

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● TUESDAY MAY 23, 1972 ● No. 712 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

HULL DOCKS REBUFF FOR T&G

LEADERS of Britain's biggest union received a stunning rebuff from Hull dockers yesterday when they threw out official advice to end their blacking of container firms.

At the first of a series of docks meetings, full time officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union failed completely to carry out the orders of the National Industrial Relations Court to get the dockers to lift their action.

The 2,000 Hull dockers met in the City Hall and voted unanimously to keep up the black and reaffirmed their determination to strike on June 2 if the issue had not been settled.

Hull dockers' leader Walter Cunningham made an attack on Jack Jones, head of the T&GWU after the meeting. He said Court President Sir John Donaldson had told Jones what to do and Jones was 'running like a frightened rabbit'.

'We are only doing what the officials should be doing,' he added.

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

The meeting was addressed by David Shenton, the union's Hull district secretary. He said it had been made abundantly clear to the men that the union was in peril and faced very heavy fines if the Court order to end the blacking was not obeyed.

'There comes a time when things must explode and this is one of those times,' he said.

The decision at Hull is a stunning blow for the union. Last week it called its full-time officials together to plan how to get the dockers to lift their national action on 12 container firms. The decisions at Liverpool and London are now almost certain to be against the union.

Panalpina—the firm which brought the Court action against the blacking—said yesterday they would send another lorry to Hull docks today.

Another refusal to handle their cargo would clear the decks for a contempt case against the T&GWU which has already paid £55,000 to the Court for ignoring earlier orders.

In further contempt cases the union will face sequestration of all its assets. I understand that provision has already been made to counter this by a proposal to pay officials a year's salary in advance.



Hull Stewards' chairman Walter Cunningham: 'Jones is running'.

The Hull decision brings the possibility of a national docks strike closer. To meet this threat the National Association of Port Employers is planning to ask the Court for a lengthy cooling-off period to stop the strike.

In the second case concerning blacking, on Liverpool docks, the union has been given until June 2 to put its house in order or face further penalties.

SPECIAL FEATURES THIS WEEK

TODAY

'Case history of a Stalinist humbug'

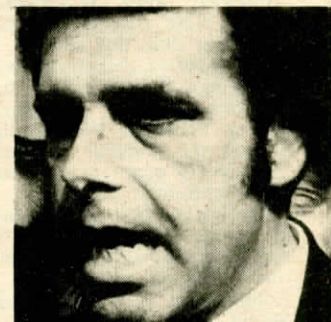
The man in question is Monty Johnstone whose recent distortions about the SLL and YS are taken up by

MICHAEL BANDA

TOMORROW

Rhodesia: Post-Pearce
A special correspondent looks at the similarity in legal powers under Smith and Heath

THURSDAY



James Reid is the most remarkable product of modern Stalinism. He has received praise from the entire capitalist media who hail him as a new kind of workers' leader. What is the root of this adulation?

Stephen Johns examines 'The Gospel According to James Reid' on our centre pages.

Clyde £35m means bigger attack on jobs

THE GOVERNMENT'S plan to protect certain strategic industries in preparation for Common Market entry got under way in parliament yesterday.

Industry Minister Christopher Chataway introduced a Bill to the Commons which earmarks £1,400m for industries vital to the national economy.

A major beneficiary of the government hand-out will be shipbuilding and especially the Upper Clyde. A total of £35m of the sum is set aside for Govan Shipbuilders—the government-backed firm which is to take over three of the four old UCS divisions.

The Bill marks a switch from the crude 'lame ducks' philosophy, but it is not a move in favour of the working class.

The Tories' strategy at Govan Shipbuilders makes this clear. There they hope to keep shipbuilding alive until they can formulate a common policy with European shipbuilding interests to meet the fierce competition from Japan and weather the deep depression in world orders.

Those who believe that the 'new course' was inspired by a sudden concern developed by Tories for the plight of unemployed Clydesiders should read yesterday's 'Daily Telegraph'.

In an article on the Industry Bill, Tory MP Jock Bruce-Gardyne reveals that a report from the Chief Constable of Glasgow played a major role.

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

This warned that the police would have to be strengthened by 15,000 to deal with the unrest which would result for the mass unemployment due to closure of the yards!

The main feature of this new policy will be an intensified drive for more productivity and an attack on trade union rights.

Between now and Common Market entry the Tories hope to soften-up the labour force in the yards. This process has already begun at Govan Shipbuilders where the Stalinist-led shop stewards have signed agreements which allow for the break-down of craft demarcation, shift-working and pledges to avoid strike action.

Despite these concessions the future of Govan Shipbuilders is fraught with uncertainty. The company begins its life with six orders, the losses on which will eat away almost half of the £35m grant.

As yet there are no signs of any new contracts. Managing director of Govan Shipbuilders, Archibald Gilchrist, admitted publicly last week that the new company could not possibly be launched at a worse time because of the slump in world orders.

The mood at Govan Shipbuilders effectively summed up by a company spokesman yesterday who said: 'All we can do

is to hope like hell the shipping lines start to order new ships.'

The threat of total closure will undoubtedly be used during the early life of the company to make sure the labour force gives every ounce of productivity and refrains from industrial action in protection of rights.

The resistance of the shipyard workers is further weakened because they have been divided between two companies.

At Clydebank, Marathon Manufacturing has reached agreement with shop stewards over pay and conditions.

The Texan firm hopes to begin on July 24 with an initial labour force of 500. The rest of the 2,100 workforce will be employed in finishing the old UCS contracts and converting the yard to build oil-rigs.

Clearly if Govan Shipbuilders' survival is threatened and the 4,300 workers there faced with the dole, the chances of a united fight against this are weakened because of this formal division within the ranks.

This immediate prospect of higher productivity, more redundancies and the outlawing of unofficial strikes is only an interlude of preparation for the Common Market. Then the yard labour force will face even more intensified attacks.

Such a 'solution' to the struggle at UCS cannot be described as a victory but only

one more adaptation to Tory strategy which is to impoverish and intimidate the working class.

Workers should reject the Stalinists and the reformists who say the Tories have gone soft or yielded to pressure. Chataway's Bill and the Clydeside strategy is no concession to the working class but a new declaration of war.

Threat to free speech

THE WAY the law of contempt was being applied to the Industrial Relations Court was a challenge to free expression and speech, claimed a Labour MP in the Commons yesterday.

Arthur Davidson, a barrister, said that it was absurd that newspapers and broadcasters should not be permitted to report hostile and other commentary by trade unionists for fear of having the law of contempt invoked against them.

'End black'

MANCHESTER'S 1,100 dock workers are being urged in a leaflet sent out by their union to end their three-week blacking of two container firms.

The appeal will be repeated at an official mass meeting called for Wednesday by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Bredbury—first sit-in plant—goes back

NINE HUNDRED workers at GKN's Bredbury steelworks, near Stockport, agreed to return to work yesterday with a cash increase but no concessions on hours after management threatened sackings.

Three other sit-ins ended yesterday with settlements the Engineering Employers' Federation described as 'sensible', leaving only 11 of the original 25 factories still 'occupied'.

● See story page 3.

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER • TUESDAY MAY 23, 1972 • No. 712 • 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

HULL DOCKS REBUFF FOR T&G

LEADERS of Britain's biggest union received a stunning rebuff from Hull dockers yesterday when they threw out official advice to end their blacking of container firms.

At the first of a series of docks meetings, full time officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union failed completely to carry out the orders of the National Industrial Relations Court to get the dockers to lift their action.

The 2,000 Hull dockers met in the City Hall and voted unanimously to keep up the black and reaffirmed their determination to strike on June 2 if the issue had not been settled.

Hull dockers' leader Walter Cunningham made an attack on Jack Jones, head of the T&GWU after the meeting. He said Court President Sir John Donaldson had told Jones what to do and Jones was 'running like a frightened rabbit'.

'We are only doing what the officials should be doing,' he added.

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

The meeting was addressed by David Shenton, the union's Hull district secretary. He said it had been made abundantly clear to the men that the union was in peril and faced very heavy fines if the Court order to end the blacking was not obeyed.

'There comes a time when things must explode and this is one of those times,' he said.

The decision at Hull is a stunning blow for the union. Last week it called its full-time officials together to plan how to get the dockers to lift their national action on 12 container firms. The decisions at Liverpool and London are now almost certain to be against the union.

Panalpina—the firm which brought the Court action against the blacking—said yesterday they would send another lorry to Hull docks today.

Another refusal to handle their cargo would clear the decks for a contempt case against the T&GWU which has already paid £55,000 to the Court for ignoring earlier orders.

In further contempt cases the union will face sequestration of all its assets. I understand that provision has already been made to counter this by a proposal to pay officials a year's salary in advance.



Hull Stewards' chairman Walter Cunningham: 'Jones is running'.

The Hull decision brings the possibility of a national docks strike closer. To meet this threat the National Association of Port Employers is planning to ask the Court for a lengthy cooling-off period to stop the strike.

In the second case concerning blacking, on Liverpool docks, the union has been given until June 2 to put its house in order or face further penalties.

SPECIAL FEATURES THIS WEEK

TODAY

'Case history of a Stalinist humbug'

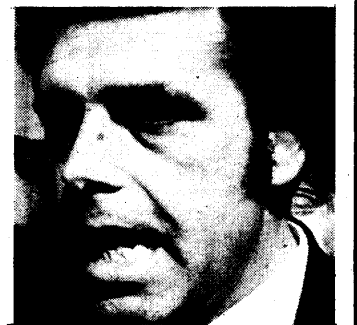
The man in question is Monty Johnstone whose recent distortions about the SLL and YS are taken up by

MICHAEL BANDA

TOMORROW

Rhodesia: Post-Pearce A special correspondent looks at the similarity in legal powers under Smith and Heath

THURSDAY



James Reid is the most remarkable product of modern Stalinism. He has received praise from the entire capitalist media who hail him as a new kind of workers' leader. What is the root of this adulation?

Stephen Johns examines 'The Gospel According to James Reid' on our centre pages.

Clyde £35m means bigger attack on jobs

THE GOVERNMENT'S plan to protect certain strategic industries in preparation for Common Market entry got under way in parliament yesterday.

Industry Minister Christopher Chataway introduced a Bill to the Commons which earmarks £1,400m for industries vital to the national economy.

A major beneficiary of the government hand-out will be shipbuilding and especially the Upper Clyde. A total of £35m of the sum is set aside for Govan Shipbuilders—the government-backed firm which is to take over three of the four old UCS divisions.

The Bill marks a switch from the crude 'lame ducks' philosophy, but it is not a move in favour of the working class.

The Tories' strategy at Govan Shipbuilders makes this clear. There they hope to keep shipbuilding alive until they can formulate a common policy with European shipbuilding interests to meet the fierce competition from Japan and weather the deep depression in world orders.

Those who believe that the 'new course' was inspired by a sudden concern developed by Tories for the plight of unemployed Clydesiders should read yesterday's 'Daily Telegraph'.

In an article on the Industry Bill, Tory MP Jock Bruce-Gardyne reveals that a report from the Chief Constable of Glasgow played a major role.

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

This warned that the police would have to be strengthened by 15,000 to deal with the unrest which would result from the mass unemployment due to closure of the yards!

The main feature of this new policy will be an intensified drive for more productivity and an attack on trade union rights.

Between now and Common Market entry the Tories hope to soften-up the labour force in the yards. This process has already begun at Govan Shipbuilders where the Stalinist-led shop stewards have signed agreements which allow for the break-down of craft demarcation, shift-working and pledges to avoid strike action.

Despite these concessions the future of Govan Shipbuilders is fraught with uncertainty. The company begins its life with six orders, the losses on which will eat away almost half of the £35m grant.

As yet there are no signs of any new contracts. Managing director of Govan Shipbuilders, Archibald Gilchrist, admitted publicly last week that the new company could not possibly be launched at a worse time because of the slump in world orders.

The mood at Govan Shipbuilders effectively summed up by a company spokesman yesterday who said: 'All we can do

is to hope like hell the shipping lines start to order new ships.'

The threat of total closure will undoubtedly be used during the early life of the company to make sure the labour force gives every ounce of productivity and refrains from industrial action in protection of rights.

The resistance of the shipyard workers is further weakened because they have been divided between two companies.

At Clydebank, Marathon Manufacturing has reached agreement with shop stewards over pay and conditions.

The Texan firm hopes to begin on July 24 with an initial labour force of 500. The rest of the 2,100 workforce will be employed in finishing the old UCS contracts and converting the yard to build oil-rigs.

Clearly if Govan Shipbuilders' survival is threatened and the 4,300 workers there faced with the dole, the chances of a united fight against this are weakened because of this formal division within the ranks.

This immediate prospect of higher productivity, more redundancies and the outlawing of unofficial strikes is only an interlude of preparation for the Common Market. Then the yard labour force will face even more intensified attacks.

Such a 'solution' to the struggle at UCS cannot be described as a victory but only

one more adaptation to Tory strategy which is to impoverish and intimidate the working class.

Workers should reject the Stalinists and the reformists who say the Tories have gone soft or yielded to pressure. Chataway's Bill and the Clydeside strategy is no concession to the working class but a new declaration of war.

Threat to free speech

THE WAY the law of contempt was being applied to the Industrial Relations Court was a challenge to free expression and speech, claimed a Labour MP in the Commons yesterday.

Arthur Davidson, a barrister, said that it was absurd that newspapers and broadcasters should not be permitted to report hostile and other commentary by trade unionists for fear of having the law of contempt invoked against them.

'End black'

MANCHESTER'S 1,100 dock workers are being urged in a leaflet sent out by their union to end their three-week blacking of two container firms.

The appeal will be repeated at an official mass meeting called for Wednesday by the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Bredbury—first sit-in plant—goes back

NINE HUNDRED workers at GKN's Bredbury steelworks, near Stockport, agreed to return to work yesterday with a cash increase but no concessions on hours after management threatened sackings.

Three other sit-ins ended yesterday with settlements the Engineering Employers' Federation described as 'sensible', leaving only 11 of the original 25 factories still 'occupied'.

● See story page 3.

WHAT WE THINK

OFFICIAL IRA STATEMENT: REFORMIST DIVERSION

THE IRISH Catholic bourgeoisie in the South tighten the screws of repression with reintroduction of internment. In the North, British imperialism, behind the facade of direct rule, prepares new massacres, this time of Protestants.

In between the Official IRA flounders in a reformist limbo without perspective, without political credibility and without any prospect of victory.

Having first misled Catholic workers with its reformist project of a 'democratized Stormont' and its Menshevik-Stalinist theory of 'stages' to Irish socialism, the Official IRA policy has rapidly and predictably led to the relegation of socialism to a distant future and the virtual acceptance of imperialist rule in Ulster.

While we do not possess the full text of the Gardiner Place statement, the summary in 'The Guardian' is sufficient to show that the Officials, for all their criticism of Provisional sectarianism, share with them a common hostility to Marxism and the dictatorship of the working class.

They were, and are today, a variant of bourgeois nationalism and, for that reason, cannot find a road to the Protestant workers in the North or the Southern Irish workers.

The most striking thing about this declaration is its total obliviousness about the British working class and the necessity to link the struggle of Irish workers with that of British workers against British imperialism.

It talks loftily about the impossibility of establishing an independent socialist republic in the North by military action—a truism known to most Irish school boys. It calls for a 'popular' struggle [sic] and a 'fusion of the people of both areas in opposition to the establishment', but it remains ominously vague on the nature of the state that is to replace Stormont and the Dail.

Previously, after they were forced to change their position on a 'democratized Stormont' (which fitted in with Stalinist policy) the Officials demanded 'a properly democratic autonomous administration'—an obscure abstraction which meant all things to all men and was something of a cross between the Ecumenical council, a Constituent Assembly and a Soviet.

The revisionist International Marxist Group at the time claimed that this was 'a step forward'. Marxists, however, will recognize it as a label for bourgeois democracy i.e. the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie which is not inconsistent with the bourgeois nationalism of

the Official and Provisional IRA.

Because of their rejection of Marxism and the necessity to build a revolutionary party embracing all sections of the Irish working class, North and South, and also because of their equivocal and pragmatic attitude to the Catholic church, the Officials have now abandoned any hope of a military defeat of imperialism and prepare to do a deal with Toryism.

As 'The Guardian' stated: 'The statement laid considerably less emphasis on military affairs than on education, communication and agitation in social and industrial matters.'

But the really reformist motives of the Officials are revealed in the following paragraph:

'It said peace in Northern Ireland could be achieved with relative simplicity [sic]. It demanded the withdrawal to barracks of British troops, the abolition of the Special Powers Act, and amnesty for political prisoners, tried and untried, and a massive programme of social investment to help Northern Ireland to recover, socially and economically.'

The demand for the 'withdrawal of troops to barracks' is identical with Stalinist policy and is a reformist evasion of the revolutionary task of expelling British imperialism from Irish soil.

This statement is made on the same day that 'goodwill' between Protestants and the British army broke down and when one Protestant worker told the press: 'I'm beginning to think those people in the Bogside were right. Those paratroopers go bloody mad when they come in.'

Of course, a massive programme of investment is required in Ireland. But who is going to do it? What government? The Tories are only interested in preserving sections of heavy industry which they hope to rationalize in the Common Market. Hence the £45m for Harland and Woolf.

But unemployment will continue to worsen. The only government which can help to develop Ireland's national resources and invest on a massive scale is a Labour government shorn of its right-wing traitors and pledged to socialist policies which must include the withdrawal of troops and the ending of internment.

For such a government to be formed demands the concerted struggle of Irish workers to defeat British forces in Ulster and British workers to force the Tories to resign.

Anything less, is evasion and middle-class deceit. It is 'time the Official IRA broke completely from Stalinism.'

Ceylon: Fraudulent claims to socialism

THE CEYLON constituent assembly yesterday passed a constitution which will make the island the Republic of Sri Lanka and sever the country's last formal links with the British crown.

The constitution, arrived at after 22 months of delibe-

rations, is a fraud from start to finish. It claims to make the republic free, democratic and socialist and guarantee fundamental rights to all citizens.

The value of these promises can be judged by the fact that Ceylon is still under a rigid state of emergency imposed 14 months ago.

Over 10,000 young people accused of taking part in a 'Che Guevarist' uprising are still in makeshift concentration camps awaiting trial.

Many will be tried before special tribunals without the most elementary rights to challenge evidence against them. Their revolt last year was put down with the aid of British, US, Soviet, Chinese, Indian and Pakistani military supplies — an eloquent testimony to the reality of the regime's 'socialist' claims.

As for genuine 'independence' from Britain, the new 'Republic' will remain within the Commonwealth while no longer recognizing the British monarchy. Economically, it will remain tied to the requirements of the former colonial power.

The new constitution is vehemently opposed by the country's Tamil minority because it makes Sinhalese the official language. Many Tamils are unable to speak or read Sinhalese and have long demanded equal rights for the minority language.

The ruling coalition, headed by Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party with the Moscow-line Communist Party and the renegade revisionists of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, is seriously divided and three CP MPs have been expelled from the government for opposing the repressive Criminal Justice Commissions Act.

The new constitution is a desperate attempt to paper over the cracks.

AROUND THE WORLD

Six-weeks UNCTAD marathon—all for nothing

A SIX-WEEKS marathon international farce has ended at Santiago, Chile. Diplomats from the so-called underdeveloped world arrived at the third United Nations Conference on Trade and Developments (UNCTAD) with brief cases bulging with hopes.

At 8 a.m. on Sunday, the last day of the conference, delegates found themselves staring down the barrel of the same gun Heath and leaders of the other metropolitan countries are holding to the heads of their own working classes.

After 38 days of grinding debate, all that had been created was two tons of discarded documents.

Malaysia's chief delegate drew up the final balance sheet. He said: 'The stark reality is that the developed countries are not prepared to make any real concessions.'

Stonewalled on every count the representatives of 142 'bourgeois elites' in Asia, Africa and Latin America found themselves hopelessly impotent.

Inevitably as they packed their bags, the conference legacy was almost exclusively bitterness, and looming ahead the certainty of mounting repression to counter popular unrest at deepening poverty.

Locked in the grip of recession the 13 'rich' countries gave the underdeveloped world the same message they are forced increasingly to give their own working classes—the cupboard is bare.

The plea to make Special Drawing Rights available to underdeveloped states was refused with special emphasis on the role of SDRs as a reserve asset within a framework of tottering international currencies.

Not even a commitment on the 1 per cent minimum aid target could be squeezed from the purses of the rich.

Capital is cracking the whip and its lash bites from Santiago to Downing St.

While the bankruptcy of reformism is laid bare at home, UNCTAD has exposed the hopelessness of bourgeois and often Stalinist-backed leadership throughout the underdeveloped world.

CP 'hostages' in Iraqi Cabinet

IRAQ president al-Bakr has made it clear that the two Communist Party members recently admitted to his Cabinet are hostages for his relations with Moscow.

The Ba'athist leader declared after announcing the National Charter signed jointly with the Stalinists that 'the responsibility for leading the army and directing it politically falls on the Revolution Command Council alone.'

The Command Council is exclusively Ba'athist.

He added: 'No party other than the Ba'ath party will be allowed to carry out any forms of political or organizational activity within the armed forces.'

The two Communist Party ministers — Makram Talabani, Minister of Irrigation and Amer Abdullah, Minister of State without portfolio — entered the Cabinet at the beginning of last week.

They joined only after con-

siderable pressure from the Kremlin, which recently concluded a Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation with Bakr's government. One purpose of Kosygin's visit to Baghdad in April when the treaty was signed was to encourage the Communist Party to join the government.

The Iraq Stalinists' reluctance to join the Bakr cabinet is understandable.

For nearly ten years, since the fall of president Kassem, the Ba'athists have rigorously persecuted the CP. At one point, after a series of massacres, more than 800 Communist Party members were in prison.

The decision to join the Bakr cabinet puts the Communist Party completely at the mercy of its traditional Ba'athist enemies. It is done solely in the interests of Kremlin diplomacy and exposes the Iraq working class to great dangers.

SOVIET authorities are trying to play down the significance of last week's street battles in Kaunas, Lithuania, and discredit the man whose death sparked them off.

The funeral of Roman Kalanta, who burned himself in a public park in Kaunas ten days ago, led to violent clashes between the police and young Lithuanians.

At least one policeman was killed and paratroops and KGB security units from Central Asia

and the Caucasus were brought in to quell the rioters.

Sunday's edition of the Russian-language Lithuanian daily 'Sovetskaya Litva' said that a four-member commission had examined Kalanta's documents, notes, letters, drawings and schoolwork and questioned his parents, teachers and friends. They concluded that he was 'psychologically sick and committed suicide while in a sick condition'.

SLL LECTURE

Cliff Slaughter, Central Committee member of the Socialist Labour League, will give the last in a series of lectures on Marxism and the Socialist Revolution in Britain, on the following date in Sheffield.

Monday, June 5, at 7.30 p.m.—Philosophy at the

Burngreave Vestry Hall
Barnsley Road

SHEFFIELD

Private trade

PRIVATE retail trade is on the increase in Hungary and many new licenses have recently been issued for the purpose. The number of traders in Budapest has increased by 11 per cent and in the provinces by 31 per cent.

Minister of Internal Trade, Istvan Szurdi, announcing this, said that traders were expected to follow a moderate price policy. He added: 'There have also been abuses occasionally.'

NOW WEEKLY

KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER OF THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS SATURDAY MAY 13, 1972 VOL. 21 NO. 1 PRICE 3P

The eight-page youth paper which leads the fight against the Tory government, for the right to work, in factories, schools and on the dole queues.

Plenty of news, views and features at 3p a copy. Order your regular copy now. Yearly subscription £2.86. Send to Keep Left, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG.

Please send me 'Keep Left' for one year

I enclose £2.86

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

A new and deadly weapon devised by British troops in Ulster

Battery 'bullets'

UNASSAILABLE evidence has reached Workers Press to show that the British troops are firing batteries at young children during street-fighting.

They are removing the rubber bullets from the cartridge and inserting torch batteries about three inches long.

An eyewitness in Londonderry last Friday saw several troops firing these deadly weapons at teenagers standing only 30 yards away.

Recently in Belfast a 14-year-old boy was killed when he was hit by a 'rubber bullet'. At the time his parents and a local MP

BY A CORRESPONDENT

insisted that it was a heavier object that had been fired at the boy.

The Workers Press correspondent picked up three batteries after Friday's incident. They had been fired by soldiers of the First Battalion Worcesters and Foresters Regiment who are currently on a tour of duty in Derry.

Officers were in the vicinity and

took no notice.

There is quite a distinct difference in the sound made in the discharge of a rubber bullet and a metallic object like a battery.

This is not the only barbarism which the army is resorting to.

After recent clashes local people have picked up army riot sticks. One had nails sticking out of it and the other had been hollowed and filled with lead to give it even heavier weight.

This is what a direct rubber bullet hit can do—Imagine the effect of a more lethal lead-cased battery



These batteries were picked up in Derry last Friday after troops had fired at teenagers only 30 yards away

Ulster drugs torture film is 'postponed'

A GRANADA TV 'World in Action' film on torture in Ulster has been 'postponed' mysteriously.

It was to have been shown last night at the national time slot of 8 o'clock.

Instead viewers saw a film about an experiment at Runcorn involving the pill.

A 'World in Action' team member assured

Workers Press the film would be shown at some time in the future.

The programme is an investigation of torture allegations made in a recent booklet published by two Roman Catholic priests, Father Denis Faul of Dungannon and Father Raymond Murray, chaplain of Armagh prison.

In their booklet the priests give accounts of a variety of tortures carried out by the RUC, the Special Branch and

the British army. These include hooding torture, physical beatings, burning with cigarettes and electric shock torture.

The priests say they gave the television team irrefutable medical evidence regarding the administration of drugs to men detained in RUC stations following arrest.

With the assistance of the priests they interviewed a number of men who had been subjected to torture in the

barracks at Ballykinlar, Girdwood and Holywood.

The postponement of the film is bound to cause some anxiety in Granada. Last year another 'World in Action' on the Irish situation—'South of the Border'—was banned by the Independent Television Authority (ITA). The ban was made before the film was even seen by the so-called 'independent' arbiters who belong to the authority.



Detainee was drugged by the army

POLITICAL detainees in Ulster are being drugged with amphetamines. Revelations that drugs are now used is the clearest indication that the workers of Ulster are the 'guinea pigs' for the sort of repression the Tories have in mind for the rest of Britain.

Over the months there have been persistent rumours that drugs were being used against detainees, but only at the weekend did the first concrete case emerge.

There is an obvious difficulty in proving drugs are administered; by the time the men are released the effects have worn off and no traces can be found in the bloodstream.

However, a Newry doctor has been able to establish a level of amphetamine in the urine of a man, aged 28, who was arrested by the army, beaten up by

soldiers and then taken to the local police station for questioning.

It was during the two-day interrogation by the Special Branch that the drugs were administered.

Taken in large doses amphetamines make a person delirious and garrulous. In these circumstances the police use the drugs to get detainees to sign statements which say they were not ill-treated during questioning.

These statements have become crucial in obtaining convictions. In recent months the courts have dismissed a number of charges because it was clear to the court that 'confessions' had been extracted under extreme force, not to say torture.

The statements are also vital for the army to fend off torture

and brutality investigations by press and television.

Dr Seamus McAteer took a urine sample from the released man and sent it to the laboratory of Belfast City Hospital. It showed 'positive' for amphetamines.

It is known that the army and the Home Office have been anxious for many years to try out drugs on prisoners.

The Pentagon has already used drugs to gain information from people described as 'subversives' both in the US and abroad.

The British army has been conducting highly-secret tests on its own personnel using cannabis, LSD, and amphetamines.

Having tried out CS gas, water cannon, dye, smoke bombs, hooding torture and electric-shock treatment, the top brass of the army is now intent on trying out its latest barbarism—drugs.

Snowdown miners strike

ABOUT 1,200 miners at the Snowdown pit, near Canterbury in Kent, have gone on strike in a pay and manning dispute.

The afternoon shift took the strike decision unanimously at a meeting yesterday.

The branch officials are in touch with the area headquarters to make the strike official.

The dispute began on No. 28 face when management refused to let regular men 'work the

rip'—operate the conveyor belt. The men also demanded payment as usual for the job.

At a lunchtime meeting the next shift decided to go on strike. 'It's been forced on us,' one miner told Workers Press. 'It's a deliberate provocation.'

At the meeting union officials mentioned the dangers of the Industrial Relations Act. But a miner said: 'We don't recognize the Act.'

BOOKS



Moscow Trials Anthology

Paperback, 62½p

MAX SHACHTMAN:

Behind The Moscow Trial

Paperback 75p

ROBERT BLACK:

Stalinism In Britain

Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2

LEON TROTSKY:

Death Agony of Capitalism

(The Transitional Programme)

Pamphlet 5p

Class Nature of the Soviet State

Pamphlet 20p

In Defence of the October

Revolution Pamphlet 15p

The Theory and Practice of

Revisionism Pamphlet 15p

Postage 10p per book, 3p per

pamphlet. Order from:

NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS

186a Clapham High Street,

London SW4 7UG.

Dangerous cracks in Manchester pay fight

EMPLOYERS in the Manchester area may be revealing a second prong of their strategy to break the engineering workers' pay fight.

At the weekend 3,500 men at GEC-AEI's Trafford Park factory ended an eight-week work-to-rule and piecework ban in return for an immediate £2-a-week rise with a further £1 in March 1973.

In line with Engineering Employers' Federation policy there was no concession on hours or holidays, although it was promised these would be the subject of early discussions.

Meanwhile the 900 workers at

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Bredbury steelworks, near Stockport—the first of over 20 sit-ins in the Manchester area—have been told by Guest, Keen and Nettlefold's management that sackings are 'imminent and inevitable'.

There is no evidence that GKN is losing money. Profits for 1970 were £43m and for the first six months of last year topped £22m.

But the employers, with two months' lost production behind them, are showing mounting signs of wanting to bring things to a head.

Their feeling that the time may

be ripe is reinforced by the return to work of some plants and by the pressure the sit-ins are bringing to bear on Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' funds.

The threat of sackings by GKN—a financial contributor to the right wing Economic League and notorious for its tough line with workers—may be a carefully timed warning of what the sit-ins could cost if they go on.

That the ball is so securely at the employers' feet is also a final tribute to the bankruptcy of the engineering union's treacherous policy of plant-bargaining. The executive abandoned a united, national fight earlier this year.

MONTY JOHNSTONE

Michael Banda replies to an article by Monty Johnstone in the 'Morning Star' of April 18, 1972.



THE CASE HISTORY OF A STALINIST HUMBUG

PART ONE

The Right-to-Work marches organized by the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League have provoked considerable comment from all quarters.

Whether the comment came from the capitalist press or the revisionists, they all contained a common ingredient of malvolent hostility to the revolutionary aims of the YS.

But it was left to the Stalinists in Britain to launch the most vicious attack, combined with the most injudicious distortions and outright lies about Trotskyism, against the marches.

The British Stalinists' outburst is not entirely unexpected of course. Their reformist policies — outlined in the 'British Road to Socialism' — and their loyalty to the counter-revolutionary foreign policy of the Soviet bureaucracy, have decimated their ranks, and undermined their political credibility in the working class.

Nowhere is this more evident than among the youth. This is reflected not only in the age levels of the Communist Party which more and more resembles an old Stalin-boys' club, but even more, in the virtual collapse of its youth organization — the YCL. At its last congress, this organization, whose policy and activities are controlled in the most bureaucratic way by the CP, registered nothing but factional splits, loss of membership and a catastrophic decline of its youth paper.

This crisis in the YCL stems directly from the reformist policy and history of British and world Stalinism, as well as its complete bankruptcy in the face of the present economic and political crisis.

(This bankruptcy in the face of objective events is compounded today by the emergence of a strong, numerous and solidly based revolutionary

youth organization — the YS — which fights against the Stalinist betrayals.)

The Stalinists' refusal to lead a struggle to smash the counter-revolutionary reformist leadership in the working class and their consistent evasion of the challenge of Trotskyism alienate working class youth. As the crisis intensifies the Communist Party becomes more isolated from the youth.

Nor is it surprising that its hostility to the youth and those who organize the youth for revolutionary struggle should increase in proportion to its own loss of influence. Unable to stop the growth of the YS and the SLL, Stalinism tries all the more frantically, therefore, to discredit them and who better for the job than the not too youthful 'Old Stalin-boy' himself — Monty Johnstone? (See 'Morning Star', April 18, 1972).

It is important that people should know the qualifications which Johnstone has acquired for this task. He is, after all, a rare specimen of a fast disappearing species of political hack — the anti-Trotskyist specialist and falsifier of historical truth.

Johnstone follows the inglorious tradition started in this country by people like Rothstein, J. R. Campbell, Pat Sloan, the Dean of Canterbury, D. N. Pritt and a host of other middle-class intellectuals who, in times of crisis, preferred to lean on the Stalinist bureaucracy within the USSR than on the truth.

Like them, Johnstone has spent a lifetime in defending bureaucratic privilege and in slandering every expression of dissidence from and resistance to Stalinism.

He reserves a special hatred for Trotskyism. He joined the YCL in 1941 and remained there even when he briefly joined the Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist Party from 1945 to 1946. He was at various times a full-time district organizer, chairman of the National Student Committee of the CP, YCL



National Education officer and editor of 'Challenge', the YCL paper.

His rise from small-time to big-time functionary was undoubtedly influenced by his slavish and sickening adherence to Stalinism in the period of some of the most barbaric repressions in the USSR and Eastern Europe.

His public school education, his middle-class snobbery and his truly amazing lack of political conscience suited him eminently when it came to writing Stalin's obituary in 'Challenge'.

We will not bore readers with the inane remarks of one mediocrity writing about another, but truth demands at least some explanation for the following grotesque comparison penned by Johnstone:

"For 30 years Stalin led Soviet people from victory to victory . . . so that it is today well on the road to communism . . ."

"On his passing we can say, as Engels said of Marx's death exactly 70 years ago: 'Mankind is shorter by a head, and the greatest head of our times at that. His name and work will endure through the ages'."

When 14 leaders of the Czechoslovak Communist Party were framed, tortured and shot by Stalin's bureaucracy in April 1952, Johnstone rose to the occasion with his customary lack of principle — and wrote this ritualistic denunciation:

"Slansky, former general secretary of the Czech Communist Party and 13 associates were found guilty of spying and sabotage for the US and its satellites.

"These people unwillingly confessed their crimes in the face of the irrefutable testimony of fact, documents and the evidence of witnesses . . . Such activities can and must be rooted out in this and other countries wherever this takes place. . . ." ('Challenge', January 10, 1953.)

We shall return to the Slansky trial later when we discuss some of the more pre-

posterous allegations of Johnstone. But for the present we must warn curious readers that Johnstone has not attempted to even explain his conduct retrospectively. He was challenged to do so as far back as November 12, 1969, in an editorial of the 'Workers Press'. We are still waiting.

True enough four months after this challenge Johnstone attempted to disembarrass himself of the stigma of the Slansky trial with an article in 'Cogito' — a journal of the YCL.

This article was obviously prompted by King Street's steady progression to the right and its manifest desire to placate the chauvinistic prejudices of the British middle class which had been outraged by the bureaucratic military intervention of the Warsaw Pact forces into Czechoslovakia in August 1968. There was nothing principled or politically commendable in Johnstone's simulated pose of outraged innocence and remorse.

In 1953 Johnstone found no difficulty in supporting Stalin and the bureaucracy against a tendency which, in a distorted way, represented the aspirations of the East European workers. In 1968 the same middle-class Philistine instinct guided him to support the petty-bourgeois pro-western orientation of Dubcek.

Thus one and half years after the invasion Johnstone could write apropos the 'Slansky affair': 'It should still be possible to lift at least a corner of the curtain which covered the "biggest stain on the history" of Czechoslovakia: the mass murder of 11 leaders of the Communist Party [the Slansky affair].'

How charitable! Unlike, and in contrast to this two-faced Stalinist humbug, the Trotskyists opposed the East European trials and pointed out that they were part of a monstrous terror campaign designed to compromise Tito and drive Yugoslavia into the orbit of imperialism.

They were, counter-revolu-

tionary acts. Johnstone supported Stalin then because he was opposed to any independent organization of the working class and completely hostile to revolution. That is his position today too. That is why he can attack Trotskyism whilst criticizing the East European trials at the same time.

If he criticizes, implicitly, the Slansky affair, it is done from the standpoint of petty-bourgeois humanism, not from that of a revolutionary defence of the working class and the conquests of the October Revolution.

Johnstone's critique — if it can be called that — is deliberately aimed at weakening the case for communism and strengthening the policies of Stalinist class-collaboration. It has nothing in common with Marxism.

Some readers would no doubt be curious to know why Johnstone has to criticize Stalin at all. Doesn't this mark him off from his predecessors, like J. R. Campbell?

If a man must react differently when he is in water than when he is on land, then a Stalinist apologist too must react differently to changed conditions.

The old gang of Trotsky-baiters operated in a period when the working class was defeated, demoralized and confused. It was a time when not only the Stalinist scribblers but the murder squads of the GPU as well could act with impunity.

Today it is different. The resurgence of the working class and the severe defeats suffered by imperialism in the post-war period — Vietnam is the latest — have created enormous problems for the 'Stalin men'. They have not only to tread more warily and speak less stridently they must even wear an 'anti-Stalin' mask to defend the opportunistic ideas of Stalinism effectively. Such is the role of Johnstone — the apologist.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY IN ASIA

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

When on April 30, 1970, US troops and tanks rumbled across the South Vietnamese frontier into neutral Cambodia the second Indo-China war started.

From then on, just as there would be one single war, so there could only be one single peace, an Indo-China peace, that is, if the conflict could be limited to the states involved.

A week before the invasion was launched, US Secretary of State William Rogers had assured a Congressional Appropriations Committee that no American troops would be sent to Cambodia. A few days after, President Nixon and Secretary of Defence Melvin Laird gave assurances that the invasion was limited in time and space.

Within a couple of weeks a flotilla of gunboats, with an umbrella of US planes and helicopters, moved up the Mekong river 100 or so miles into Cambodia and the Saigon puppets with the US blessing were stating that their troops had gone to Cambodia to stay.

Gunboats on the Mekong. It smells strongly of the most rapacious phase of 19th century colonialism.

Is anybody sure what that flotilla of South Vietnamese gunboats was doing on the Mekong river? The 'Washington Post' asked editorially on May 13: 'Where there are gunboats, can some kind of gunboat diplomacy be far behind?'

LOGICAL

The expedition up the Mekong was in fact only a logical if startling extension of a broad new US military-political intervention—a special war which had its first try-out in South Vietnam from the end of 1961 onwards.

It is a classic example of the application of that rather awkward and hitherto much misunderstood term 'neo-colonialism'. Special war in the Nixon era of 'Asianization' of teleguided US colonialism in Asia equals the practical content of the old John Foster Dulles concept 'Let Asians fight Asians' where that furthers US interests.

'Special war' was one of

three types of war which the late President Kennedy's military advisers, including President Nixon's advisers on national security affairs, Henry Kissinger, persuaded him the US must prepare to fight.

The great thing about 'special war' was that others did the fighting while the USA put up the money and arms, provided strategy and tactical diversion through a corps of US 'military advisers' and provided facilities such as air power and air transport.

Among the advantages of special war, was that it was cheap to run, as the cost of maintaining a local soldier was fractional compared with an American soldier. The US policy of 'Vietnamization' 'is a question of changing the colour of the corpse'.

'Special war' failed in Vietnam and had to be moved up to the next state of 'local' or 'limited' war — one in which American combat troops are involved but which is limited in scope and stops far short of the third and last 'global and nuclear war'.

'Special war' has been waged by the US in Laos from late 1960.

From April 1970 it has been waged in Cambodia.

The 'gunboats up the Mekong' took the concept a stage further. Instead of US-backed local forces being employed to maintain a pro-US regime in power in their own country, they were now sent into invade a neighbouring country for the same purpose.

An obvious advantage of this was that the action could be shrugged off as South Vietnamese, not bound by any of the rules Washington pretended it was imposing on its own military commanders.

The so-called 'Sihanouk trails' or 'Ho Chi Minh trails', Vietcong sanctuaries or bases are a put-up show. It is irrelevant to what is happening in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam but it represents a logical extension of policies followed by the USA in the area from 1954 onwards—policies deliberately planned in the name of 'filling the power vacuum' created by the collapse of French colonialism in Indo-China. It is as simple as that. All the rest is decoration and juggling with semantics.

The USA deliberately set out to wreck the 1954 Geneva Agreements, which it refused to sign but undertook to respect. In refusing to accept the elections to unify Vietnam — to have been held in July 1956 according to Geneva Agreements — in refusing to respect the neutrality of Laos and Cambodia and consistently working to overthrow neutralist regimes in those countries, US policy-makers created brick by brick the grave situation which exists in the former states of Indo-China today.

The concept of Laos and Cambodia as neutral buffer states was the basis for the settlement at the 1954 Geneva conference.

RESULTS

John Foster Dulles stalked out of that conference and later denounced neutrality as 'dangerous and immoral'.

The end result is gunboats up the Mekong and third Indo-China war. It is typical of the development of neo-colonialism that they are puppet gunboats. It is also typical that Thailand and South Vietnamese Asiatics are co-operating with Cambodia sub-puppets to tear Vietnam to bits and

South Vietnamese tanks, backed by US air power roll into Cambodia in April 1970.

transform it into a sub-colony, or at least trying to do this.

When the CIA brought about the downfall of Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia and his neutralist concepts, they started a chain reaction of events, the ultimate consequences of which are unpredictable.

Not only did they bring the Vietnam war onto Cambodian soil but they created a single war-front in all Indo-China. In blowing the restraining calm of Cambodian neutrality US policy-makers have started a 'no-frontiers' war which might well blaze its way across all of southern Asia—and beyond.

Washington has made much of 'communist sanctuaries' in Cambodia. There are far more important American sanctuaries in Thailand, Malaya, Burma and Laos. There are American guerrilla bases in Thailand, Burma and Malaysia.

Despite the claims made describing Sir Robert Thompson as the 'victor of counter-insurgency' in Malaya, there is still an incipient, unfinished guerrilla war there.

The hard core and leadership of Malayan guerrillas, whom Sir Robert Thompson never defeated militarily, remains intact and active in the Thailand-Malaysian frontier area.

President Nixon decided on 'Vietnamizing' the war instead of ending it, on expanding it instead of limiting it. American intervention, and in some cases American presence, acts as a powerful fertilizer on the seed of National Liberation movements. This is a fact of the 1970s which President Nixon and his successors will have to reckon with.



MADAGASCAR: ISLAND OF FERMENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

BY JOHN SPENCER

President Philibert Tsiranana of the Malagasy Republic is one of black Africa's most vicious anti-communists.

Two months ago he told the South African propaganda magazine "To the Point": "I will have nothing to do with communism. I will do everything in my power to stop communism, whether it be Chinese communism, Russian communism or imported from Cuba, or what you will. Even if it comes from France. Communism will never be established here, as long as I can prevent it. And listen to this. Listen carefully. Even if the South Africans took it into their heads some fine day to become communists, I would slam the door on them." Tsiranana is, to all intents and purposes, the dictator of Madagascar, the world's fourth

largest island. At the last elections, in January, he was returned unopposed to the presidential palace — with an incredible 99.7 per cent of the votes. Tsiranana is a devout Catholic, who represented the country for several years in the French National Assembly before becoming head of state in 1960—two years after independence. Now 60, he recently suffered a serious illness and nearly lost power when his ministers began intriguing against him while he was recuperating in a Paris clinic. His South African admirers have dubbed him "Monsieur 100 per cent," but his 6½-million subjects don't agree. Last week, led by students from Tananarive university, they rallied 100,000-strong outside his palace demanding his resignation. The huge demonstration followed a massacre of workers

and students by the hated Republican Security Forces at the weekend, in which at least 24 were killed and hundreds injured. Tsiranana replied with a state of emergency, an all-night curfew and the appointment of a military governor for the Malagasy capital. More than 400 students and workers were detained. The Republican Security Force barracks was surrounded by gendarmes in tanks to protect the inmates from popular wrath. The explosion of popular anger against his regime cannot have come as a complete surprise to the Malagasy president, though only two months ago he was proclaiming that the people "love me so much". In March 1971, the poor peasant farmers of the south attacked gendarme posts and government buildings in several towns. Tsiranana put down the revolt with great

brutality, killing over 100 people. He claimed 'Maoists' were responsible for the southern uprising and took the opportunity to fortify his personal rule by accusing former vice-president André Resampa of plotting against the regime. The southern uprising, led by the left-wing Monima Party, sprang from deep economic and social causes. The yearly income of the southern farmers is about £18, of which more than a fifth is taken in tax. Their smallholdings suffer the effects of drought and cyclones as well as the fall in export prices occasioned by the world monetary crisis. With over 450,000 youth unemployed on the island, including thousands of graduates, Tsiranana's rule is becoming increasingly intolerable. Many of the peasants are worse off than they were under

French colonial rule before independence in 1958. In fact, independence brought little real change in the relationships between Madagascar and the former colonial power. The wholesale trade in Madagascar's staple exports—mainly coffee, rice, sugar and spices—is still almost completely in French hands. The country is part of the French Community and has a 'special relationship' with the Common Market. So close is the French connection that educational curricula for universities and schools are dictated from Paris. The French Ministry of Education, which oversees the country's colleges and schools, makes no concessions to Malagasy national feelings, and students end up knowing more about the course of the Loire than they do about their own national geography. Resentment at French domi-

nation of the universities was one of the main causes of the student strike at Tananarive university, which culminated in the clashes and demonstrations last week. The students rightly feel the arrangement is a standing insult to their nationality and their anger is increased by the minute prospect of ever finding a job where their skills can be used. More than 10,000 students qualify every year in administrative professions, but there are jobs for only 2,000 or 3,000. By 1975, if the current trend continues, it is estimated that Madagascar will have 60,000 unemployed graduates. The students' other main demand in their strike was the annulling of the one-sided 'co-operation agreements' with France. Under these agreements, signed in June 1960, the French government maintains 4,200 troops on the

island as part of the South Indian Ocean Command. They include special troops trained for service overseas, including one regiment each of Foreign Legionnaires and paratroops. There is a navy base at the port of Diego-Suarez, and a contingent of air force helicopters and transport planes. The French forces on the island are as large as the Madagascar army itself and under secret protocols attached to the agreements, the Madagascar government can call for French aid for 'defence' purposes. The French forces on Madagascar are commanded by General Marcel Bigeard, an old Indo-China hand who commanded one of the two defeated French battalions at Dien Bien Phu. Bigeard is a notorious right wing and anti-communist. At the end of last year Tsiranana denied 'most

formally the malicious and ridiculous rumours which seem to be flying abroad that French paratroops have been sent to Malagasy to help me retain power'. Tsiranana says he is 'very pleased' with the French military presence: "I am not like certain Africans. What do they do? They shout "Independence, independence". And do you know what happens behind the scenes? They do not even have guns . . . Our enemies are afraid of us because they are afraid of France . . . The French protect us. That is why I like the French.' Among Tsiranana's closest French friends are the leaders of the Socialist Party. Madagascar's ruling party is called the Social-Democratic Party, and its leader has a specially soft spot for the European reformists. One of his closest Euro-

pean contacts is German chancellor Willy Brandt, who founded the appropriately named Friedrich-Ebert Foundation in Tananarive for adult education. Tsiranana's latest actions prove he has little to learn from Ebert when it comes to suppressing revolution. His counter-revolutionary enthusiasm makes him a natural ally of South Africa. He says: "If South Africa wants to co-operate with us, why not? If it comes to us with racism, there can naturally be no agreement. I have made this clear to the South Africans who came to talk to me about co-operation. They fully understand that." Madagascar's 'co-operation' with South Africa is as one-sided as its relationship with the Common Market. The island is a lucrative outlet for South African capital, particularly in the tourist trade.

South African firms are building a luxury hotel at Nossy Be on the coast—another insult to the poor peasants of the southern area. They are building airports and roads, and in co-operation with the French, they are building in Tananarive. Tsiranana maintains "there is no scope for any sort of imperialism here". The 100,000 citizens who marched through Tananarive last week denouncing the French agreements as 'slave treaties' emphatically disagree.

Left and above: President Philibert Tsiranana of Madagascar. They call him 'Monsieur 100 per cent'—but his 6½ million subjects do not agree.

OVER-POPULATION OR PROFIT? THE REAL CAUSE OF WORLD HUNGER. BY BERNARD FRANKS.

'DON'T GROW FOOD!'

PART 2

'... In some large and populous regions of the developing world we are currently threatened not so much by shortages, as by increasing surpluses of food.'

(*'World Hunger'*, January 1972—Magazine of the Freedom From Hunger Campaign.)

Action to cut food production is actively undertaken by numerous organizations, including some which claim to work for an end to starvation.

For example, an appeal to major rice exporting countries, especially Italy and Japan, to cut rice production, or at least 'avoid measures which encourage it', was made on June 1, 1971, by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Rice Study Group. A huge fall in the price to exporters was said to have occurred as a result of 'over-supply'.

It was in 1959 that the FAO set up the 'Freedom From Hunger' Campaign (FFHC) with an initial budget of \$25,000 to promote 'action against world hunger', a role somewhat at variance with the parent organization's strictures on production of rice and many other foods alleged to be 'in surplus'. Technological progress, especially the use of new, high-yield varieties, is said to have contributed to all previous world rice production records being broken for the fourth successive year.

Japan and Italy have both doubled exports and the Common Market as a whole has in the current year gone over from importing to exporting the commodity. The Philippines, where much of the research into high-yielding rice strains is carried out, has exported rice for the first time in 70 years. Markets have become so 'saturated' that growers and exporters attempt to outdo each other in accusations of 'dumping'.

Other Cereals

Drastic actions by international grain authorities to cut back on existing unsold stocks throughout the capitalist world were more than offset by extra large harvests in 1971. In the United States, the wheat harvest at 43.6 million tons was 18 per cent up on the 1970 crop. In October last year, American farmers were threatening to burn stocks to try and stop the collapse in prices on the open market.

In December, the United States House of Representatives passed a bill to buy up 300 million bushels of wheat (20

per cent of the crop) and 25 million tons of feed grains, and store them in a 'food bank' to be released 'only in the case of a national food shortage'. The US Department of Agriculture has also announced plans to reduce feed grains acreage in 1972 by 25 per cent on the 1971 figure. Altogether, 38 million acres are to be 'diverted' out of maize, barley and sorghum.

It is interesting to compare this situation with a prediction by an eminent 19th-century English scientist, Sir William Crookes, physicist, chemist and government adviser on scientific questions. Addressing the leading British scientists of his day at a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1898, he warned:

'It is almost certain that within a generation the ever-increasing population of the United States will consume all the wheat grown within its borders and will be driven to import, and, like ourselves, will scramble for a lion's share of the wheat crop of the world. This being the outlook, exports of wheat from the United States are only of present interest and will gradually diminish to a vanishing point.'

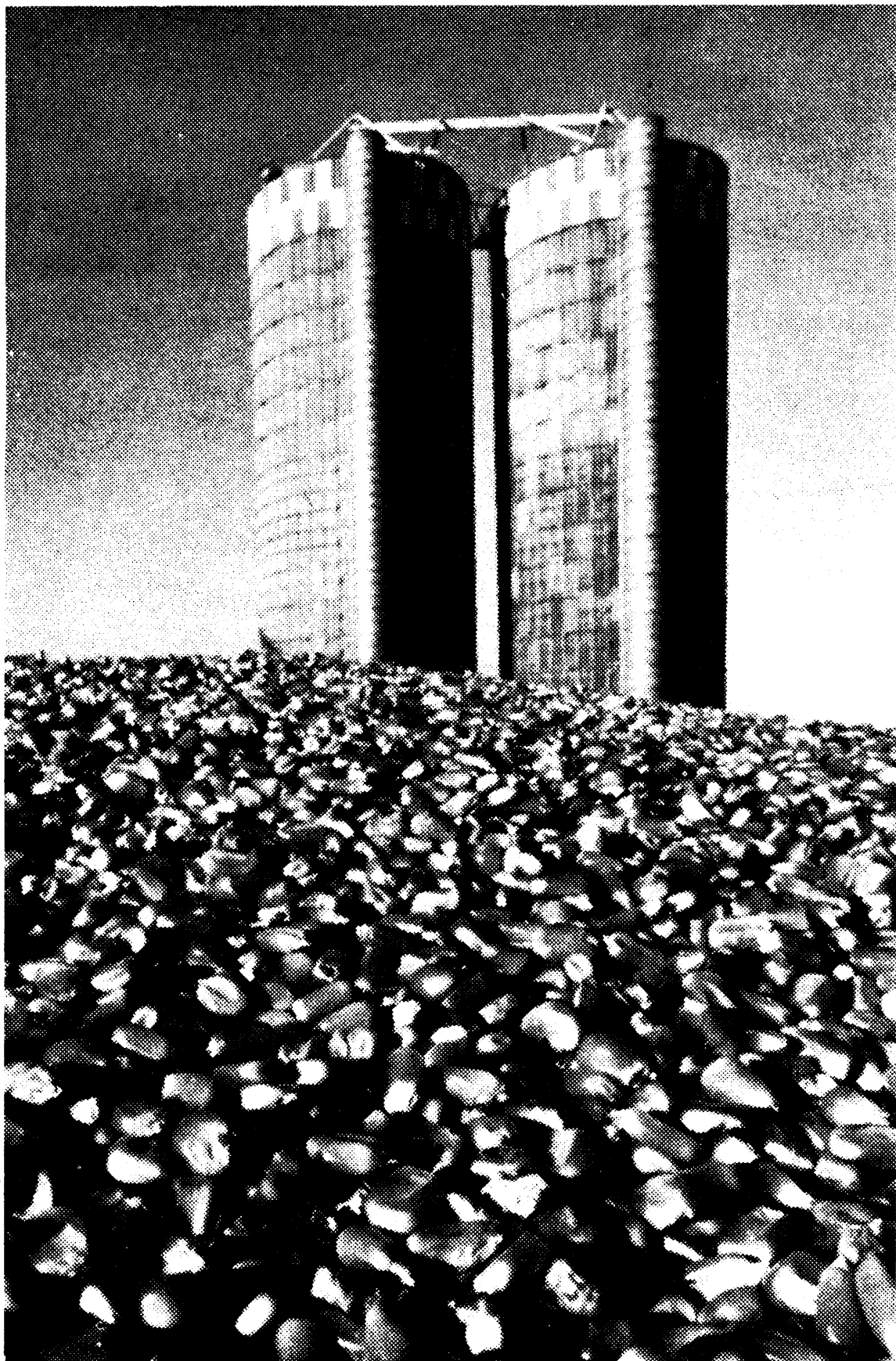
He added: 'Those present who may attend the meeting of the British association 30 years hence will judge how far my forecasts were justified.'

Crookes died in 1919 and so did not live to see the wholesale dumping, burning, ploughing up and general destruction of crops following the glutting of all markets, export and otherwise in the 1930s, or the more or less continuous surpluses since then.

In the Common Market, the 1971 cereals harvest was a record 75 million tons—12 per cent above the previous year's level. Wheat production alone increased by 10.6 per cent. The bigger harvests are attributed to 'favourable growing conditions and unusually high yields'. In Germany alone, yields of cereals, not including grain maize, rose from 26.2 cwt to 31 cwt an acre.

In France, despite a reduction of nearly 600,000 acres in the area under barley, the 1971 crop was still 880,000 tons above the 1970 crop—UN official figures. 'Production is rising faster than Europe's ability to eat it', commented a 'Sunday Times' writer.

The bumper harvests are regarded by the EEC officials as a major 'threat' to the Common Market's agricultural policy which, in 1970, cost more than £1,000m in support for farmers' incomes in the area. According to one report, grain merchants have been buying up storage space all over Europe, even crossing over into Czechoslovakia to hire disused churches as warehouses.



Corn surplus and silos on a farm in Illinois, USA

In November last year, Nixon's special representatives for trade attacked the Common Market agricultural policy for indulging in 'unfair trading practices'. He demanded that surplus wheat in Europe should be stockpiled and not 'dumped' on world markets.

The EEC Commission agreed to this in the hope that it would 'restore order on the world market and put an end to cut-throat competition on the major import markets'.

One of the compulsory 'initiation rites' for farmers of countries joining the Common Market is instruction in the process of 'de-naturing' surplus grains—i.e. making them unfit for human consumption. Specific procedures are laid down by the EEC Agricultural Commission for preparing and spraying methylene blue dye, so rendering wheat and other stocks fit only for cattle food or industrial use.

In Britain, a fall in market prices followed the record 1971 harvest of 14.5 million tons of corn. Wheat yield was reckoned at 34.7 cwt per acre compared with 32.6 cwt in 1970. Many farmers in East Anglia, Lincolnshire and the north east claim they are losing thousands of pounds on subsidy payments because these are made on the basis of an average of 34 cwt an acre, whereas they have produced yields of 38, 40 and 42 cwt and over.

Some of the most spectacular increases in production have occurred in India and Pakistan. In January this year the Indian government ended all grain imports under the US aid programme on the basis of a

'greatly improved food situation'. According to the United Nations' monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics for September 1971, Indian wheat production has risen from 18.6 million tons in 1969, to 23.250 million tons in 1971—an increase of exactly 25 per cent in two years.

One of the main problems stemming from the new large harvests is said to be that of storage. A \$15m programme has been launched by the Indian government to construct grain-handling and storage facilities, including large capacity silos. A Grain Storage Institute has been set up at Hapur in the Punjab.

According to an article in the January 1972 issue of 'World Hunger', the bi-monthly journal of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the wheat harvest in Pakistan rose by 60 per cent in the two years 1967-1969. The increase was based on the use of the high-yield Mexican dwarf wheats. The report states 'the country is now on the brink of cereal self-sufficiency'.

Again, these developments can be compared with a prediction of an over-populationist, this time of recent date. A speaker at the 1968 War on Hunger Conference said:

'My examination of the trend of India's grain production over the past 18 years leads me to the conclusion that the present 1967-1968 production of about 93 to 95 million tons is at a maximum level. This means that for the next two or three years the chances are two to one that production will range between 88 and 96

million tons, not enough to take care of the needs of the rising population.'

Two years after this prediction was made, total Indian grain production stood at 104 million tons. In the third year of the forecast, it stood at 112 million tons and, as stated, all wheat Aid imports were stopped.

Vegetables

Onions from the 1971 English crop are being allowed to rot and then dumped following a sharp drop in market prices. Payments to farmers were £20 a ton in 1969 and 1970—a situation which encouraged producers looking for a profitable crop not yet in glut to increase acreage from an overall 10,000 acres in 1970 to 13,600 in 1971.

With a mass of high-quality imports also on the market, prices are now down to £12 a ton. It was in 1971 that plantings of many vegetables in Britain were heavily cut back following the 1970 'over-production'. Pea acreages, for example, were down by 18 per cent compared with the previous year.

Farmers in the EEC, also faced with vegetable gluts, are getting ready to take a bigger slice of the trade in Britain. A £14m 'roll-on, roll-off' port installation is being built in Northern Brittany to get early potatoes, cauliflower, broccoli and other produce to English markets—on the doorstep of Cornish producers—within ten to 12 hours of being harvested.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

BERGER OBSERVES HIS WORLD

In a suitably pompous and abstract introduction to this volume of New Left commentary, Nikos Stangos writes:

'At times one feels almost as if Berger is fighting a losing battle: we believe, most of us, that the kind of integration he requires, amounting to a metaphysical attitude, is no more than an inability to think clearly or "objectively".' (p.14.)

This required 'inability' is precisely what becomes apparent in the selected passages of Berger's work. What Stangos terms 'metaphysical', Marxists would call passively idealist.

Despite the cover of superficial, fleeting references to Marx, and the occasional garnish of words like 'dialectical', 'synthetic' and 'petty bourgeois', Berger is an anti-Marxist, observing the world from a safe distance.

His remoteness from the standpoint of Marxism can be seen in the way he regards the individual. It is always experience rather than consciousness which he treats as most important.

'Speech, as the recounting of experience and the means of making it real, preoccupied the Romantics. Hence their constant comparisons between paintings and poetry.' (p.148.) (My emphasis.)

Yet the primary focus of interest must be the development of consciousness. Speech does not reflect merely experience, but also the level of consciousness with which that experience is understood.

Berger goes on in a way to illustrate this when he quotes Monet:

'Beside her [nature's] grandeur, her power and her immortality, the human creature seems but a miserable atom.'

This is experience, together with a religious attitude indicating Monet's ignorance and fear when confronted with the natural world. It is important continually to recognize the difference between undergoing an experience, and consciously understanding that experience.

Berger's pose as an observer also underlies his approach to the art of the Cubists. In 'The Moment of Cubism', their positive features are quite reasonably treated, yet not a word is said about the principal shortcomings of these artists—that they merely interpreted the contradictory appearance of the world around them, making little endeavour to understand the essence of their period. They were very much confined to a vacuum of self-consciousness and subjectivism, as is Berger when he writes:

'The only inspiration which exists is the intimation of our own potential.'

For Marxists, the potential of the individual cannot be seen in isolation, and is certainly not the starting point for building a revolutionary party. The individual must be seen in the context of society, and it is only after changing society that the full potential

of any individual can be realized.

Berger, however, is not a Marxist and is striving merely to reflect the appearances of objective reality ('The Look of Things'). The essay titled 'Drawing' is very clear on this point. There is no awareness that even while he draws, his subject changes, or that while he contemplates, events continually pass him by.

With Berger, as with all pseudo-Marxists and academics, the philosophical perspectives of the middle class—empiricism, mysticism, individualism, and all forms of idealism—emerge most clearly in a political context.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks for all 'left' liberals is Che Guevara, their neo-Christ in the age of capitalism's decay. Berger treats Che with profound reverence, metaphysical speculation and complete political confusion. Berger tells us that imperialism has 'changed' its significance. He explains:

'Previously it had demanded cheap raw materials, exploited labour and a controlled world market. Today it demands a mankind that counts for nothing.' (p.45.)

Berger thus separates the economic impact of capitalism from its 'moral' effect on man in capitalist society. He wishes to show that Guevara fought to make the world tolerable to the moralizing observers of the 'New Left Review', and that this was not at all a fight to smash the economic system of capitalism:

'The social forces historically capable of bringing about the transformation are—at least in general terms—defined. Guevara chose to identify himself with those forces.' (p.52.)

But Guevara identified himself far more as the force capable of bringing social change. He took upon himself and his small band of supporters the task, as individuals, of transforming society. In a bold but entirely anti-Marxist fashion he tried and failed. His failure was the failure, inevitable in this epoch, of individualism.

The mystical way in which the middle class now glorifies him indicates the breeding ground of individualism in the working class today.

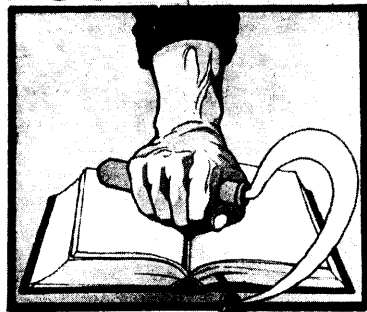
Berger falls into the academics' hole of finding neat historical 'parallels' and 'patterns':

'For example, the manner in which during the crisis of May 1968 de Gaulle was able to manoeuvre and lever the electorate and the constitution was remarkably similar to Louis Napoleon's.' (pp.83-84.)

What a wealth of difference, of total opposites, lie beneath this apparent similarity and congruence! Here we see clearly how deceptive is 'The Look of Things'.

Finally we must look at Berger's treatment of the Czechoslovak crisis of 1968 in order to see the empirical position adopted and the way in which this ties in with a worship of spontaneity in the working class. Berger sees the 'liberalization' moves of 1968 as a move by the bureaucracy

BOOK REVIEW



'SELECTED ESSAYS AND ARTICLES. The Look of Things'. John Berger. Pelican Books. 250 pages. 40p.

to end their own privileged positions:

'It was necessary for the people to begin to take over what had been constructed in their name, to take possession of the content of the socialist forms which had been rigidly and distortedly formalized.' (p.230.)

The move to the 'left', then, was not a conscious act by the bureaucracy to head off rising political consciousness and demands in the working class, but an end to oppression!

'Anything less would have meant transforming a ruthless authoritarianism into a more benign one.' (p.230.)

Berger takes the appearance as essence, and blames lack of freedom under the bureaucracy onto democratic centralism:

'...the intention was to legalize opposition groups and factions within the Party and to abandon the practice of "democratic centralism" as institutionalized and made an article of religious faith by Stalin after the expulsion of Trotsky.' (p.232.) (My emphasis.)

True to his middle-class ideals and in company with the revisionists, Berger attacks democratic centralism in its perverted Stalinist form in degenerate workers' states, and then generalizes on this basis.

Trotsky defended democratic centralism as the only suitable form of organization for the building of a disciplined revolutionary party, while attacking the bureaucratic degeneration of the Party apparatus under Stalin. Democracy was suppressed by Stalin (as the Moscow Trials and the expulsion of Trotsky show), and democratic centralism was never practised after the domination of the bureaucracy in the Soviet Union.

From these points, it is plain Berger approaches the question as an anti-Marxist with no concern for the building of a revolutionary party. In this, and also in his attitude to the working class, he is at one with the International Socialist revisionists, etc. He writes:

'Czechoslovak workers now face a more conscious and important choice than has been offered them for 20 years. In this choice, however harsh, many will recognize and rediscover their political power.' (p.231; written 1968.)

Undoubtedly, consciousness in the Czech working class had advanced but, without a revolutionary leadership, most workers could only remain within the bounds established by the conditions of life under the Stalinist bureaucracy. Without leadership, the working class has no political power. However great the frustrations of the worker, revolutionary theory has to be introduced from without. Spontaneity, as Berger ruefully discovers at the end of his essay, is not revolutionary consciousness. This is the danger of building 'grass-roots' movements, and worshipping the working class.

Our task is to fight consciously for Marxism against elements of confusion such as Berger, as well as the revisionists.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

EVERY-DAY BORING FOLK

The Festival of Darkness—Lord Longford-Malcolm Muggeridge-clean-up Britain campaign has sought out evil in the almost-forgotten corners of our national life.

Now the cry has gone up that BBC's dramatically boring, every-day story of simple folk, 'The Archers', is fast becoming a cesspool of torrid sex.

Creator of the serial Godfrey Baseley says the new script-writers have turned the quiet village of Ambridge into another Peyton Place.

Then a sensational intervention was made by the Shropshire branch of the reactionary National Farmers' Union.

'Too much time was spent on sex and boozing' and the

Below: Polly and Sid Perks



BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY:
Germany 1931/1932
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87½
Where Is Britain Going?
Paperback 37½p
Revolution Betrayed
Paperback 62½p—cloth £1.05
Problems of the Chinese Revolution
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £1.87½
Permanent Revolution:
Results and Prospects
Paperback 75p
In Defence of Marxism
Paperback 75p
Lessons of October
Paperback 60p

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

Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

Wandsworth's ex-housing head says:

'Rebel' councillors must fight back

BY PHILIP WADE Our Housing Correspondent

THE LABOUR group on London's Wandsworth council, who have 58 seats against 12 Tories, has already decided to implement the 'fair rents' Bill by 29 to 26.

The decision caused a storm of protest, especially as it reversed a previous group decision not to implement.

'Do nothing' policy

In protest at the decision, virtually the whole Labour leadership on the council quit their posts. One of them was Tony Belton who resigned as housing committee chairman.

With seven of the nine Labour group executive members gone, the fight is now on to reverse the

decision to implement the Tory Bill when the council itself debates the question on June 13.

'The policy of the new EC is virtually to do nothing until it's too late. In other words, they will implement it,' Mr Belton told me.

'In the long-term sense this Bill is absolutely critical for housing. It is socially divisive and a direct attack on all tenants.

'What you could have is the establishment of poor people's ghettos—inhabited by the low-income poor—and high-income affluent areas.

'Because of the split on Wandsworth we're virtually crippled as an effective group at the moment. And there is a fair amount of personal bitterness about it all.

'The aim of the Bill is obviously to save money at the expense of tenants. The subsidies to owner-occupiers remain untouched and I don't think it's any accident that these people are in a majority for the first time.

'As far as I'm concerned Wandsworth Labour group still has to take a stand and refuse to implement the Bill,' added Mr Belton.

What about the lack of a lead

from the Labour Party nationally?

'I'm worried about the leadership nationally, on questions like the Common Market or the trade unions, where the Labour Party doesn't seem to know where it's going. And I suppose that is true locally on this issue.'

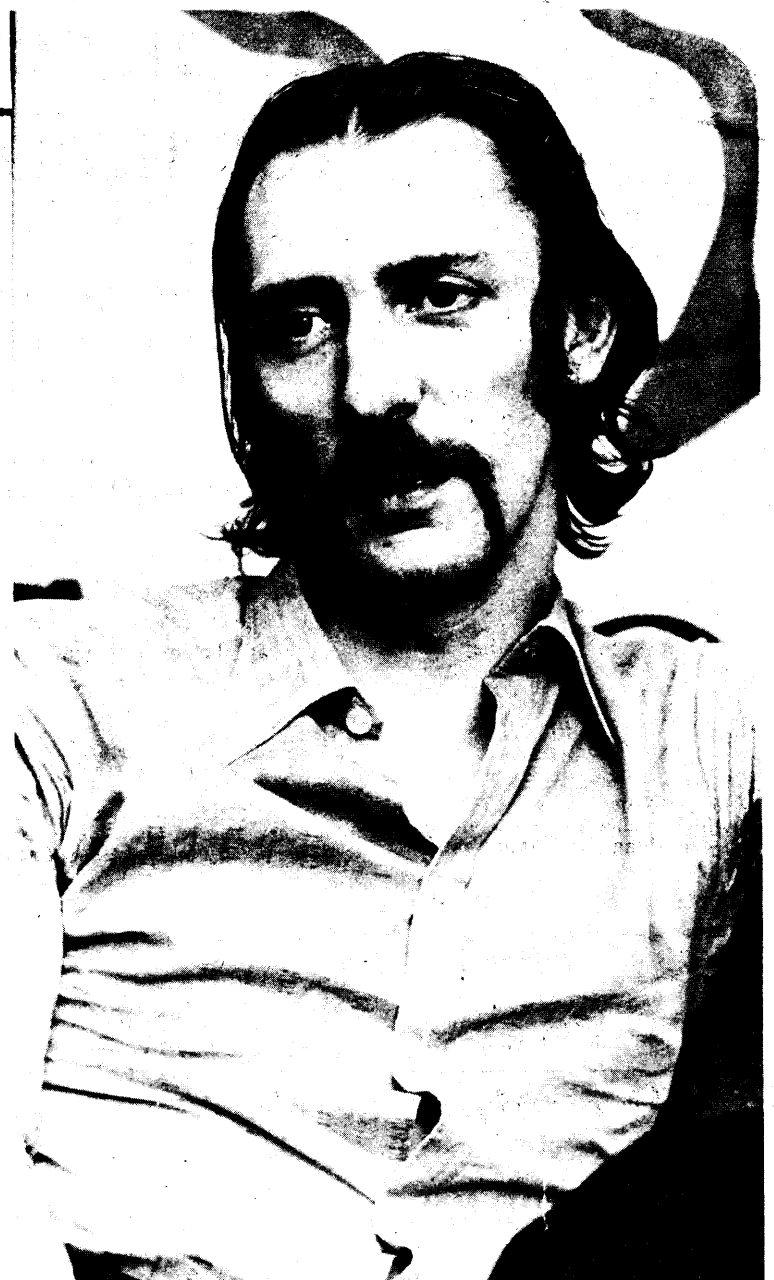
What about the future housing policies of a Labour government?

'Far too few people in Westminster have had experience of local government work. That is why the 1969 Housing Act—which was good in intentions—has given an open hand to speculators.

Municipalize property

'The next Labour government has to have policies aimed at municipalizing rented property. And we've also got to take over building land in the cities. Wandsworth council has just paid about £75,000 for half an acre.

'The other alternative, of course, is to nationalize the banks and so on. But I don't see the leadership going that far,' said Mr Belton.



Tony Belton—Resigned from chairmanship of housing committee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ON THE TENANTS' STRUGGLE ARE WELCOME. ADDRESS TO WORKERS PRESS HOUSING CORRESPONDENT, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.

Subscribe! workers press

The daily paper that leads the fight against the Tories.

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)
£10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)
£5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:

£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)
£6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below NOW and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

Days required	MONDAY	THURSDAY
(Please tick)	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
	WEDNESDAY	SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for months.

Amount enclosed £

Anti-Rent Bill conference may be held in June

THE SPLIT inside the Labour Party on the Tory 'fair rents' proposals has deepened with the formation of an action committee by councillors opposed to the Bill.

Over 40 of them set up the committee in London at the weekend and it will campaign for the non-implementation of the Housing Finance Bill if it becomes law.

The councillors are expected to call a national conference in June to mobilize other Labour-

controlled local councils against the Bill.

But only nine councils were represented at the meeting. These included representatives from the Labour minority group on three councils which have already decided in favour of implementation.

It was made clear that despite the lack of lead from the Labour Party nationally, the Greater London regional council of the LP voted in March for non-implementation.

Another national conference of Labour councillors is planned for June 10 in Sheffield at the invitation of the city's controlling Labour group.

The betrayal of the vast majority of Labour councils on the Bill has brought an immediate response from tenants and the rank and file inside the Labour Party.

Last week there were calls from the Hammersmith Joint Tenants' Action Committee for the resignation of the 45 Labour councillors who voted for implementation and have since suspended the 11 who voted against.

Said a spokesman: 'We are setting a precedent which will enable future representatives to be aware of their position when they vote on other important issues.'

UNION CONFERENCES-ROUND-UP

'Tories trying to break us'

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE TORIES are trying to break the trade union movement, National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers' president Peter Prendergast told the annual conference at Bournemouth yesterday.

The 'severity' shown in the first few weeks of the Industrial Relations Act's operation had appalled him, he said, adding: 'Our forefathers must be turning in their graves that we have allowed this to happen.'

'The dockers are to be commended on their struggle and one can only hope that their endeavours will not be in vain. Knowing the Liverpool dockers, they will not give in so easily no matter what the Industrial Court has to say about it.'

MEANWHILE, along the south coast at Eastbourne, general

secretary of the Institute of Civil Servants, William McCall condemned a statement by Tory leader Edward Heath that care should be taken not to train engineers and mathematicians in excess of the number needed by industry.

Describing the statement as 'depressing and misguided', McCall said:

'Our aim must be to produce as many people as possible qualified to the limit of their potential and to make full use of their abilities and talents.'

MUCH the same thought dominated the opening day of the South Wales miners' annual conference at Porthcawl yesterday.

President Glyn Williams said the government should sink new coal mines in line with the policy of other great coal producing countries like Russia and America.

Referring to a government report on fuel Mr Williams said:

'It is to be hoped that the report will come down in favour of expansion of the coal industry with no more pit closures except in those pits where coal has been worked out.'



South Wales NUM president Glyn Williams

I would like information about

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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

Name

Address

Scottish analysis of chaos

BRITAIN was heading towards chaos because of law-breaking activities by trade union leaders, strike pickets, Labour councillors and school children, a Scottish businessman said yesterday.

Every section of society had to think about law and order before Britain went any further towards complete chaos, said William Jack, president of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.

'What are we to make of the situation where supposedly responsible leaders announce that they do not recognize courts established under the law and encourage, or at any rate connive at, those to whom they should give a responsible lead when the openly defy the law of the land?' he asked.

Attacking workers directly, he told a business conference in Glasgow: 'What are we to make of activities called "picketing", which sometimes have amounted to nothing less than intimidation?'

Jack also condemned those Labour councils who have said they won't implement the 'fair rents' Bill and school children 'indulging in public demonstration'.

He laid part of the blame on a television 'diet of violence'.

Tents pitched in picket for union

A BLACK Country engineering firm which has survived since 1890 without granting trade union rights is now besieged by an 80-strong work force demanding recognition of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and union rates of pay.

The workers at H. F. Shaw Ltd, near Dudley, Worcestershire, have pitched tents near the factory and are mounting a 24-hour picket.

The strike began two weeks ago when anger finally boiled over at the management's attitude and the wages it was paying.

All male workers are on 35p an hour and women earn between 20 and 30p. This means that skilled welders are earning £14 a week before tax. The men are supported by local AUEW officials who are negotiating with management.

Said shop steward Kenneth Wright: 'We are prepared to stop out here until we get recognition. I would sooner go back on the dole than return to those conditions.'

McGarvey called in to Falmouth

DAN MCGARVEY, the boiler-makers' leader, has been asked to intervene in the seven-week-old dispute at Silley Cox and Company, Falmouth.

The management is threatening to shutdown the ship repair yard if no quick settlement is reached.

Managing director Wilf Newton said the main issue was 'whether the boiler-makers are prepared to be part of the community and work along with management and other unions to ensure the future of the port'.

The boiler-makers' national executive member, Cyril Marley, travelled to Falmouth a few days ago, but his trip was abortive.

It is understood that at least one Silley Cox ship contract has been transferred to Newcastle, which is also McGarvey's headquarters.

Why haven't Newcastle shipyard workers been informed by McGarvey and his officials of the tense situation at Falmouth where management is wielding the big stick over the work force?

RECALL TUC SAYS FOUNDRYMAN

THE Trades Union Congress should be urgently recalled to clarify its policy towards the Industrial Relations Act, the foundry workers' conference was told yesterday.

Robert Garland, chairman of the foundry section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said that the trade unions were at the crossroads over the Act.

'Either we seek to operate it when it appears to be to our

advantage to do so, which means appearing in Court when the occasion demands, or we stand by our policy of outright defiance of the Act,' he told delegates at Easbourne.

'In these circumstances it appears to me not only desirable but vitally necessary that the TUC should be urgently recalled in order to clarify the position and strengthen the unity of the trade union movement,' said Garland.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight the Tories'
'fair rents' Bill

NORTH KENT: Tuesday May 23, 8 p.m. SOGAT House, Essex Rd, Dartford.

DAGENHAM: Tuesday May 23, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday May 23, 8 p.m. Small Hall, Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor St, SW4.

PRESTON: Tuesday, May 23, 8 p.m. 'Railway and Commercial Hotel' (near railway station), Butler Street. 'Recall the TUC, Make the Tories resign'.

TODMORDEN: Tuesday May 23, 8 p.m. 'Royal George', Rochdale Road. Speaker: Cliff Slaughter, SLL Central Committee member.

WEST LONDON: Tuesday May 23, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Rd, off York Way, Kings Cross.

LIVERPOOL: Thursday, May 25, 8 p.m. YMCA, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 1.

MANCHESTER: Thursday, May 25, 8 p.m. Wheat Sheaf, High Street.

SOUTHALL: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. Parkway Rooms (Rent office), Racecourse Estate, Northolt (next to swimming pool).

NORTH LONDON: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayer's Arms', Tottenham High Rd (nr White Hart Lane)

CROYDON: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. 'The Anchor' (corner of Southbridge Rd and South End).

LUTON: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. St John Ambulance Hall, Lea Rd.

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday May 25, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club (opposite New Cross Station).

ACTON: Monday June 5, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Rd.

EAST LONDON: Tuesday May 30, 8 p.m. 'Aberfeldy', Aberfeldy St, E.14.

AYLESHAM: Thursday June 1, 8 p.m. The Legion (Old Working Men's Club), Burgess Rd.

R-R engine efficiency drive

ROLLS-ROYCE are to bring together their Derby and Bristol engines divisions in an 'efficiency' drive, it was disclosed yesterday.

'These moves will put us in much better shape to compete and also to co-operate with

other engine companies in world markets,' said chairman Lord Cole in a message to workers.

The rationalization raises the question of possible redundancies, although Lord Cole made no mention of such plans in his statement.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.20-2.33 London. 4.00 Lottery. 4.10 Enchanted house. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Simon Locke. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Police file. 6.15 Lookaround. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Calamity Jane and Sam Bass'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 Crime of passion. 10.00 London. 10.30 Munich. 11.45 Drive-in. 12.10 Gazette. 12.15 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 12.12 News. 12.16 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 10.20 London. 3.00 Man from Uncle. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Grasshopper island. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Sky's the limit. 7.00 Film: 'No Questions Asked'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 Crime of passion. 10.00 London. 10.30 Munich. 11.45 News. 11.55 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Sally Trench.

HARLECH: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.20 Camping and caravanning. 3.50 Junkin. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.40 Film: 'Yuma'. 8.15 Albert. 8.45 London. 12.00 Weather.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.15-4.30 Miri mawr. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd.

HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West.

ANGLIA: 10.20 London. 3.15 By-gones. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 News. 4.15 Mr Piper. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 McMillan and wife. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 Crime of passion. 10.00 London. 10.30 Munich. 11.45 Jesse James.

ATV MIDLANDS: 10.20-2.33 London. 3.10 Afternoon. 3.35 Stars. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Simon Locke. 4.40 Story. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'Frenchie'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 Crime of passion. 10.00 London. 10.30 Munich. 11.30 Who knows? **ULSTER:** 10.20-2.33 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Daws explores. 6.35 London. 7.00 Film: 'East of Sumatra'. 8.30 Albert! 9.00 Crime of passion.

GRANADA: 10.20 London. 2.35 Avengers. 3.30 Messengers. 3.55 Camera in action. 4.10 News.



Elvi Hale plays Anne of Cleves in the fourth play in 'The Six Wives of Henry VIII' on BBC 2 tonight.

Peyton Place. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Set of six. 7.00 Film: 'The Halliday Brand'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 Crime of passion. 10.00 London. 10.30 Munich. 11.45 Monty Nash. **TYNE TEES:** 10.20 London. 3.00 Master chefs. 3.15 Danger man. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'Seven Ways from Sundown'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 Crime of passion. 10.00 London. 10.30 Munich. 11.45 One step beyond.

12.15 News. 12.30 Epilogue. **SCOTTISH:** 10.20-2.33 London. 3.30 Sean the leprechaun. 3.45 Crossroads. 4.10 Dateline. 4.55 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.20 Cartoon. 6.35 Hogan's heroes. 7.05 Film: 'The Charge of the Lancers'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 Crime of passion. 10.30 Munich. 11.45 Late call. 11.50 Drive-in. **GRAMPIAN:** 11.00-2.55 London. 3.38 News. 3.45 Women today. 4.10 Nanny and the professor. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Strictly Scottish. 6.35 London.

TV

BBC 1

9.20-9.35 The herbs. 9.38-12.30 Schools. 12.55-1.25 Aelwyd ac Eiddo. 1.30 Along the trail. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.15 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Animal magic. 5.20 Scooby-doo. 5.44 Hector's house. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 TELEVISION TOP OF THE FORM.

7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD.

7.30 FILM: 'MAYTIME IN MAYFAIR'. Anna Neagle, Michael Wilding. Romantic comedy.

9.00 NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather.

9.20 DOCUMENTARY: THE PRESS WE DESERVE. Scoop, Scandal and Strife.

10.05 SPORTSNIGHT WITH COLEMAN. International soccer, England v Ireland.

11.35 THE BITTER SANDS.

11.40 Weather.

ITV

10.20 Schools. 1.15 Time to remember (London only). 1.45 Schools. 2.33 Good afternoon! 3.00 Houseparty. 3.15 Let's face it. 3.45 Danger man. 4.40 Once upon a time. 4.55 Junior showtime. 5.20 Magpie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 ALBERT! Hot-Pot!

7.30 FILM: 'THE BLACK DAKOTAS'. Gary Merrill, Wanda Hendrix, John Bromfield. Western.

8.45 DOCUMENTARY: 'Munich: The Road of Excess'.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 CRIME OF PASSION. Jean-Paul.

11.30 THE HOT SEAT. Drive-In special.

12.00 ANTHOLOGY OF LOVE. 'I Love You'.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.35-6.30 Open University.

6.35 COMPUTERS IN BUSINESS. How To Fail.

7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.

7.30 NEWSROOM and weather.

8.00 RICH MAN, POOR MAN... Medicine.

8.50 WHEELBASE.

9.20 THE SIX WIVES OF HENRY VIII. Anne of Cleves.

10.50 CHELSEA. FLOWER SHOW. A Flower for All Seasons.

11.15 NEWS ON 2 and weather.

11.20 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. Kris Kristofferson, Rita Coolidge, Quiver.

7.00 Film: 'Mozambique'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 Crime of passion. 10.00 London. 10.30 Munich. 11.45 Hot seat. 12.15 Epilogue. 10.00 London. 10.30 Munich. 11.45 White line. **YORKSHIRE:** 10.20 London. 3.00 Master chefs. 3.15 Danger man. 4.10 News. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Film: 'Saskatchewan'. 8.30 Albert. 9.00 Crime of passion. 10.00 London. 10.30 Munich. 11.46 Spyforce. 12.40 Weather.

Battles hot up as Nixon talks in Kremlin

VIETNAMESE liberation forces hit back in strength yesterday against the diplomatic conspiracy to strangle their revolution.

As President Nixon landed in Moscow to be greeted by President Nikolai Podgorny and premier Alexei Kosygin, the forces of General Vo Nguyen Giap went into action on all three fronts in South Vietnam.

Massive reinforcements moved towards the ancient imperial capital of Hué and fresh tank forces were reported moving on the city.

In the Central Highlands, a liberation battalion overran Base Camp 41, 14 miles south of Kontum and halfway on the road to Pleiku.

Both Central Highland cities are in danger of being overrun by the communist offensive. North of Saigon, near the provincial capital An Loc, a relief force of government troops is still bogged down outside the city and facing strong attack from well-entrenched liberation troops.

The renewal of the liberation offensive will come as a serious embarrassment to both parties in the Moscow talks.

It proves that the mining of Haiphong and the other North Vietnamese ports has done little or nothing to reduce the fighting capacity of the liberation armies.

Vietnam is high on the agenda at the Moscow talks and the Vietnamese leaders clearly fear that Nixon and the Soviet leaders will cook up a compromise sell-out to stem the advance of the revolution in Indo-China.

Drivers' £7.50 rise

A NEW pay deal for 1,000 drivers employed by car transporter firms in Birmingham, Luton and Ellesmere Port, will give some men rises of up to £7.50 a week.

Some transporter drivers are already earning between £60 and £80 a week and in one 'golden' week in 12 can get as much as £150 with incentive bonuses and allowances.

Their latest increases range from £2.50 to £7.50 for an average 55-hour week.

General Strike motion off agenda UPW faces both ways on Act

FROM DAVID MAUDE OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT IN BLACKPOOL

POST WORKERS' leader Tom Jackson yesterday warned that the Tories were forcing the trade union movement to 'strike back' at the Industrial Relations Act.

But he defended his executive's decision to use the National Industrial Relations Court in its bid to stop the Post Office recognizing the non-TUC Telecommunication Staffs Association.

Jackson adopted this 'face-both-ways' stance during the opening session of the Union of Post Office Workers' 53rd annual conference at Blackpool.

His words came after union leaders had persuaded the 1,450 delegates to accept the removal of several motions on the Act—one calling for a TUC-led General Strike—from the agenda.

Platform speakers were later successful in their bid to grant Jackson a 15.5 per cent wage increase—almost twice that they got for its members earlier this year.

This would link his pay to that of a second-line head postmaster. In money terms it means his pay goes up from £4,490 to £5,200 a year.

There will be similar increases for other officers.

The UPW secretary later told Workers Press he had no interests in the outcome of the vote to grant him an increase—'except in so far as it affects what I draw at the end of the month.'

In his speech, the UPW secretary claimed that the 9-per-cent settlement his 190,000 members had received, while not the best the union had achieved, had beaten the government's pay norm in existence at the time.

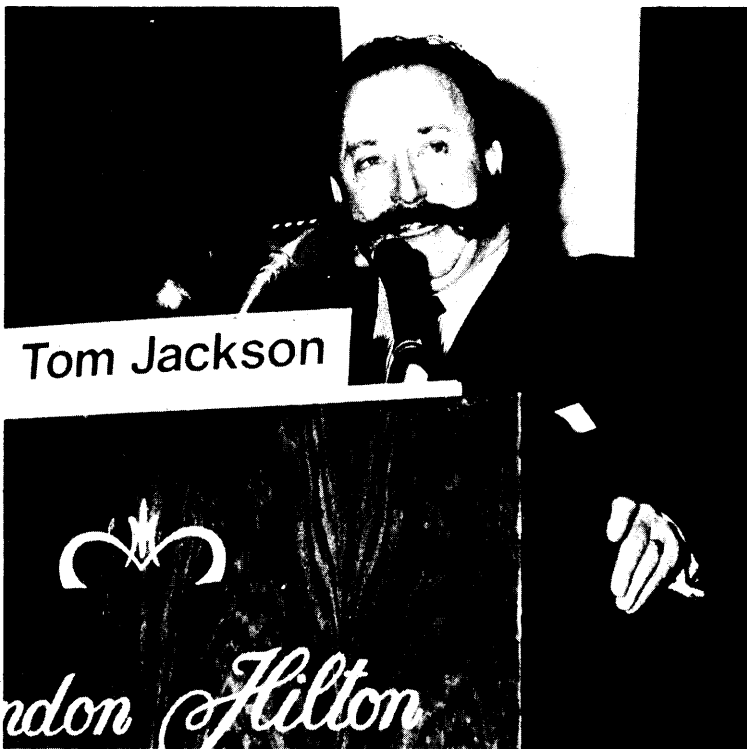
It had done so without disruption or drain on union funds which, he said, would by this time next year be in better shape than they had been before the lengthy 1971 strike.

The cementing of better relations with Post Office management, in contrast with the deterioration on industrial relations outside the corporation, was a major theme in his speech.

Jackson claimed that with the help of the Post Office Users National Council, the union had scotched plans to slash 25,000 jobs by 1978. The job-loss figure in the Post Office's current five-year plan was closer to 1,000.

The union decision to go to the NIRC in a few weeks time, he went on, did not imply a

UPW secretary Tom Jackson speaking at a 'Financial Times' seminar last week. His salary now tops the £5,000 mark.



decision to register under the Act.

'We were never registered and I hope we never will be,' he said.

'It would be a tragedy irrespective of what happens elsewhere if we were to get ourselves in the frame of mind where we registered and became creatures of this government.'

He said that the TSA could not possibly obtain recognition under the Act, and said that to make that a certainty, Professor Bill Wedderburn had been briefed to put the UPW case to the NIRC.

The present government, he said, was the most divisive on class lines since the 1930s.

'We have reached a situation where if we are not very careful the government will put us in the situation where we will have to strike back.'

If the Tories did not control their legal procedures then the Act would be destroyed along with the Tory philosophy that workers could be bludgeoned.

Earlier the conference had agreed that it would not debate motions on the Industrial Relations Act, and Jackson told

Workers Press that this meant that it was now likely the issue would not be discussed at all this week.

He expressed concern about this since it could leave the impression that there was some equivocation in the union's position on the subject.

Tory leaders were asked yesterday afternoon to wipe out the £135m deficit the Post Office is expected to accumulate by 1973.

Delegates to the conference also called on the government to make a contribution towards the long delayed mechanization of the postal service.

Jackson said that a realistic approach to the development of the service required the search for new traffic and the increasing of productivity, so that the corporation could pay its way without price increases.

He proposed several divergences from the previous executive policy on productivity; for the first time the executive wants members to accept Adpost, the delivery of advertising material from door to door with consequential pay increases at local level.

Teachers not happy with 9 p.c.

THE MINIMUM 9 per cent pay rise for teachers, announced in the Commons yesterday got a lukewarm reception from teachers' organizations. Lowest paid teachers will get rises of 10 per cent and 11.8 per cent.

Edward Britton, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the award was 'an appreciable improvement on the altogether inadequate offer made by the education authorities.'

'But it does not go very far towards a really satisfactory solution of the teachers' salary problems.'

He said the government had wanted to restrict the increase to 7 per cent and welcomed the arbiters' decision to go above the figure.

He also welcomed the decision to give some preferential treatment to the under-paid teachers.

But even that 'goes only a very little way towards relieving the hardship in which many teachers start their careers.'

Women stewards

WOMEN were still the largest pool of cheap labour in Britain the women's conference of the General and Municipal Workers' Union was told yesterday. Alex Donnet, the union's chairman, said women would have to play a bigger role organizationally—more female shop stewards, branch secretaries and regional council women were needed.

Mini-cars stopped

MINI-CAR production at the Austin Morris factory at Longbridge, Birmingham, was halted yesterday by a strike of 360 engine inspectors.

About 1,000 assembly workers were sent home, joining 2,300 engine assemblers and machinists laid off last week. The dispute, over work-measurement, has stopped engine production for the mini, 1100/1300 and Marina 1.3.

Rents Bill 'decadent'

WIDESPREAD Rachmanism in Glasgow by 1975 was predicted by the city's Lord Provost, John Mains, yesterday. He described the Tory 'fair rents' Bill as 'decadent and unpleasant' and appealed to the whole labour movement to unite and oppose it.

LATE NEWS WEATHER

IT WILL be dull with rain at first over north-east Scotland, East Anglia and south-east England but otherwise Scotland, central and eastern England will be dry with sunny periods. However, cloud and rain over Wales, Northern Ireland and western England will spread east into remaining areas of the British Isles during the afternoon and evening, but the rain will die out in the west later in the day. It will be rather cool in the west but temperatures elsewhere will be about normal.

NEWS DESK
01-720 2000

CIRCULATION
01-622 7029

MAY FUND NEEDS £543.60 IN 9 DAYS

OUR TOTAL now stands at £1,206.40 with a target of £1,750 to raise by the end of this month. There is not a moment to lose.

In Ulster the situation borders on civil war. In Britain, the fight by the Tories against the railwaymen and dockers comes to a head.

Every day, Workers Press is needed to prepare the working class to win this fight. Put everything you can into the campaign for our Fund this month. If you can, please give something extra you.

MAKE IT A RECORD TOTAL. POST EVERY DONATION IMMEDIATELY TO:

Workers Press May Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High St
London SW4 7UG.

Socialist Labour League

Public meeting

SUNDAY MAY 28 7.30 pm

RECALL THE TUC!
DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS!
BUILD COUNCILS OF ACTION NOW!
MAKE THE TORY GOVERNMENT RESIGN!
RETURN A LABOUR GOVERNMENT PLEDGED TO SOCIALIST POLICIES.

Beaver Hall, Garlick Hill (nr Mansion House tube)

Speakers: MIKE BANDA (SLL Central Committee)
LARRY CAVANAGH (Liverpool docker)
JOHN SIMMANCE (YS national secretary)