in educating them and developing consciousness is to make this Tory government resign.

If there is a wait-and-see attitude to talk of round-the-clock occupation, it is because, basically, the IS leaders genuinely believe they can, at least, win the jobs battle.

They believe it because they do not recognize there is a recession nor the Tory government's role in helping firms like Parsons to survive it.

Ternant told me: 'A few more orders could turn this situation round.'

But the management themselves say the prospect of substantial new orders is remote. And the prospect of the Tories making Parsons an exception to their union law and allowing TASS to keep its sole bargaining rights are equally remote.

Unless the fight for jobs at Parsons is linked to a demand to force the Tories to resign in favour of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies, which alone can safeguard the right of every man to work, not a job will be saved.

The treacherous no-sacking-in-1972 formula approved by the Stalinists and the bare-faced abdication of leadership by the IS are a certain recipe for disaster.

BBC 1

9.20-9.35 Andy Pandy. 9.38-11.55 Schools. 12.55 - 1.25 Canu'r bobol. 1.30 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Racing from Kempton Park. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Screen test. 5.20 Hope and Keen's crazy bus. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 LONDON THIS WEEK.

6.20 GEORGIE BEST. Chest control for attackers.

6.30 THE VIRGINIAN. Nightmare.

7.40 THE LIVER BIRDS.

8.10 THE BROTHERS. A worm in the bud.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 SPORT. Amateur boxing's night of the year... Cup Final special.

10.45 24 HOURS.

11.15 FILM: 'A NIGHT AT THE OPERA'. The Marx Brothers.

12.45 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.

6.05-6.30 OPEN UNIVERSITY.

6.35 CRIME AND THE CRIMINAL. The Ages of Crime.

7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 THE MONEY PROGRAMME.

9.00 GARDENERS' WORLD.

9.20 REVIEW. Short Story; Seven years to learn to paint an egg; Annette Peacock.

10.10 BEYOND A JOKE.

10.40 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

10.45 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

11.00-12.15 Schools. 1.10 Time to remember. 1.40 Schools. 2.30 Good afternoon! 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 This week. 3.45 Drive-in. 4.15 Clapperboard. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Land of the giants. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.30 F TROOP. Did your father come from Ireland?

7.00 THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.

7.30 HIS AND HERS.

8.00 THE FBI.

9.00 BUDGIE. Louie the Ring is dead and buried in Kensal Green cemetery.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 WHO'LL WIN THE CUP?

11.00 FILM: 'NIGHT MUST FALL'. Albert Finney, Susan Hampshire. Classic murder and suspense thriller.

12.35 THE GEORDIE BIBLE.



Manchester United's George Best shows his skills on BBC-1 at 6.20 p.m.

TV

REGIONAL TV

WESTWARD: 11.00-2.30 London. 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.05 Zingalong. 4.18 News. 4.20 Dick Van Dyke. 4.50 Flintstones. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sport. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 I Spy. 8.30 His and Hers. 9.00 London. 11.00 News. 11.05 Film: 'Good Day For A Hanging'. 12.35 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 11.00 London. 3.00 Kate. 3.55 Weekend. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Paulus. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.40 Out of town. 7.00 London. 7.30 Jason King. 8.25 Weekend. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.00 Film: 'The Horror of It All'. 12.25 News. 12.35 Weather. Voyage to discovery.

ANGLIA: 11.00 London. 3.15 Survival. 3.45 Yoga. 4.10 News. 4.15 Cartoons. 5.25 Romper room. 4.50 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 8.00 Combat. 9.00 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.05 Who'll win the Cup? 11.35 Film: 'Crime of Passion'. 1.10 Epilogue.

ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-2.33 London. 3.10 Yoga. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Julia. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Lost in space. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 Saint. 8.30 Shirley's world. 9.00 London. 11.00 Film: 'So Evil, So Young'.

ULSTER: 11.00-2.30 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55

Thunderbirds. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 Jason King. 8.30 His and hers. 9.00 London. 11.00 Heads you lose. 11.30 Comedians.

GRANADA: 11.00 London. 2.30 Corwin. 2.35 Yoga. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.05 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.50 Land of the giants. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.20 Guns of Will Sonnett. 6.50 Kick off. 7.00 Simon Locke. 7.25 London. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.00 Film: 'Reach for Glory'.

TYNE TEES: 11.00 London. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 Kate. 4.00 Sound of... 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Make a wish. 4.55 Flaxton boys. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 London. 8.00 Calling Dr Gannon. 9.00 London. 11.00 Film: 'The Snorkel'. 12.45 News. 1.00 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 11.00-2.17 London. 3.30 Kirk. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 Cartoon cavalcade. 5.50 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.30 His and hers. 7.00 London. 7.30 Andy. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 10.30 In camera. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'The System'.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00-2.55 London. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Smith family. 4.40 Zingalong. 4.55 Rainbow country. 5.20 Ivanhoe. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Mr and Mrs. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.35 It takes a thief. 8.25 Melody inn. 9.00 London. 10.30 Points North. 11.00 Film: 'Ghost of Frankenstein'. 12.15 Epilogue.

Civil servants back Bootle sparks

FROM PHILIP WADE IN LIVERPOOL

ELECTRICIANS on strike for more than a year at the Bootle Inland Revenue site, Liverpool, have been promised support by a civil servants' union.

The Society of Civil Servants has told them that if the £20m site is completed without the 17 electricians then they will instruct their members not to work in the building.

The men, all members of the electricians' union, the EPTU, are demanding £1 an hour as a minimum wage, the right to negotiate at site level, an end to blacklisting and the withdrawal of the penal clauses contained in the Joint Industry Board agreement.

In fact in March strike leader John Byrne was disciplined under JIB rule No. 21. The penalty was suspension of all JIB benefits for six months on his return to work.

The strike began in February 1971 and initially lasted for 25 weeks, the men returning in July on the basis of talks on the pay claim.

In the following September they were all sacked. But after a three-week total stoppage on the site they were reinstated.

The men struck again on October 25 last year after their employers, contractors James Scott Lee Beesley, refused to listen to their claim.

'The JIB is a wage-freezing body,' Mr Byrne told me. 'But they'll never complete this site without us.'

'There are no scabs working there and the site is blacked by electricians throughout Merseyside.'

'We insist on our rights to negotiate at plant level like the building workers.'

'At the moment their [building workers] bonus often amounts to more than our basic wage,' he added.

'Although the government is backing the employers in trying to intimidate us with the penal clauses it hasn't worked.'

The strike committee has called a demonstration in Bootle in support of the struggle on June 9. It is being backed by Liverpool Trades Council.

COLIN WELLAND, the award-winning playwright and former 'Z Cars' actor, is to host a new BBC 2 weekly sports programme — 'Sport Two'.

The programme will go out every Friday from June 2 and will aim at a reflective and in-depth approach to major sport topics, film profiles on sports events and personalities and big-name interviews.

Welland (37), is a former rugby league professional and Lancashire league cricketer.

PEARCE 'FENCE-SITTING'

CORRESPONDENT BY OUR OWN

LORD PEARCE'S report on the acceptability of the Tory terms for a settlement in Rhodesia is described as a 'fence-sitter'.

Although he finds that the settlement terms are not

acceptable to the people of Rhodesia as a whole, he leaves the door open for a sell-out by references to 'intimidation' of the African population.

It will be for Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas Home, to decide whether

this qualification enables him to recommend to parliament that Rhodesia should be given legal independence.

The report was handed to Home yesterday and a statement in parliament is expected before the Whitsun recess.

Containers row: Dockers give 28 days' strike notice

● FROM PAGE 1

means strike action—to the employers in 28 days' time.'

Although they need only give seven days' notice of strike action, they wanted to make sure that they would not be accused of irregular practice, and so were giving 28 days' notice.

The strike decision referred to all dock workers, both inside and outside the 1947 dock labour scheme.

The employers had offered to raise fall-back pay—the minimum a man can receive when he reports for work when none is available—from £20 a week to £22.

But the men wanted it raised to average earnings. This could be in the region of £40, O'Leary claimed.

At the moment some 1,000 dockers depend on fall-back, but the figures would be on the way to 2,000 shortly.

The employers had said they were unable to take any decision on the containerization issue because it was not within their competence.

O'Leary said he had told delegates to work in accordance with agreements in normal operation until the strike.

Union leaders would 'talk to anyone', he said, in an attempt to get a settlement before the strike. 'We will bring moral persuasion to bear'.



Docks officer Tim O'Leary announcing yesterday's strike decision

Hogarth warns against strikes

DELEGATES at the National Union of Seamen's conference in Folkestone yesterday accepted a new pay offer by 54 votes to 23.

The new rates give foreign-going able-bodied seamen an extra £8.70 a month bringing average monthly earnings to

£93.90, including overtime, for a 66-hour week.

The basic weekly wage, after five years' service will now be £21.98 for a seven-day week, without overtime.

Recommending acceptance of the increase, NUS general secretary William Hogarth warned against strike action:

'Do we want to bring ourselves down, as I say the miners did, to the gutter to hold the whole country to ransom? I will be the last to want to take that action. I would rather resign first.'

Seamen's wage demands for 1973-1974 ranged from 'substantial increases' to a demand for a minimum of £120 a month. More annual leave and a shorter working week were also demanded.

Key debate today will be on the union's decision to register under the Industrial Relations Act.

Opening the conference on Wednesday, NUS chairman Bill Brankley asked delegates not to allow the argument 'to sink' to a level where shallow prejudice replaces considered and sober opinion.

MANY customers of the British Steel Corporation are likely to pay more when BSC adopts Common Market pricing system from January 1 next year, the Corporation stated yesterday.

From January 1, 1973, BSC adopts the European Coal and Steel Community system, which differs substantially from the

Rail talks break down ... again

THE THREE rail unions are to meet together again today following yesterday's breakdown of pay talks with British Rail.

The unions said they were prepared to accept the Jarratt award of a 12½ per cent pay increase, including a £20 minimum, but they wanted it back-dated to May 1.

The employers said they would not pay the increase before June 5.

Earlier Sir Sidney Greene, secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen said he had been 'pessimistic' about the outcome of the talks.

All three unions were originally demanding a 16-per-cent rise. They were forced back into the talks by a National Industrial Court cooling-off order, which expires in four days' time.

Sweet parity

TWO HUNDRED and forty engineering union members at Rowntree Mackintosh's factory in York have given notice that they will strike from today. They say it will affect the whole production side involving up to 6,000 workers.

They are seeking wage parity for fitters with those at the company's Halifax works. This would mean a rise from £25 a week to £29.09.

British one.

With the British system an average transport cost is added to steel product price whether the customer is 100 or 1,000 miles from a BSC plant. Under the Common Market system, transport charges depend on how far the customer is from base point of production.

Court praise for ASTMS

DAWSON and Barfos Manufacturing Ltd agreed to withdraw their case against Clive Jenkins' technical union (ASTMS) at the National Industrial Relations Court yesterday after the union agreed to call-off an occupation at the firm's Thetford, Norfolk, factory.

And afterwards ASTMS and the company earned Donaldson's praise for their 'good sense' and he added that the agreement allowed the court to exercise its primary function — promoting good industrial relations!

Ninety men have been working-in at the dairy equipment plant since Monday in protest against the terms on which 32 staff were to be made redundant with effect from today.

The company were suing union official Roger Spiller and ASTMS for an unfair industrial practice.

Union negotiators were demanding two weeks' notice and double the payment to



ASTMS secretary Jenkins: Second day 'working' the Industrial Relations Act.

which they were entitled under the 1965 Redundancy Act.

ASTMS were legally represented at the court yesterday and president Sir John Donaldson cut short the company's lawyer after ten minutes and asked him to see if there was a possibility of further discussion between the two sides in rooms nearby.

As a result the company agreed to postpone the sackings for one week until May 12 in exchange for a promise from the men to resume normal working.

Further negotiations on the terms of the redundancies will take place on Tuesday and it is believed a formula has already been agreed by a representative of the Engineering Employers' Federation and ASTMS.

MAY FUND STANDS AT £111.25

YOU HAVE made a good start this month—now let's do our best to keep up the pace.

There certainly is no time to relax with this Tory government. Each day the Industrial Relations Court hits out in all directions against the trade union movement. But the more they lash out, the more the working class fights back.

Today, Workers Press plays its most important role. Our paper must campaign everywhere to build a revolutionary leadership to lead the mass movement against the Tories.

So help us this month with another special effort for our Appeal Fund. We need to raise our target plus an extra £500 to cover our greatly increased expenditure. We are confident that you will do everything possible to collect this amount. So go into action now. Post all donations immediately to: Workers Press May Appeal Fund 186a Clapham High St London, SW4 7UG.

LATE NEWS WEATHER

EASTERN England and South East Scotland will be mostly cloudy with thundery showers or periods of rain. North and West Scotland will be dry with sunny spells. The remainder of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and West England will have thundery showers and sunny spells.

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Some rain at times. Sunny periods. Dry in North Scotland. Temperatures normal or rather above.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.