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INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● WEDNESDAY JULY 19, 1972 ● No. 821 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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MAUDLING GOES!

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BY ALEX MITCHELL

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This is a reference to the covenant which is alleged to have paid

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He also announced that two senior civil servants named in the Poulson case had been suspended. They are George Pottinger, permanent secretary in the Scottish Office, and Mr E. G. Braithwaite, secretary of the South West Metropolitan Hospital Board.

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The article said: 'The cheerful, easy-going manner of Mr Reginald Maudling camouflages a strong determination backed by an extraordinary brain.'

This gushing statement is difficult to reconcile with the 'New Statesman' article last week that of nine companies which Maudling became a director during 1964 and 1970, five have ended in bankruptcy.

The resignation of the deputy prime minister reveals the desperate state of the Tory leadership. This government is kept in office solely by the craven collaboration of the labour and trade union leaders.

It is bitterly ironic that having announced Maudling's exit, Heath went round to his No 10 Downing Street residence to greet the TUC leaders to commence talks about wage restraint.

The TUC leaders have no mandate for such talks with these people. They should break off all talks with this bankrupt Tory government and force a General Election.



Tory No. 2 (above) hands over to ex-Securicor director Robert Carr (below)



Hopeless search for gold substitute

BY IAN YEATS

YESTERDAY'S meeting of Common Market finance ministers in London 'solved' nothing.

All efforts to find a substitute for Bretton Woods are foundering on the rock of American refusal either to revalue the price of gold upwards or to make the dollar convertible.

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No further meetings were planned until the end of September.

Then the ministers would confer again in Luxembourg, coinciding with meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the Commonwealth finance ministers in London.

In other words there is complete stalemate. The only effect of this decision is to further postpone action until the end of the summer.

For the next two months ministerial minds will be bent to finding a 'neutral international reserve' to substitute for the pound and the dollar.

The search is hopeless. Value cannot be restored to the paper currencies of the world without first putting an end to the system of trade which they serve.

But capitalism will not sign its own death warrant. Trade war is the only alternative, and it is this prospect which the breakdown of yesterday's talks brings one step nearer.

Nixon is determined not to raise the price of gold, thereby calming world fears that the dollar is seriously overvalued—a belief likely to gain credence when the US balance-of-payments deficit is disclosed later this month.

Meanwhile Europe is saturated with increasingly worthless paper dollars. Last week alone, central banks were forced to buy up \$3,000m to prevent them falling below their support rate.

However pious the hopes of the finance ministers, this is a situation which cannot be allowed to continue for long—certainly not until September—without some action being taken to stem the dollar deluge.

THE MAUDLING DOSSIER—The rise and fall of John Poulson—See centre pages

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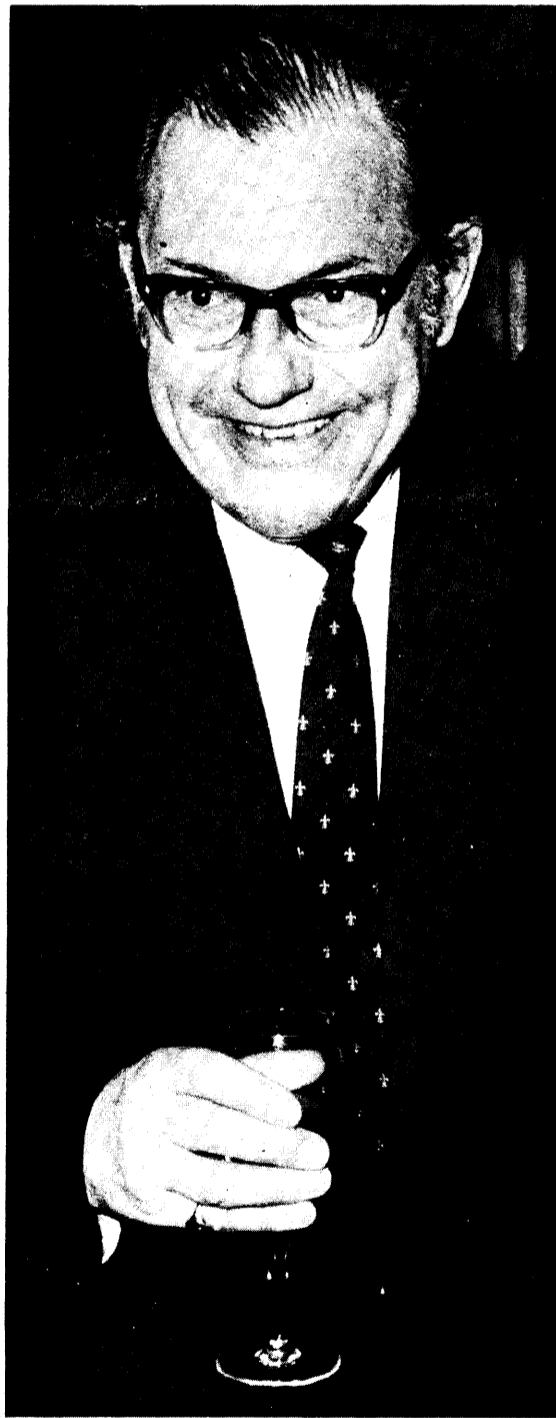
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Congress organizers among Prague defendants

DETAILS of the indictment against 13 supporters of former Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Alexander Dubcek show they are being charged with subversion over leaflets circulated just before last November's presidential elections.

The 13, who include some of Dubcek's closest collaborators, are accused of producing or disseminating leaflets reminding citizens of their constitutional rights in voting, such as crossing out the printed names on the ballot slip.

The majority have been charged under a section of the Penal Code which provides a maximum sentence of five years' jail.

But at least one, former student leader Jiri Mueller, has been charged under a section dealing with subversion on a large scale or in time of national danger, which carries a penalty of three to ten years.

Mueller is being tried with Jan Tesar, a well-known historian, and Rudolf Battek, a sociologist. In a separate trial Jiri Littera, secretary of the Prague Party committee under Dubcek is being tried with three others.

Littera played a leading part in organizing the secret 14th Party congress following the Soviet occupation of August 1968.

A third group headed by former Party school professor Dr Kirsanovsky is also on trial.

The indictment mentions several men who are currently in prison: Milan Hubl, former head of the Party college and a member of the central committee elected at the 14th congress; Karel Kyncl, a former TV commentator, and Jiri Hochman and Vladimir Nepras, both journalists.

After four years of Soviet occupation and unremitting purges of all walks of Czechoslovak life, the puppet administration headed by Gustav Husak now feels strong enough to move against the Dubcek tendency through the courts.

The Prague newspaper 'Rude Pravo' said as much in an article on the trials yesterday:

'Several defeated rightist exponents . . . are continuing activities aimed against the basic principles on which we are rebuilding our society.'

FOREIGN NEWS



THE KGB campaign to discredit Soviet novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn will be powerfully assisted if a new biography appears in western Europe and the United States.

Solzhenitsyn, who holds the Nobel prize for literature for his books which expose the brutality and repression of bureaucratic rule, has always refused to authorize a biography of himself. He holds that such a work should be confined to literary criticism.

The new biography is a joint work by an

New biography will be used to discredit Solzhenitsyn

American, George Feifer, and a Russian émigré who, under the name of David Burg, is a frequent contributor to anti-Soviet publications.

Mrs Veronica Turkina, the sister of Solzhenitsyn's first wife, has issued a statement in Rome quoting the author's condemnation of the book. Mrs Turkina and her husband were forced to flee the Soviet Union after KGB pressure.

She says the biography 'is written in a manner which is both irresponsible and capable of doing harm'. It will, she says, release 'a new wave of persecution' against him.

It appears that Feifer and Burg, described by Solzhenitsyn as 'rascals', obtained much of their material in conversation with Mrs Turkina. She says that their methods of gathering information were 'more like a police investigation'.

What is evident is that Feifer and Burg

are indifferent to the fate of the novelist, who is opposed to the bureaucracy from a liberal and religious standpoint.

If the book appears it will provide the bureaucracy with ammunition not only to step up its persecution of Solzhenitsyn, but also to strike at the whole opposition by suggesting that it is linked with suspect characters in the West.

It is another sign that a counter-revolutionary relationship exists between the western imperialists and the Soviet bureaucracy aimed at the opposition in the Soviet Union.

As was shown in Czechoslovakia in 1968, the ruling classes in the western capitalist countries are in solidarity with the bureaucracy in opposing the political revolution. The present moves towards a European Security Conference based on the *status quo* makes this reactionary line-up still more necessary.

Teamsters back Nixon

THE TEAMSTERS' (truck drivers') Union, the biggest in the United States, yesterday pledged its support for President Nixon in the November elections.

Union president Frank Fitzsimmons told reporters after the Teamsters' 17-member executive board reversed its traditional backing for a Democratic candidate:

'We cannot and will not endorse the Democratic ticket. George McGovern has not earned the support of labour and is no friend of labour.'

The executive mem-

bers, who met at an exclusive country club not far from Nixon's summer residence in San Clemente, California, explained their support for the president by saying:

'We figure the government ought to get off our back and out of our pockets. The policies of Mr McGovern only promise more of the big brother, not less.'

Later they all attended a cocktail party at the Western White House. Nixon greeted each one with a smile and a handshake.

Nixon already knows Fitzsimmons well: he is the sole union leader still on the notorious

Pay Board set up to hold wage rises down to 5 per cent a year.

The other four of the five original union nominees on the board resigned when it slashed the dockers' pay rise won after a lengthy strike in the teeth of Nixon's anti-union laws.

McGovern certainly is no friend of labour. He was the first to congratulate Nixon on the pay freeze with the statement that it should have been done sooner. As a Senator he voted against the repeal of the anti-strike provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act.

He has also favoured the use of non-union

labour to load grain for the USSR.

The AFL-CIO, the huge union confederation, has yet to endorse McGovern's candidature.

George Meany, its president, refuses even to talk to the candidate on the telephone.

In an attempt to win union support McGovern chose a labour lawyer as running-mate, but this has done little to bridge the gulf.

US trade unionists are now faced urgently with the building of an independent Labour Party breaking with the two parties of big business and adopting socialist policies to meet the employers' attacks.

Dutch govt in danger

THE ECONOMIC crisis and rocketing inflation which have brought about the resignation of two Dutch cabinet ministers, threatens to bring down the government.

Faced with a huge budget deficit, the government of Prime Minister Barend Biesheuvel proposed cuts in education and social service expenditure. Two Democratic Socialist '70 ministers resigned in protest after five days of marathon meetings.

If the party withdraws the support of its eight MPs, the government will lose its majority. Biesheuvel hopes to avert resignation by finding a compromise.

The political crisis reveals the serious economic difficulties and deep social tensions in Holland below a surface of stability.

What we think

MONDAY'S judgement in the Chancery Division of the High Court put the crisis in dockland squarely at the feet of the Tory government.

As 'The Times' said, a path was cleared through the legal thicket thrown up by new and untried legislation—the Industrial Relations Act.

The authority of the National Industrial Relations Court to enforce its orders and punish disobedience was decisively upheld.

On Monday afternoon, within hours of the judgement, the Midland Cold Storage Company lodged notice of a motion with the NIRC, asking for earlier orders prohibiting blacking to be enforced.

Rumours are circulating that the Tories are more willing to precipitate a dock strike today than they were a month ago.

The Treasury is said to welcome the further effective devaluation of the pound which a dock strike would cause.

And, it is being claimed, the government has been encouraged by the recent emergence of

DOCKWORKERS AND LAW

infighting among T&GWU members in dockland.

If the Tories have welcomed the legal shilly-shallying of the past month, it has been not only to give the Jones-Aldington Committee time to come up with a compromise, but also because the last real hurdle to taking on the dockers—the collaboration of the TUC—has now been secured.

The Tory press was quite clear yesterday that the threat to the rule of law posed by the dockers' defiance must be ended.

Said the 'Daily Telegraph': 'Quite clearly this situation cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely, if only because it brings the law into disrepute.'

In view of 'The Times' comment about clearing a path through the legal thickets, the 'Telegraph' adds significantly: 'But first the law has to be clarified and amended if it proves to be inadequate.'

'If it is decided that this kind of dispute is not covered by the Act, then the government ought to lose no time in amending it.'

'The outcome of the conflict at Chobham Farm . . . shows the need for an effective law to deal with these matters.'

'Otherwise might will triumph time and again regardless of the claims of justice. It was to end this situation that the Industrial Relations Act was put onto the statute book. If the Act needs to be strengthened, so be it.'

'But on no account must the government abandon the policy even if in the end it means a bitter confrontation with the unions.'

The message is clear. The Tory government, the employers and their press are demanding working-class blood. The power of the labour movement must be smashed if profit margins are

not to be wiped out altogether for large sections of industry.

The Tories and the rest of the bourgeoisie are shuffling themselves into war formation.

Complacency in the face of these preparations means disaster. All forms of reformist pleading and pressurizing will expose the working class to a defeat far more terrible than 1926.

Yet at the very moment when the need to build up the fighting organizations of the working class is at its greatest, when the need to build the independent revolutionary Marxist party to lead the working class to power is at its highest, the Communist Party Stalinists are consciously preparing the ground for the defeat of the working class.

The 'Morning Star' editorial of July 18 proclaimed: 'The dockers have shown up the Industrial Relations Act and demonstrated the way to beat it. Yesterday's Chancery Court de-

cision is yet another rebuff to those who want to use the law in industrial disputes.'

Not content with sowing the monstrous illusion that the Tories can be rebuffed from their course, the Stalinists return to the old 'Kill the Bill' line which so clearly and totally failed to stop the legislation becoming law.

Said the 'Star', 'They [the trade union leaders] should be organizing industrial action to smash the Industrial Relations Act once and for all.'

There never has been the slightest chance of 'stopping' the Tory anti-union law without a full-scale attack against the Tory government to oust them from power and elect a Labour government bound to carry out socialist policies.

The Heath government will not back down. It will not shelve a single piece of its programme against the working class. It must be forced out of office. The Stalinists' peaceful road policy of turning the other cheek can only betray the working class into poverty and subjugation.

THE BUILDERS' BATTLE



Building workers picketing the New Covent Garden site at Nine Elms, London, yesterday. About 400 are on strike there

Thameside refinery sites at standstill

WORKERS on all three construction sites on oil refineries around Stanford-le-Hope on the Thames estuary are on strike for the building pay claim of £30 for a 35-hour week.

At the Shell, Coryton, site John Laing's 200 workers are now in the fourth week of official strike action.

Stewards at one of the gates told Workers Press that pressure from the unions had forced out 100 'subbies' working for contractors. They hoped the remaining 20 would soon be off the site.

Shop stewards at the oil refineries have promised support in removing the remaining 'lump' labour from the sites. The promise was made to Dave Hardy, Union of Construction and Allied Trades Technicians branch chairman and nominated delegate to the union's eastern council.

Last week building workers lined the roads asking drivers not to cross the picket line. Very quickly a stream of tanker vehicles blocked the roads.

It was only after the intervention of full-time union officials that the road was cleared. After police had intervened, management at the refineries phoned the officials for help.

Pickets were persuaded to let the vehicles through as they were carrying 'essential supplies'.

Stewards were bitter about this experience. One told Workers Press: 'We didn't like it very much; it was a sell-out.'

Others were critical of the selective strike strategy: 'I'd sooner see everyone out—after all it is one out all out, isn't it?', said another steward.

More pickets pointed out that it would be something just to call out all Laing's workers throughout the country. But this hadn't been done.

At the main gate, Dave Hardy said selective strikes were 'the only possible way at the moment', since only 30 per cent of the building trade was unionized.

'But,' he said, 'we're not getting the backing we should from the top. We have some men with five or six children and we

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

haven't received a penny from the union. And this is an official strike.'

This criticism of the organization and leadership was echoed by Ivor Hall and Ernest Frostick. In the first week, when they had wanted some guidance, they discovered area officials were away on holiday.

'The strike has been badly organized and handled in this area. To make a strike successful you've got to have leadership to explain things to you and so on,' added Mr Hall. 'They promised to send an organizer down here every day but there hasn't been one.'

Six gates in all are being manned by pickets, stretching down the road just outside Stanford-le-Hope to Coryton. They told Workers Press that further action was being planned for next week to make the strike more effective.

IN LEEDS a mass picket has been thrown round the Dragonara luxury hotel development site to stop two subcontracting firms who were still working on the site early this week.

Joe Johnson, one of the pickets, said:

'The building workers are in a different position as they are not able to paralyse the country as the miners and dockers could. In this situation I think it is even more imperative that the strike becomes national.'

'I've never seen anything work that was half and half. We'll have to take a lead from the miners and the dockers, even though we don't have their leverage in national action.'

'The Leeds strike is carried 70 per cent by the non-union men. For this reason there will have to be a big development over the weekend or their support will begin to waver.'

'The miners had to decide to starve to win. Most building workers support the claim—all they need now is a decisive lead.'

Arthur Dale, Communist Party chairman of the Leeds Action Committee, said: 'We're not ready for national action. If we did strike nationally it would be defeated.'

AT THE Esso refinery, Milford Haven, South Wales, further talks are planned today aimed at settling the two-week-old strike by 2,000 building workers.

The men walked out after 37 workers had been sacked by Foster Wheeler Ltd, the main contractor. Those dismissed include the chairman and secretary of the shop stewards' committee and the reinstatement of all 37 is demanded.

The talks will be a continuation of a nine-hour session last Friday involving Department of Employment officials.

Meanwhile, round-the-clock picketing continues. The flow of traffic into the refinery has almost halted, stopping work on the expansion scheme which is nearing completion.

LINCOLN'S 10,000 council tenants are up in arms against the Tories' 'fair rents' Bill.

They are particularly infuriated at last week's decision of the Labour council members to implement the Bill. The councillors' action contradicted the policy decided on by the local party's ward and trade union delegates to ignore the Bill.

Mrs Louise Tollerton, a

Leith Labour Party chooses Council of Action motion

LEITH Constituency Labour Party, Scotland, have agreed on its resolution for the national conference later this year—it will call on the Labour Party to support the setting up of nationwide Councils of Action.

A spokesman for the Leith party said: 'The idea is to rally the different political parties of the left and trade union organizations in a united fight against the Tory government. Other union branches have been taking up this demand for Councils of Action in different parts of the country.'

Leith chose the Councils of Action resolution from two other motions.

The motion is a sharp rebuff to the local Communist Party. At the last meeting of the Edinburgh and District Trades Council, Stalinist chairman Ray

Wolf ruled an Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs' motion on councils 'out of order'.

He said it could not be accepted because it was not the national policy of the union concerned.

● BARROW (Yorkshire) branch of the National Union of Mineworkers has called for the establishment of a Council of Action to include representatives from trade unions, shop stewards' committees, tenants' associations and all socialist organizations.

The resolution will go before the next meeting of the Yorkshire area council of the NUM.

A SIMILAR resolution has been passed by Cross Gates (Leeds) branch of the AUEW and will be placed before the next meeting of the Leeds Trades Council.

Croydon trade unionists set up Council of Action

FIFTY representatives of the local labour movement met in Croydon on Monday night and set up a Council of Action to fight to force the Tory government to resign.

The meeting, called by the Croydon Trades Council, elected a committee to prepare for a full-scale conference of the council early in September.

The committee includes delegates from trade union branches, Socialist Labour League, All Trades Unions Alliance, Young Socialists, the Labour Party and the International Socialism group.

The Communist Party was not represented at the meeting although it has members on Croydon Trades Council.

The meeting rejected a programmatic amendment moved by a delegate from the International Socialism group, which proposed 'militant policies of no productivity, an end to unemployment

and no wage restraint while industry is in private hands'.

The amendment was intended to replace a call for a Labour government elected on a programme of nationalization, described by the IS speaker as 'pie-in-the-sky socialist government'.

S. Mani, a delegate from the Croydon Labour Party, declared his opposition to the demand for a General Strike to force out the Tories and referred to the 'self-inflicted wounds' of the 1926 General Strike.

The answer to the Tories, he claimed, was to get the right candidates for Labour at local level.

Against these speakers, the meeting affirmed its support for a General Strike to force the Tories to resign and for the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

set against this Tory policy and most that we've spoken to have asked what action is being planned as they seem doubtful whether anybody will take any notice of a petition.'

Meetings are being held on all the city's estates next week. These will culminate in a mass demonstration and rally next Thursday when the rent issue will be linked with that of jobs.

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SECOND WAVE IN ENGINEERING FIGHT

Manchester engineers, who are planning a second wave of industrial action in support of their national pay claim, may once more fall foul of the treacherous tactics of their national leaders.

Shop stewards met on Monday in the city to plan a campaign of action. Their aim is to mobilize workers in the 40 or so firms who settled for cash-only deals during the recent spate of sit-in strikes. The other targets are those few employers who still have conceded nothing on the 14-point claim.

The fresh bid to rouse the Manchester membership in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions was in response to the breakdown of a second attempt to open negotiations on the claim at national level.

This occurred at the CSEU's annual conference in June. Then the unions, led by chief negotiator Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, made a feint to start talking with the employers. The discussions would be informal said Scanlon—ever wary that a call for formal negotiations while the campaign for plant-by-plant negotiations was being urged in the areas would tarnish his credibility.

As it was, the employers rejected the approach and declared that they were determined to resist demands for substantial pay increases.

The whole manoeuvre was basically designed to promote confusion at the conference and sidestep the row brewing over the way the leadership had handled the national claim.

Manchester divisional organizer of the AUEW, John Tocher, who led the sit-in movement, declared that this rebuke from the employers

put a second wave of militant action in the north west back on the cards.

'A lot of workers anticipated that something would eventually have to be done at the national level,' said Tocher.

'Now they must realize that there will be no national talks and that if they are going to achieve anything in the next 12 months they will have to be done by local negotiation.'

Tocher noted correctly that all evidence pointed to a hardening of attitudes by the Engineering Employers' Federation.

But this was a view apparently not shared by Confederation leaders.

A week after the plans for more Manchester action had been announced, they met at York and once more crawled to the employers for more talks.

They claimed that the time for discussions were now 'ripe', but hinted that they were prepared to bend on the claim if the employers also gave an inch or two.

In a conciliatory mood, Confederation president Jack Higham announced:

'We are looking to them to be more realistic on the major items of our claim—wages, holidays and equal pay for women.'

The move to open talks, of course, is a second stab in the back for the Manchester militants.

Tocher and the other Manchester officials will now find it doubly difficult to fight a battle with men who know that their dispute could be settled any time at national level.

But this has been the story of the claim. Militants like Tocher, a leading Communist Party member, accepted—though with protest—the abandoning of the fight at national level and launched into their area battles.



Top: John Tocher (speaking), Manchester divisional organizer of the AUEW. Above: Scanlon

For weeks they remained isolated—at the peak of the struggle nearly 30 firms were occupied by their workers. But inevitably the employers, who organized themselves on national lines, held out. None of the big combines conceded on the key demand for a shorter working week and many settled their disputes without a concession on holidays as well.

The campaign was broken up when the AUEW executive unanimously voted to remove the hours demand from the list of top priorities. In Manchester a flood of settlements basically favourable to the employers followed. Many workers, like the 6,000 at Ferranti and the 3,500 at AEI, settled for £2 wage increases. With the present rate of inflation these amount to a wage-cut over 12 months.

Now in the second wave, the same bitter mistakes could be repeated.

As always there is the refusal to face up to the political challenge of a leadership like that of the Confederation. There are endless schemes and more militancy is suggested. But this is not adequate to safeguard workers' living standards in the face of a united campaign by the employers.

IRISH UNIONS IN DANGEROUS WAGE-DEALING

Eire trade union leaders are starting their attempts to sell a revised national wages agreement to a membership distinctly hostile to such a deal.

Early in June an employer-labour conference made proposals for a second agreement in draft form. With inflation and unemployment soaring in the Republic, however, workers soon moved to throw out the deal.

Meeting after meeting mandated their unions to vote no at a special conference of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on June 24. The majority against at the Congress was two-to-one.

Late last week union leaders again sat down with employers and reached a new agreement. And 24 hours later the executive of Eire's largest union, the Irish Transport and General Workers', met and voted in favour of recommending the deal to the membership.

The IT&GWU, which has a

membership of 150,000, had previously voted for rejection at the special Congress.

This time the IT&GWU executive was in a hurry to make sure the membership got the message.

'The national executive council are anxious to ensure that this recommendation is known as quickly as possible to its members throughout the country who may be proceeding to hold early ballot votes at their branches,' said Michael Mullen, the union's general secretary, after the meeting.

Eire's ruling Fianna Fail government is desperate to get some sort of a wages deal in preparation for its Common Market entry.

The new deal fixed up provides for 18-month agreements for most workers and 17 months for others.

Another special delegate conference of unions has been convened for Dublin on July 28 when the deal will be discussed.

In the meantime, there will be strong opposition from the rank and file in the various unions to the same deal in another form.

APARTHEID GRIP TIGHTENS

As the dust settles around the flurry of recent statements issued from Pretoria, it becomes clear that the something-for-everybody white society Prime Minister Balthazar Vorster promised is to be bought at the price of even more stringent repression of the Africans.

A new directive prohibits African leaders from leaving their homelands, cutting them off from white institutions and other tribal homelands.

From now on visits by African leaders to other leaders, to the African population living in white areas or to white institutions will only be obtained after long and searching consideration by officials of the Bantu Administration.

Apart from virtually imprisoning Africans in what as the recession develops could

well turn into barren, overcrowded concentration camps, the move is almost certainly aimed at keeping the Africans divided.

It coincides with a new tough line adopted by the South African Students' Organization—a black power group—to have nothing to do with the black Bantustan leaders who it brands as 'extensions of the oppressive system'.

The instruction follows the resignation of SASO chairman Temba Sono who was forced to quit his post for suggesting a 'dialogue' with Vorster's apartheid regime.

SASO claims 6,000 members among the African, coloured and Indian population and advocates African rule throughout the union.

The new Bantustan policy has its parallel in Rhodesia where Smith has just announced his own plans for separate African development.

Below: South African Prime Minister, Vorster—more stringent repression of the Africans.



US BUILDS UP ARMS ARSENAL IN VIETNAM

BY JOHN SPENCER

Still in a state of shock at the North Vietnamese offensive successes the Nixon administration is planning to ship still more planes, guns and tanks to its beleaguered puppets in Saigon.

High-ranking officials in the Defence Department in Washington, where these plans are being elaborated, say serious consideration is being given to providing South Vietnam with higher performance jet aircraft as well as quantities of better tanks and long-range artillery.

They admit that President Nixon's 'Vietnamization' programme begun three years ago was not designed to withstand the tank and artillery supported offensives carried out by the liberation forces since March 30.

A senior general told the 'New York Times': 'The nature of the North Vietnamese offensive has forced us to make some modifications in our long-range plans to enable South Vietnam to defend itself.'

'Some decisions have been made; others still have to be worked out.'

According to Nixon the 'Vietnamization' scheme was justified because South Vietnam was now strong enough to stand on its own feet.

This myth was destroyed in the first weeks of the liberation offensive when whole divisions of puppet troops simply turned and ran at the first shock of the battle.

That was how, for example, the Saigon forces lost Quang Tri. They are still taking heavy losses in their efforts to regain control of the town.

Until now the Americans have been reluctant to supply their puppets with the most advanced weapons in their stockpiles. These weapons are more costly, need more training to operate and the South Vietnamese cannot be trusted to prevent them falling into the hands of the liberation forces.

Instead, the US has relied on its air superiority to hold the line while the South Vietnamese get along as best they can on the ground.

The planned aid to Saigon is convincing evidence that the 'Vietnamization' policy has failed. As in the past, Nixon's only 'solution is more of the same: more weapons, more bombs, more shells.

For example, army authorities in Washington are planning to add two battalions of M-48 tanks — about 100 vehicles — to the single battalion now operating in South Vietnam.

A third battalion of about 12 long-range 175-mm guns is to be added to the two already in the South Vietnamese army. This step is made necessary by the superiority of the liberation troops' heavy artillery which has taken a big toll of the puppet armies.

The plans also involve tripling the number of advanced F-52 fighter planes planned for the South Vietnamese air force, making three squadrons instead of the one originally planned.

The US is also considering the possibility of adding longer-range jet fighter-bombers—either F-4 Phantoms, A-7 Skyhawks or A-7 Corsairs—to the



Top: heavy artillery of the Vietnamese liberation forces in operation during the April offensive this year. Above: North Vietnamese soldiers.

Saigon air force.

The South Vietnamese have only six squadrons of relatively obsolescent fighter-bombers, totalling about 100 planes.

These include two squadrons of propeller-driven A-1 Skyraiders; three squadrons of A-37s, a modified jet trainer, and one squadron of F-5As. In addition it has 34 modified transport planes equipped with rapid-fire machine guns for 'zapping' anything that moves on the ground.

Over the next two years or so, if the planes are put into operation, the fighter forces will be doubled to nearly 200 planes.

By contrast with the South Vietnamese Air Force, the US has more than 1,000 fighter-bombers and B-52 heavy bombers involved in the present campaign.

Since the end of March the US Air Force strength in Indo-China has been considerably increased, with planes brought from as far away as

Europe to boost the bombing and fighter forces.

But even a reinforced South Vietnamese air force, the Pentagon planners believe, may not be enough to meet a renewed liberation offensive on the scale of the present campaign.

The US air force would still be needed in strength even if the puppet force is reinforced. Things would be even worse for the South Vietnamese if the North brought their MiG fighters south of the border, as they might do if the US air force withdrew.

The South Vietnamese air force is already strained to capacity. Its pilots — like the rest of the puppet forces—are demoralized and lack the will to fight.

About the only thing Nixon can do is to keep his own planes in force in Indo-China for the indefinite future. So far only blockbusters and napalm have kept his puppets on their feet.



GETTING MOTIVATED

US air force people have referred to VNAF (South Vietnam Air Force) pilots as 'perhaps the sharpest combat pilots in the world'. In a recent interview, then Chief of the Air Force Advisory Group in Vietnam Maj. Gen. J. Watkins, stated: 'There is no doubt that the VNAF members are motivated toward carrying on. They have been in this war much longer than any individual US person has, and they have demonstrated that when the chips are down they have the will to carry on and fight the war — around the clock, if necessary . . .

'I think the Republic of Vietnam air force will stand up and be counted when the USAF departs,' Gen. Watkins concluded.

Lt. Col. Robert L. Burns recently remarked that he has flown with many VNAF pilots second lieutenants through colonels—and felt their flying skills were 'second to none'.

In an interview not too long ago Lt. Col. John M. Slattery

stated that the past year has been a period of extreme rapid progress for that division's helicopter forces. When Col. Slattery, a command pilot with more than 6,000 hours of helicopter flying time, was asked: 'What sort of pilots are these VNAF officers?' He responded: 'Damned good ones!'

—From a USAF news release, June 19, 1972.

LAIKHE, South Vietnam. — Although the enemy pressure on An Loc has eased somewhat, American helicopters are still flying nearly all of the highly dangerous support and troop-carrying missions into the town while large numbers of South Vietnamese helicopters sit idle on their pads, their crews lounging and sleeping.

American advisers here say that the South Vietnamese helicopters are not flying because the crews have panicked under fire and suffer from low morale. As a result, South Vietnamese Army commanders do not feel safe with them and have requested American helicopters instead for difficult missions.

—From The New York Times, June 23, 1972.

Tory Prime Minister Edward Heath announced in the Commons yesterday that his Home Secretary and deputy, Reginald Maudling, was resigning. The resignation comes after revelations in the Wakefield bankruptcy court about the business affairs of Yorkshire architect John Poulson. There have been two public sessions of the court and two in chambers. The open hearings disclosed an extraordinary fabric of relationships with MPs, civil servants and other 'consultants'. Among those mentioned in the proceedings was Maudling. In this second article on Maudling's business connections, ALEX MITCHELL looks at the Poulson empire.

THE MAUDLING DOSSIER PART 2

THE RISE AND FALL OF JOHN POULSON

John Poulson began his business career modestly. He qualified in 1932 as an architect and, with £50 cash capital, started a business from rented premises in Ropergate, Pontefract.

By 1968 he boasted the largest practice in Europe with 750 employees. He had branch offices in London, Middlesbrough, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Newcastle, and overseas bases in Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, and Beirut in the Lebanon.

His salary at the peak of his career was £100,000 a year and he was reckoned to have made his first million. He lived in a magnificent L-shaped mansion called Manasseh at Carteton, near Pontefract; the place had cost him £60,000 and had won nationwide housing competitions organized by the magazine 'Ideal Home'.

In the spacious garage area he stabled his three cars—a Rolls-Royce, a Mercedes and a Jaguar. He kept a suite at the Dorchester in London and regularly entertained there.

Poulson always had powerful ties with the Tory Party. He belonged to the National Liberal Forum, a high Tory discussion body in the Party, and is believed to have been generous to various Tory campaigns in his home Yorkshire area. (One of his neighbours was Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer Anthony Barber.)

On at least two occasions he came in contact with Edward Heath. In 1960 when he was Minister of Labour, Heath spoke at a forum reception given by Poulson and his wife, Cynthia; (Mrs Poulson was formerly Miss King and related to the multi-millionaire, John King.)

Then in November 1966 Heath spoke at another meeting of the forum at which Poulson presided and introduced the guest of honour.

Poulson first met Maudling in 1965 'through politics' when Poulson was chairman of the National Liberal Wing of the Tory Party.

There is no evidence that the two men engaged in any

mighty discussions of an ideological kind. But they did find immediate harmony on one point—business.

Maudling agreed to become a founding director of one of Poulson's companies—International Technical and Constructional Services. He remained a director from 1965 until after the General Election in 1970 when he was forced to relinquish all his directorships. Seven months after his father left, Martin Maudling became company secretary. He gave up the post in August 1971 and resigned from the board in September. At the same time, £750 of the company's £3,000 share capital was controlled by the Home Secretary's three other children.

Caroline Maudling, now 25 and living in South Africa, was allotted £100 worth of shares in April 1967 and a further £50 in June the same year. Edward, now 17, and William, 15, were recorded as holding £600 of shares between them through the trustees.

Through a special resolution at an extraordinary general meeting in February 1967, the year after it began trading, the memorandum of association was amended to allow 'infants' to hold shares.

When the company was originally registered at Companies House, the full share capital was £2,000 divided into 2,000 £1 shares. This was increased in February 1967 to £3,000.

LOSSES AND BANKRUPTCY

The latest company returns show that the largest share subscriber was Mrs Poulson with a £2,000 stake. (Mrs Poulson represented her husband's interests in a number of companies because he found the code of practice of his profession prevented him from joining certain business ventures as a direct beneficiary.)

In 1968 ITCS Limited made a loss of approximately £89,000, but in 1969 it made a pre-tax profit of £87,697. The last returns to be filed show that at the end of 1970



it had current assets of only £5,231 against liabilities of £34,241. At his bankruptcy hearing, Poulson admitted that in June 1969 his staff prepared figures which purported to show that he was insolvent to the tune of £100,000.

Poulson told the court that when he heard the news he went to see Maudling. 'I knew that at that time I was owed more than I owed,' he said and he claimed that Maudling's firm, ITCS, owed him £70,000.

'It was a most unsatisfactory meeting,' Poulson said, 'because he was not very well. But he did not deny that the firm owed this money. He said he would look into it.'

A few months later, on New Year's Eve 1969, he signed away his business. The ITCS company was concerned with exporting to underdeveloped countries the design and construction skills of the Poulson group. Maudling travelled to Liberia and the Middle East as an envoy of this scheme.

He says, however, that he never drew a salary. He waived a salary in return for a covenant to pay money to Mrs Beryl Maudling's favourite charity, the Adeline Genee theatre trust in East Grinstead. In court Mr Muir Hunter, QC for the trustees, read a letter

from Maudling which said: 'I enclosed another covenant as arranged. I would be most grateful if you could arrange for it to be sent to the Trust before we leave for Liberia.'

After Poulson said that Maudling was going there on his behalf, Mr Hunter said that Mr Poulson's secretary had written on the bottom of the letter: 'This is a covenant Mr Poulson is taking out. It is really for Mr Maudling.'

'Really' was underlined, Mr Hunter said. Mr Hunter: You are saying Maudling did not want a salary but would you subscribe to his wife's favourite charity?

Poulson: Yes, Mr Maudling asked me to do that instead of paying him a salary. Mr Hunter: You were falling seriously in arrears with your income tax. Did you consider it proper to sign a covenant to Mr Maudling's wife's pet charity which would cost you £8,000 a year?

Poulson: Because at that time I had no conception. I was owed very much more than I owed myself.

Mr Hunter: It is plain Mr Poulson you are a man with an immensely generous heart. Poulson: Stupidly generous. Mr Hunter: You were prepared to lash out large, permanent, regular sums to your old chums?

Poulson: Some of them I had never met. Mr Hunter: Surely you are not paying large sums to a stranger? It is really all a great big philanthropic institution, is it not? Poulson: No.

Mr Hunter: The sum you paid to Mr T. Dan Smith (recorded as £155,518) is the same as the unpaid income tax. Were you spending money like a drunken sailor without care what it was for?

During further questioning on this point, Poulson broke down and the hearing had to be adjourned. The cause of Poulson's sudden illness was not disclosed.

The bankruptcy records state that £22,000 was paid to the Adeline Genee trust; the trust says it received only £15,000. There is a discrepancy of £7,000.

Maudling's connections with Poulson were not confined simply to the overseas enterprise, ITCS. There was another company, Open System Building Limited of which Maudling and his son Martin were both directors.

OSB was formed in 1964 by Mr T. Dan Smith, public relations consultant to the Labour Party and Harold Wilson's appointee as first chairman of the Northern Economic Planning Council.

The aims of the company were a typical part of the 'white hot technological revolution' voguish in those days. Basically it meant pre-fabricating houses and then cheaply and easily erecting them on site.

It was really the principle of nicer barracks for the working class!

IMPRESSIVE DIRECTORS

Principal shareholder was Mrs Poulson while the design genius behind the scheme was again Poulson. When he was appointed to the NEPC, Smith quit OSB though he continued to give advice.

Meanwhile Poulson transformed the company by rounding up an impressive number of new directors, including Maudling.

The chairman was Sir Bernard Kenyon, County Clerk of the West Riding Council, and other board members were Mr W. H. Sales, former chairman of the Yorkshire division of the National Coal Board, and Mr W. F. Marr, Poulson's London solicitor.

The northern area manager was Mr Peter Walker, Tory councillor on Bradford council. Mr Fred Rook, who retired as clerk to Pontefract Council, became company secretary to



Above left: Architect John Poulson and wife, Cynthia. Top right: a member of the board of Poulson's OSB, Mr Peter Walker, Environment Secretary. Above right: a recipient of Poulson's financial blessings, Mr George Pottinger, Scottish Office Permanent Secretary. Left: a Poulson snob who 'never drew a salary' Mr Reginald Maudling, Home Secretary.

OSB. He resigned in January 1970.

The trustee in bankruptcy has asked Mr Smith how to explain the purpose of £155,000 which Poulson says he paid him between 1962 and 1970.

When asked in court about the sum, Poulson was vague. Asked what Smith did for his organization, Poulson replied: 'I cannot think of anything. He produced nothing. He came to me asking for increases in his salary.'

Smith has since issued a public statement saying that the money was not paid to him personally but to three companies he controlled.

Most of the money was to cover fees and expenses that had been incurred at Poulson's request, he added. In January 1970 Scotland Yard detectives served Smith with corruption summonses.

They alleged he had paid Mr Sydney Sporle, former leader of Wandsworth Council

and a consultant to one of Smith's companies, to award Smith's companies the public relations contract for Wandsworth Council. Sporle was finally charged on eight counts of corruption and jailed for six years. Tried separately, Smith pleaded not guilty and was acquitted by an Old Bailey jury last year.

The senior civil servant who was the recipient of Poulson's financial blessings was Mr George Pottinger, a permanent secretary in the Scottish Office. He received £21,419, which included expenses of Pottinger's new house and a new Rover car. Questioned about these extraordinary gifts to the men who played a key role in the Aviemore development—where Poulson was consultant architect—Poulson said:

'It was a gift from me. I didn't know it had been shown as consultancy fees. He had been a very good friend of mine for years.'

Asked if it was 'proper to make gifts to civil servants engaged in some way or another with contracts', Poulson answered tersely: 'It had nothing to do with that. I can give, surely, to whom I like.'

Whether Mr Poulson's reply was considered adequate will be known when the Director of Public Prosecutions delivers his report.

EDMUND WILSON AND THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL

LETTER AND REPLY

Dear Editor,
David Spooner's article on Edmund Wilson (Workers Press, June 28) struck me as faintly mean, though not much meaner than the press obituaries he surprisingly describes as 'eulogistic'.

Little attention is paid to the body of Wilson's work as a literary critic, and even less to his unique role in his native culture (by no means 'agrarian populist, incidentally' where he was the major modern figure of American letters to stand outside academia and, with Gilbert Seldes, one of the few intellectuals of his generation to look seriously at US popular culture.

It is true that, for perfectly explicable reasons, he was no Marxist by essential conviction and never fought wholeheartedly for the workers' cause; Spooner is right to say that he stayed on the 'periphery' of the movement. Yet for this reason there is little point in discussing his relationship with the Socialist Workers Party — it was simply not a central part of his career. As well write on 'Elephants and the Fourth International'.

Wilson's eclecticism was a weakness, but he seems to have been a man who needed the constant reinvigoration of fresh ideas. This kept his writing alert and stimulating. 'To the Finland Station', despite its errors, has acted as a lively introduction to historical thought, including Marxism, for many younger readers who then seek to deepen their knowledge.

Spooner's piece, like others that have appeared in a generally well-produced paper, suffers from a reductive narrowness amounting almost to a mistrust of the creative disciplines. It is desperately vulgar, for example, to pick out from the Wilson canon a few lines from his 'Prolet-Play' (Wilson did have an immature streak, it showed too in his fondness for conjuring and practical jokes) as though they were representative of his powers, or to assert, on the evidence of an unclear metaphor, that 'he endowed the spirit with nothing less than the power of human reproduction'.

It is a mistake to believe that only explicitly Marxist ideas can be valuable to the advance of the socialist movement. The movement does not live by bread alone.

Wilson learned from reading Marx critical processes that energized much of what he wrote, and in turn he has left lessons for those who believe that literature cannot be understood in isolation from the dialectical development of society. To raise the cry of 'renegade' is to risk ignoring those lessons.

Yours fraternally,
I. M. Colley,
Redbourn,
Herts.

David Spooner replies:

Mr Colley's letter raises a number of basic questions. To take first things first, he sarcastically proposes—'as well write on "Elephants and the Fourth International" as on "Edmund Wilson and the Fourth International".'

The original article made the point that the key to Wilson's development—which was a degeneration — was that although he was critical of Stalinism, he never progressed beyond a middle-of-the-road scepticism towards Marxism. In this he was characteristic of a group of talented literary intellectuals which included Philip Rahv, Lionel Trilling and F. W. Dupee, centred around the journal 'Partisan Review'.

The political and theoretical fate of these writers was fought out consciously in the Trotskyist Socialist Workers' Party in the years 1939 to 1940 in the struggle over dialectical materialism. This conflict came to a head in the period of the Nazi-Soviet pact, the outbreak of World War II and the Soviet Union's invasion of Finland. Those intellectuals inside the SWP — Burnham and Shachtman, most notably — who shared Wilson's hostility to dialectical materialism as the indispensable theoretical foundation of the revolutionary party were defeated in the conflict.

Wilson felt the theoretical blows struck against the petty-bourgeois tendency inside the SWP even though he stood on the sidelines.

'To the Finland Station', published in 1940, was this obituary to Trotskyism. It is in no sense a 'lively introduction to Marxism', as Colley would have it. It is an open and cynical attack on every basic theoretical principle of Marxism. Just in case there is any doubt about this, the following is a representative section of the book, under the title 'The Myth of the Dialectic':

'Decadence of Marxism'

'Karl Marx, with his rigorous morality and his international point of view, had tried to harness the primitive German Will to a movement which should lead all humanity to prosperity, happiness and freedom. But insofar as this movement involves, under the disguise of the dialectic, a semi-divine principle of history, to which it is possible to shift the human responsibility for thinking, deciding, for acting — and we are living at present in a period of the decadence of Marxism—it lends itself to the repressions of the tyrant. The present stream of the old German Will, which stayed at home and remained patriotic, because canalized as the philosophy of German imperialism

and ultimately of the Nazi movement. . . .

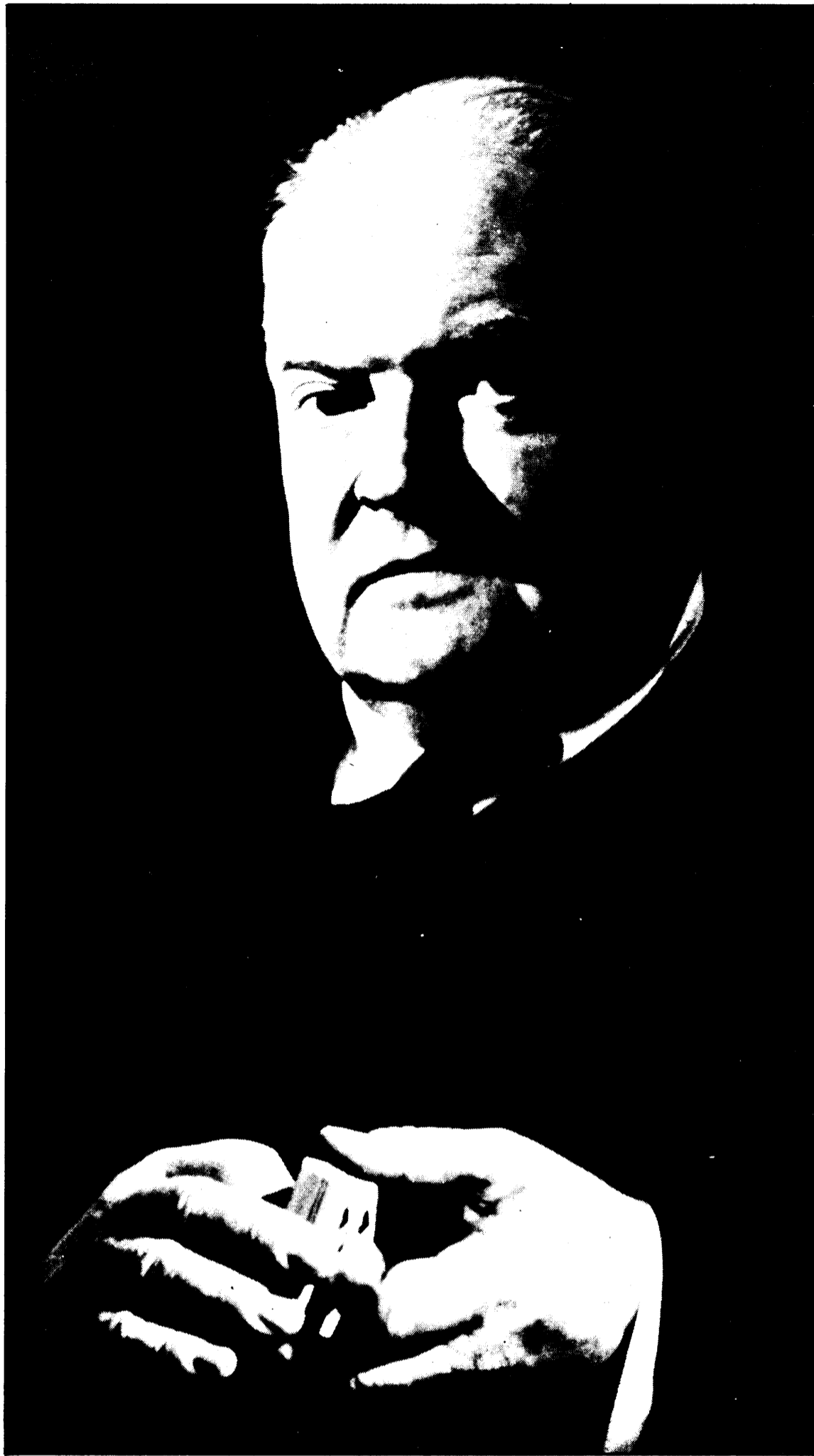
'After all, the German Nazis, too—also, the agents of an historical mission — believe that humanity will be happy and united when it is all Aryan and all submissive to Hitler'. (p. 191. Secker and Warburg edition.)

Fascism is equated not only with Stalinism — the stock in trade position of many liberals and radicals — but also with Trotskyism.

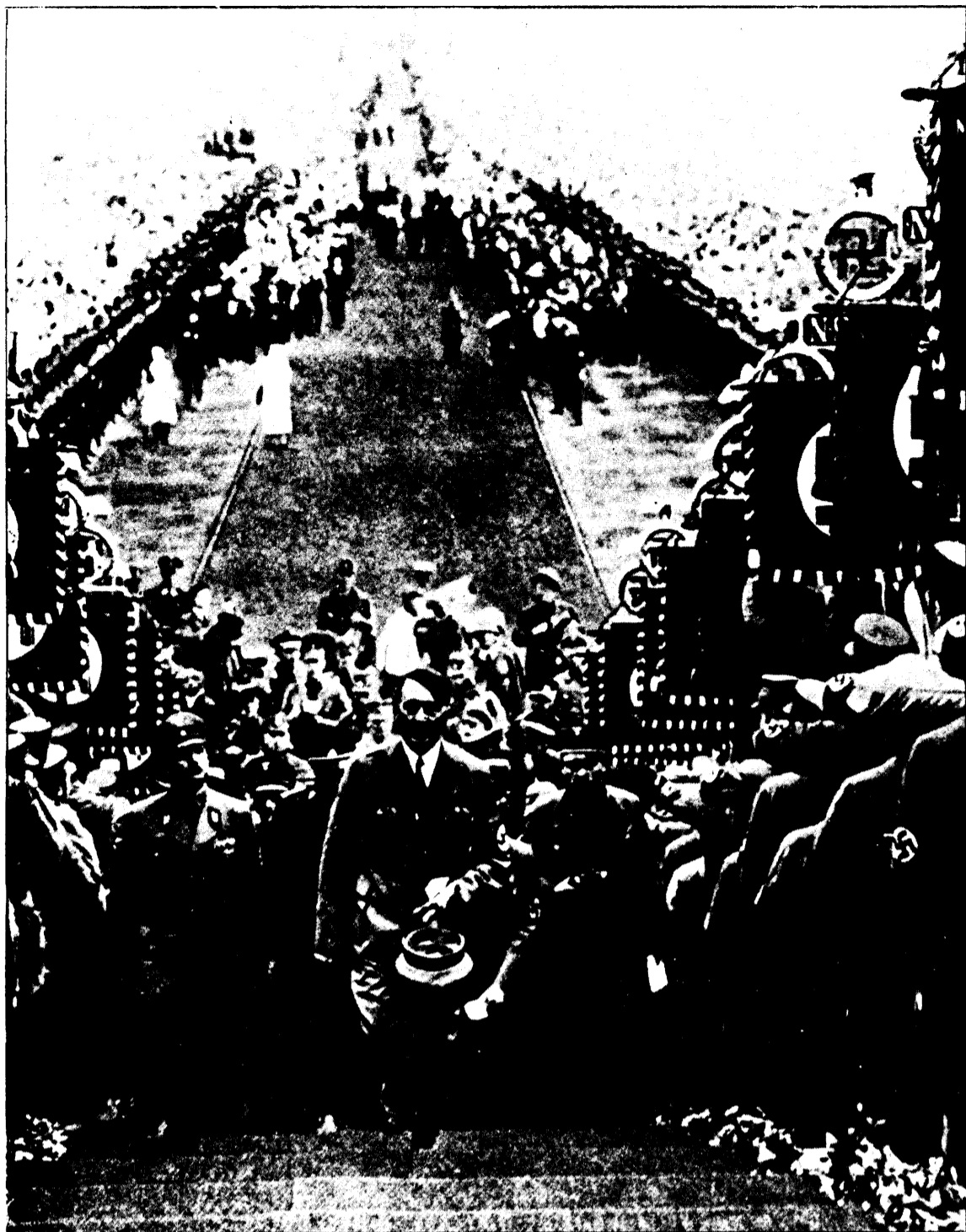
For Wilson, the dialectical method is a schema (thesis, antithesis, synthesis) to be applied to reality. On the contrary, for the Marxist the essence of dialectics is the conscious 'splitting of a single whole and the cognition of its contradictory parts'.

If 'To the Finland Station' speaks sympathetically at times of Marxism, that is only the better to suffocate it with liberalism.

Wilson always presents Marx's materialism as pragmatism; he accuses Marx and Engels of labouring 'to discredit men's futile illusions, to rub men's noses in their human miseries, to hold men's minds to their practical problems.' (p. 189.) Likewise Wilson has the American pragmatist's hatred of 'the abstrac-



Top: Edmund Wilson. Above: Trotsky who insisted that the class criterion in art is essential.



Wilson equates fascism not only with Stalinism (a common liberal position) but also with Trotskyism.

tions of German philosophy' which, according to Wilson, 'have the power to hallow, to console, to intoxicate, to render warlike.' (p. 189.)

Colley writes: 'Wilson's eclecticism was a weakness . . .'. That point was made in the original article from the standpoint that it was not so much a weakness but a method that inexorably took him back into the arms of his literary and philosophical paymasters—the bourgeoisie.

He only alighted for a passing moment upon Marxism. With the opening of the 'democratic' war on fascism, he scuttled behind American imperialism. Eclecticism, pragmatism and empiricism are the theoretical implements of the bourgeois revolution.

Fabian conceptions

However Colley continues: 'But he seems to have been a man who needed the constant reinvigoration of fresh ideas. This kept his writing alert and stimulating.'

So eclecticism was a weakness, but far from proving fatal this was what made Wilson such a fine writer! And from the perspective of the capitalist class this is undoubtedly true. Certainly they are a little chary about the sheer range of his subject matter. No entirely trustworthy American citizen would be such a cultural and intellectual magpie. But they are well content with him overall.

The whole of Colley's final paragraph is a pot-pourri of Fabian conceptions and cultural prejudice. He implies that literary creativity is not subject to the laws of dialectical development and believes that this is a field of human endeavour to be left to the mystics, romantics and metaphysicians.

It is not at all that 'literature cannot be understood in

isolation from the dialectical development of society' (though in the light of Colley's praise for Wilson the word 'dialectical' is thrown in as a mere sop). It is that the relationship between the author, the historical formation of the technique of his medium (novel, poetry, films etc) and the particular stage of class relationships at the time of his writing have to be grasped and explained. It is not just society and nature that are transformed dialectically, but literature also in relation to that society.

To take one instance very briefly and not at all fully. The novel developed in England in the 18th century as one of the ways in which the bourgeoisie fought to understand itself as a victorious historical force. The religious allegory of John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress' was discarded for the biographical realism of Daniel Defoe's 'Robinson Crusoe' or 'Moll Flanders'. Not merely did the novel reflect the growth of individualism, but the novel also, in turn, sharpened that individualism by making it more conscious.

The earliest novels attempted to reconcile the bad conscience of the author with the demands of capitalism. So Defoe grappled unsuccessfully—but from an artistic point of view, brilliantly, and with great unconscious humour—to reconcile the contradiction between Moll Flanders' need to steal and whore in order to live and his own Christian beliefs.

Other 18th and early 19th century writers—Samuel Richardson, Jane Austen—centred their fiction upon the social compromise between the nobility and bourgeoisie that was perfected after the 1660 Restoration and in which the novelists, and literateurs like Addison and Steele in 'The Spectator', played an important role.

As Trotsky insisted, the class criterion in art is essential, for in art the most sophisticated and hidden social and psychological aspirations of the bourgeois are expressed. There is nothing of 'reductive narrowness', as Colley puts it, about drawing out these aspirations.

On the contrary, the application of dialectical materialism to the history of the development of literature and art is a necessary task of the revolutionary movement and deepens our understanding of the historical characteristics of the bourgeoisie and its more 'subtle' reflections in the working class. The pressure of the bourgeoisie upon the workers' movement is not only manifested in the Labour and trade union leaders, but also in the ways of thought and emotions of the working class itself.

Our correspondent would like to preserve literature from the working class. It is, to the cultural snob, 'desperately vulgar' to resurrect Wilson's unpublished and abominable drama, 'Karl Marx: A Prolet-Play'. But the crudeness of this drama and its bristling contempt for Marxism is the other side of the glittering and rhetorical sophistication of his more famous works.

Colley would have us believe that the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism can be achieved by some sort of broad socialist movement which is eclectic about theory. Under this brand of English utilitarianism, Marxism is useful—or even energizing—along with other theories.

However the bitter experience of the international working class in the 19th and 20th centuries has been that without a party based upon revolutionary theory, dialectical materialism, there can be no social revolution. In England the preparation of that revolution means the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into that party.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Spare a tear for the stricken conscience of Stanley Dixon, a chartered accountant and chairman of Midland Tar Distillers.

Last week he went along to Birmingham University to receive an honorary Doctor of Social Science degree. What 'social science' has the good Dixon been engaged in all these years?

He explained to his audience that he had spent much of his life making firms more efficient and reducing their work force.

'I have lived my whole life in the belief that if you reduced your work force from 1,000 to 800 men and maintained the same production, you had done a good thing. But today, I begin to wonder. Can anyone be more important for our society than that every member should have the chance to do a worthwhile job?'

It is not known whether the great hall was then filled with a great wailing and sobbing.

A SPECIALITY

The police cadets stood on the parade ground looking all neat and shiney. It was graduation day from the police college in Sydney, capital of New South Wales.

Acting police commissioner, Mr Hanson, addressed them: 'The best thing that could happen to you is a good hiding,' he declared.

It's all part of his philosophy that the police should be a bunch of hardened thugs.

Keeping the force in this

shape has been a speciality in NSW. After all, the first police force there was the warders looking after the convicts with the help of batons and whips. These fine traditions have been enshrined over the passage of time.

... SO GOOD

On Wednesday, July 12, 11 ministers in Franco's government, Prince Juan Carlos and vice-president Carrero Blanco attended the opening of the new building for the National Institute of Statistics by Generalissimo Franco.

Carrero Blanco took the opportunity to eulogize the economic development of Spain since the Civil War and to maintain that the Spanish worker 'has never had it so good'—a clear indication of the kind of statistics which the Institute will produce!

The Institute cannot fail to record the immense volume of trade between Spain and the Stalinists bureaucracies of Eastern Europe, the real motives of which can perhaps be glimpsed behind Blanco's description of the Civil War.

It was 'our war of liberation, a war of dire necessity because without it Spain would have ceased to exist as a nation and our territory would have been converted into "the first western citadel of communism" as was laid down in the plans of Lenin for the soviet takeover of the world..'

Blanco does not hide his position on Lenin. What is the Stalinists' position on the 'war of Liberation'?

Below: Franco and Juan Carlos.



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Fighting the Tories' Rent Bill

Councillor's promise broken—claim

Tenants' views kept out of Labour group

BY PHILIP WADE Our Housing Correspondent

THE LEADER of a Labour council in favour of implementing the Tory 'fair rents' Bill has been attacked as being 'in danger of becoming a Judas of the working class, willing to allow tenants to be crucified in the name of the law'.

At the same time the split on Southwark council in London between the pro-implementors and those Labour councillors who have taken a principled stand on the issue has deepened even further.

The attack on Cllr John O'Grady, the Labour leader, has come from Bill McCann, vice-chairman of the Southwark branch of the Association of London Housing Estates.

He has accused O'Grady of failing to keep his promise to put the views of those opposed to the Bill to the Southwark Labour group. He said he was

'shocked by the behaviour of Councillor O'Grady who has cynically and arrogantly broken good faith'.

He added: 'In view of the urgency of the matter it was expected that this report would be given high priority at the Labour group meeting on June 26, but we understand the report was talked out and no indication of the tenants' view was mentioned.'

'This is a despicable manoeuvre which clearly demonstrates Cllr O'Grady's contempt for the tenants.'

O'Grady has said that the attack by Mr McCann was a 'complete misrepresentation'. Referring to the 'Judas' statement, he said:

'I have represented the people of the borough for a large number of years without ever having been subjected to comments of that nature. I have also served the trade union movement.'

'There is no cause in my view for comments of this nature to be made, and it really does not mean a great deal to me.'

He added that he 'abhorred' the use of the term 'working class' because the council represented all the people of Southwark, not just one section.

Meanwhile Labour chiefs are angry that preliminary 'fair rent' figures for the borough—calculated by official and so far told to only a handful of members of the housing committee—have

been leaked to local tenants' leaders.

Figures quoted at a briefing meeting attended by about 15 members of the housing committee are thought to have been passed on to the ALHE who commented:

'We understand that these levels exceed our worst fears and this will be a terrible blow to most tenants once they are informed of the situation.'

Cllr Fowler, one of nine people who voted against implementation at a group meeting earlier this year claims that increases of between 40 and 85 per cent on net rents were predicted in the figures shown to housing committee members.

He said that these figures left some councillors speechless.

Homes which had two toilets would pay more rent, along with those that had play-space on their estates. Caretakers meant extra on the rent as did wall fires fitted by the council, he said.

'In view of the way our rents are going to be assessed, I think the council should have a rethink on its decision to implement the Bill on rents in October. The proposed increases are far higher than were expected by most councillors.'

Cllr Fowler said that it must be obvious to those councillors who accepted implementation rather than submit to a housing commissioner that they were 'fighting a lost battle'.



Southwark borough, London, tenants have kept up a constant campaign against implementation of the Tories' Housing Finance Bill through lobbies of councillors. But their views were not even raised at a recent Labour group meeting.

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Briginshaw threatens strike at the 'Sun'

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

STRIKE ACTION will halt production of the 'Sun' newspaper at midnight on Sunday unless management takes immediate steps to improve conditions in the print room.

Notice of the proposed stoppage has been served on management by the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel.

NATSOPA general secretary Richard Briginshaw said that since the notice was served two weeks ago, the management had not shown any willingness to speed-up improvements in working conditions.

'Talks about bad working conditions have been going on for years and because of the lack of progress towards better conditions this notice was served. Unless someone does something dramatic quickly, the stoppage will go ahead.'

He complained that new machines in the 'News of the World' and 'Sun' machine room made no provision for drawing off fumes and ink.

The next meeting of the union's executive is August 7. Mr Briginshaw said he would not consider calling members together earlier unless there was something worthwhile to say.

Owner of the 'Sun'/'News of the World' group is Australian newspaper tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

Briefly...

PRISONERS at Stafford jail ended their 100-strong protest sit-in yesterday. The men stayed overnight in the exercise yard refusing to return to their cells. A Home Office spokesman said the reason for the protest was not known.

MILLIONAIRE chairman of Mothercare, 45-year-old Selim Zilkha, made another £4m in 30 minutes yesterday.

Zilkha, an American, who has been nursing Mothercare as chairman and managing director since 1961, saw his personal fortune jump by this amount as shares in the company soared 28p a time in first dealings on the London Stock Exchange. His shares are now worth £28.5m.

Investors, who last week rushed for the first public offer of Mothercare shares, made a total profit of nearly £2.25m.

Zilkha's brother, Ezra, a New York banker, also owns nearly £8m worth of Mothercare shares.

A GOVERNMENT inquiry into the organization and methods of Leadership Dynamics Institute is called for by three MPs in a Commons motion tabled yesterday.

They call on the House to view with concern disclosures in yesterday's 'Daily Mail' of the techniques used by the Institute, an American organization, in the course of training 'budding tycoons'.

In the report, would-be business executives were said to have paid £385 as a fee for a course in which they were assaulted, insulted and degraded.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

The currency crisis and the working class
NOTTINGHAM: Wednesday July 19, 7.30 p.m. Thurland Hall, Pelham St. 'Build Councils of Action.'

PRESTON: Thursday July 20, 8 p.m. Railway and Commercial Hotel, Butler Street (near railway station).

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

DOCKS WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 8 p.m.
CO-OP HALL, FANSHAW AVENUE
BARKING

Speaker: Larry Cavanagh (T&GWU shop steward) in a personal capacity

DOCKERS AND TRANSPORT WORKERS UNITE AGAINST TORIES! DEFEND THE RIGHT TO WORK! RECALL THE TUC TO FORCE THE TORIES TO RESIGN! RETURN A LABOUR GOVERNMENT PLEDGED TO NATIONALIZE DOCKS AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY UNDER WORKERS' CONTROL.

ULSTER THURSDAY, JULY 20, 8 p.m.
CO-OP HALL, SEVEN SISTERS RD
HOLLOWAY

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TV

BBC

9.45 Mr Benn. 10.00 Casey Jones. 10.25 Play Tennis. 10.50 Tin Tin. 10.55 Magic Roundabout. 11.00, 1.53 Cricket. 1.00 Disc a Dawn. 1.30 Andy Pandy. 1.45 News, weather. 4.15 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Starsport. 5.10 Pixie and Dixie. 5.20 Little Women. 5.44 Sir Prancelot. 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.50 TOM AND JERRY.

7.00 RYAN AND RONNIE. Comedy.

7.25 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. A Game of Chess.

8.10 NO EXIT. Good at Games.

9.00 NEWS, Weather.

9.20 SPORTS SPECTACULAR Muhammad Ali v Al (Blue) Lewis. Show Jumping.

11.20 SKY AT NIGHT. Jupiter The Colossal Planet.

BBC

11.00 Play School. 4.15, 7.00 Cricket. 5.35 Open University.

7.30 NEWSROOM, Weather.

8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED by children from abroad.

8.10 MAN ALIVE. Billie Jean 'I hate to lose'.

9.00 POT BLACK. Snooker Competition.

9.20 FILM: 'FURY'. Spencer Tracy, Sylvia Sydney. Mob violence in backwoods American town.

10.50 NEWS, Weather.

10.55 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

11.00 George Formby. 12.20 Women. 12.45 Freud on Food. 1.10 Bellbird. 1.25 Sean. 1.40 Woobinda. 2.05 Castle Haven. 2.30 Good Afternoon. 2.55 Racing. 3.45 Edgar Wallace. 4.40 Hatty Town. 4.55 Little Big Time. 5.20 Ace of Wands. 5.50 News.

6.00 JUNKIN. Fun and fantasies with John Junkin.

6.25 CARTOON TIME.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 THE SMITH FAMILY. Mac.

7.30 CORONATION STREET.

8.00 CADE'S COUNTY. Shake-down.

9.00 THE MAIN CHANCE. Where Did I Leave My Shining Armour?

10.00 NEWS.

10.30 WORLD IN ACTION SPECIAL. The making of an American Presidential candidate.

11.15 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.

11.45 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. Alan Coren.

12.00 THE COMMON MIND.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 1.45 Racing. 4.05 Paulus. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Good afternoon. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 F. Troop. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Please sir. 7.30 London. 11.45 News, weather. Epilogue.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 3.55 Gus Honeybun. 4.20 News. 6.00 Diary. 11.44 News. 11.47 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 12.55 News. 1.00 Let them live. 1.25 Hot dog. 1.50 Cooking. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 London. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Enchanted house. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 Challenge. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.



Lee Montague (left) as Hemsley and Phillip Latham as Pardoe in tonight's 'No Exit' play on BBC 1 called 'Good at Games'.

HTV: 2.15 Racing. 3.20 Talking hands. 3.35 Enchanted house. 3.45 Ugliest girl. 4.15 Tinkertainment. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Dave Cash. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 Coronation street. 8.00 Hawaii five-o. 9.00 London. 11.45 Frighteners. 12.15 Weather.

HTV Wales and HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 6.15 Report West.

ANGLIA: 1.40 World War I. 2.05 Rovers. 2.30 London. 3.45 Yoga. 4.15 News. 4.18 Cartoons. 4.30 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Shirley. 7.30 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women.

4.10 Mrs Muir. 4.40 Magic ball. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Who do you do? 7.30 London.

ULSTER: 1.45 Racing. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Viewfinder. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sporting challenge. 7.30 London.

YORKSHIRE: 1.45 Racing. 2.15 Bellbird. 2.30 London. 3.45 Dr Locke. 4.10 Calendar. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar, Weather. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 Coronation street. 8.00 Jason King. 9.00 London. 11.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 1.45 Racing. 3.40 Junkin. 4.10 News. Peyton place. 4.40 Sean. 4.55 London. 6.00

News. What's on? 6.30 Jimmy Stewart. 7.00 University challenge. 7.30 London.

SCOTTISH: 1.45 Racing. 3.35 Horoscope. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Animaland. 4.15 Crossroads. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Singmalman Holmes. 6.30 His and hers. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 London. 11.15 Late call. 11.20 At odds.

GRAMPIAN: 1.45 Racing. 3.37 News. 3.45 Women. 4.10 Yoga. 4.40 Enchanted house. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Grampian week. 6.20 Canadian view. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers. 7.30 Coronation street. 8.00 Department S. 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. 11.45 Scales of justice.

Prescott allowed to challenge conviction

JACK Leonard Prescott, 28, jailed for 15 years following the so called Angry Brigade explosions, was given leave by three Appeal Court judges yesterday to challenge his conviction.

Prescott, an unemployed decorator, of Roehampton Lane, Roehampton, London, was convicted at the Old Bailey on November 30 of conspiring to cause explosions and sentenced by Mr Justice Melford Stevenson on December 1.

He was acquitted on charges alleging that he caused explosions at the Employment Ministry in St James's Square, London, and at the home of the then Employment Secretary Robert Carr.

He also pleaded guilty to theft and obtaining property on a forged instrument and was given a concurrent five-year jail sentence.

Lord Justice Lawton, sitting with Mr Justice Swanwick and Mr Justice Phillips, said Prescott's grounds of appeal raised points of law and he was entitled to appeal.

The judges granted Prescott's application for legal aid. He will be represented by leading and junior counsel.

Briefly...

FURNISHED Rooms Bureau of Seven Sisters Road, North London, discriminated against a would-be white tenant because of her coloured son, it was claimed by the Race Relations Board yesterday. They were claiming an order at Westminster County Court restraining the firm from discrimination on alleged racial grounds; damages for humiliation and distress; and damages for loss of opportunity for the unmarried mother whose son had a Rhodesian African father.

Fewer unions than expected joined Tory register

BY DAVID MAUDE
Our Industrial Correspondent

WHEN THE Tories' Chief Registrar of Trade Unions and Employers' Associations took office, he expected 25 per cent of TUC-affiliated unions would register in line with the Industrial Relations Act, he disclosed in his first report yesterday.

In the event less than half that percentage—17 unions out of 140—have so far failed to comply with the TUC's deregistration policy.

The report covers only the period from the beginning of September last year, when the Registrar, Robert Farquharson Keith, took office, and March 31.

At the end of March, 29 of the smaller TUC unions had said probably they would register and four had postponed a decision. But 100 organizations had registered themselves provisionally as 'unions' within the meaning of the Act, and there were 164 such bodies on the permanent register.

There were also 105 employers' organizations on the provisional and 141 on the permanent registers.

'Since that date,' the report says, 'a number of organizations have left the registers and a number have been added, and there will be further fluctuations.'

'But a minimum of 500 entries (about 260 unions and 240 employers' organizations) seems likely to represent the registry's general field of operations during its first year.'

This week the TUC General Council started interviewing leaders of the 17 unions who are defying its policy.

Recommendations for action

will be put to the annual conference at Brighton in September.

Some TUC officials feel that a number will face a serious threat of expulsion, but there will clearly be a bitter battle between right and left before this occurs.

The Keith report, however, confines itself mainly to the issue of registration of staff associations.

It discloses the general principles the Registrar adopts in deciding whether such organizations can be considered 'independent'—a registration requirement.

The working method he has adopted is to assess the scale of activities the members of these staff associations appear to require of their organization, and then determine to what extent these activities were carried on at the employers' expense rather than out of the members' own contributions.

'Where an organization could not apparently maintain its existing level of service to its members if the employer decided to withdraw his support, there would be difficulty in satisfying the Registrar that it was independent,' says the report.

'On the other hand, the existence of financial reserves sufficient to permit the organization to continue to function for as long as might be necessary to re-organize its affairs would be a factor to be taken into account.'

'As the Registrar's inquiries progressed, it appeared that staff associations were in a state of evolution. Some were so heavily dependent on the resources of an employer that the ability of the organization to arrive freely at its own decisions and follow its own line of action must be threatened by the power the employer might exert to intervene in its affairs.'

'In such instances the Registrar has been unable to pronounce himself satisfied as to independence.'

'Other associations had already

appreciated the danger to their own interests of such a state of financial dependence and had taken steps to rid themselves of it. Others again have put forward proposals which, if implemented, may qualify them for registration in due course.'

The Registrar claims that registration is a means of providing a service of considerable (though hitherto less emphasized) significance to the members of registered organizations and to the organizations themselves.

To the individual, he says, registration offers a set of rules which take account of the Industrial Relations Act's conception of natural justice and good administration. His obligations and rights are clearly defined and

if his rights are infringed he can call on the registrar to help him.

● Among the TUC unions already interviewed by the General Council are the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

Both USDAW and ASTMS are believed to have argued against harsh discipline on the grounds their policies were pushed through at the annual conference against recommendations from the executive. ISTC narrowly failed in a recent ballot to gain the two-thirds majority necessary for deregistration.

NOW WEEKLY

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The role of Workers Press over the next few weeks will be very important. Developments in the economic crisis, the containerization issue and TUC collaboration with the Tories must all come to a head in this immediate period.

We are relying on you all for a very special effort to help us over this holiday period. Do everything you can to make sure we complete our target. If possible, add something extra yourself. Rush every donation immediately to:

Workers Press
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SPANISH Foreign Minister Gregorio Lopez Bravo arrived in London yesterday to begin a three-day official visit to Britain.

This is the first such visit by a Spanish Foreign Minister for six years and is a follow-up to the visit of Sir Alec Douglas Home to Madrid in February.

Apart from attending a Royal garden party, Franco's Minister will have talks with Edward Heath, Geoffrey Rippon, Britain's European Common Market negotiator and Douglas Home.

The aim of the visit is certainly not to settle the question of Gibraltar, but to lay the basis for increased trade between Spain and Britain and to open the way up for more foreign investment in the Spanish police state.

This will be discussed in the context of the necessary political preparations against the European working class.

Yesterday was the 36th anniversary of Franco's uprising against the Republic which led to the Civil War in which the political parties and trade unions of the Spanish working class and peasantry were destroyed.

WEATHER

SOUTHERN counties of England will be cloudy at first but sunny periods are expected later. Isolated thundery showers are likely.

The Midlands and Wales will have sunny periods with the threat of an afternoon shower.

Northern England, Northern Ireland and Scotland will be dry with a good deal of sunshine, but patches of sea fog will affect coastal areas of eastern Scotland and north-east England. It will be hot again in many inland areas, but rather cool at times on the east coast.

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: Sunny intervals in many places. Scattered thundery showers over England and Wales. Very warm inland but rather cool near east coast.

LATE NEWS

Coventry engineers hit back against witch-hunt

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

STRIKERS at the Jaguar car factory in Coventry hit back hard yesterday at the press witch-hunt aimed at breaking their four-week-old pay struggle with the company.

Started by Don Perry of the 'Sunday Express', the witch-hunt has been hung on a single phrase in a leaflet given to the strikers by the Coventry branch of the Claimants' and Unemployed Workers' Union.

The phrase—'the Social Security is the biggest strike fund of them all'—was used by the 'Express' and later other Tory newspapers as part of their campaign for the government to stop strikers' families receiving benefit.

'Express'-man Perry unleashed the pack by constructing the following, provocative opening paragraph:

'Two thousand strikers who have wrecked the introduction of the best-ever Jaguar car are being urged by their leaders to claim Social Security benefits in order to prolong the strike.'

He went on to describe the leaflet as 'the shop stewards' document' and, later, 'the strikers' leaflet'.

This is untrue. It was, in fact, a Claimants' Union leaflet which included a strike committee statement dealing with picket rotas and progress of the strike.

Pat Lillis, a Jaguar shop steward and member of the strike committee, told Workers Press while taking part in the 24-hour picket at the factory:

'Perry knew this before his article was printed, because he rang me up.'

'I fully explained to him that we were only concerned, firstly, with our own statement and, secondly, with what our dependants were entitled to.'

'I made clear to him that we were not responsible for what was in the leaflet, since apart from our statement everything else was the Claimants' Union views.'

The 2,000 Jaguar pieceworkers are fighting for a substantial increase in earnings. Although the factory is closed for its fortnight's annual holiday a picket is being maintained to make sure no cars leave the plant.

British-Leyland, Jaguar's owners, claim they have lost production worth £7m; rows upon rows of the new £3,700 XJ12 have been immobilized inside the Brown's Lane, Coventry, site.

Leyland is determined to defeat the strike in order to force Measured-Day Work into the factory. The strikers are determined to win their demands.

'The firm has refused our demands because they want their new pay structure', Pat Lillis explained.

'They said if we increased our effort, we could earn more, but they would not give us a straight increase. We say workers are already at saturation point.'

Besides being an attempt to crack the strikers' will, the press witch-hunt is a build-up to a House of Commons question by a local Tory MP.

J. H. R. Stokes, a former ICI personnel manager, who sits for Oldbury and Halesowen, plans to ask Social Security Minister Sir Keith Joseph about benefit payments to the strikers.

Pat Lillis said: 'This attack has been built up for one purpose only—to help the Tories move against benefits to strikers' wives and children.'

Trade unionists must be on their guard against witch-hunters of the Tory press. Irresponsible statements such as that contained in the Claimants' Union leaflet play into the hands of such witch-hunters.

ALL SOVIET military experts have been asked to leave Egypt following a sharp deterioration in relations between the two countries.

The number of pilots, missile technicians and experts in charge of military installations or attached to the Egyptian armed forces is put at about 20,000. It is doubtful whether the Egyptians could handle the advanced equipment provided by the Soviet Union in recent years without them.

The decision follows the visit to Moscow on Monday of the Prime Minister, Aziz Sidky, and a lengthy meeting of the central committee of the Arab Socialist Union, the ruling party.

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Although the factory is on holiday, a 24-hour picket is maintained outside the Jaguar plant in Coventry to stop finished cars being taken out



Jobs-fear strike could spread throughout Mersey

TALKS AIMED at breaking the deadlock over a manning dispute which could close the port of Liverpool continued yesterday.

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

Mersey Docks and Harbour Company—to begin merger discussions.

Shop steward Jack Abbott warned yesterday's mass meeting that the merger would mean a further cutback in the labour force.

'When they talk about amalgamation, they mean rationalization. And this means they want to take a big slice out of the labour force,' he said.

'This is the position we are defending at this time and we are not going to give in over it.' Another steward, Alan English, said: 'This is an out-and-out battle with the employers over jobs.'

'If we don't win this one, then we are in serious trouble.'

The dockers were told that the firm has attempted to move ships to Glasgow, but that dockers there have promised to black them. A sub-committee consisting of port shop stewards, employers and representatives of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company were attempting to resolve the dispute yesterday.

Shop stewards will report back to the men at 11 a.m. today at Liverpool's Pier Head.

Elsewhere on Merseyside yesterday work was normal as dockers waited for next week's one-day token stoppage, timed to coincide with the Transport and General Workers' Union delegate conference on the Jones-Aldington report.

In London, the joint inquiry chaired by Jack Jones, T&GWU secretary, and Lord Aldington of the Port of London Authority, is rushing to complete its work.

The co-chairmen issued a statement on Monday dismissing as 'pure speculation' reports that they have asked the government for £5m to smooth the way for the voluntary severance of up to 4,000 more dockers from the industry.

Meanwhile talks between the docks shop stewards and the London Road Transport Commercial Committee of the T&GWU about the picketing and counter-picketing of container depots have broken down.

The drivers' leaders have called a meeting tomorrow 'to determine what steps we will take to safeguard our livelihood and that of other members of our union'.

Also tomorrow, further talks will take place between port employers and union leaders representing London's tally clerks.

Their threatened industrial action over redundancy has been postponed at least until the Jones-Aldington committee reports. Union chiefs have agreed to continue a work-sharing scheme as a holding operation.

From Hull, the national port shop stewards' committee has been sent a list of about 40 transport companies using the dozen or so private wharves on the Humber.

The Hull stewards want the firms blacked by dockers at every registered port in the country.