

# DOCKERS FREE! Now for General Strike



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But this does not mean that next Monday's one-day national strike should be abandoned. There are dangerous conditions on yesterday's judgement which make it imperative this should continue.

The spontaneous and unofficial action of trade unionists all over the country forced the TUC General Council to call a one-day national stoppage next Monday the first such all-out action called by the TUC since 1926.

The Socialist Labour League, which has persistently called for a General Strike to force the Tories to resign welcomes this move. It could bring the entire working class into conflict with the government and all its anti-working class policies.

Only the SLL has based itself on the perspective that the British working class will fight Toryism and all its manifestations—huge unemployment soaring prices and rents, entry into

the Common Market and the military terrorism in Ulster.

We laid the theoretical foundations of this struggle against the Tories in a political committee statement issued only days after the Tories were elected in June 1970. Our statement on June 23, 1970, five days after the election, declared:

'The working class is now saddled with the most reactionary post-war government. The Tories cannot overcome their economic crisis except by consistently attacking the standard of living of the working class. They will aggravate it by increasing the number of unemployed, possibly devaluing the pound and by putting the clock of trade union history back 70 years as they proclaimed at Selsdon in January 1970. Out with the Tory government of bankers and monopolists.'

But a token one-day action will not stop the Tory government from using its anti-union Act and its prisons to try and destroy the basic rights of the working class. It must be extended to a complete General Strike of indefinite duration if the Tories are to be brought down

and their anti-working class policies halted. This call to action was endorsed yesterday by a mass meeting of shop stewards representing the whole of the Humberside working class.

Yesterday's House of Lords judgement in the container case shows the Tories are determined to continue their war on the trade unions. The historic judgement—it is a revival of the 1901 Taff Vale decision—gives the National Industrial Relations Court legal backing to penalize union leaders who refuse to sack or discipline shop stewards.

The judgement reimposes fines of £55,000 on Britain's biggest union and awards costs against it amounting to £25,000.

Victor Feather misleads the working class when he says it would be wrong to talk about a General Strike or a political strike.

And the working class is already answering his 'softly-softly' approach to the class war. Yesterday 2 million workers from all sections of industry were out on unofficial strike as the five London dockers were released after the fifth day of their prison sentences.



# workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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# What we think

## AN INSULT TO JAILED DOCKERS AND MARTYRS OF TOLPUDDLE

IN 1834 the English working class was beginning to assert itself as an independent political force, breaking from the coat-tails of the liberal bourgeoisie.

It was also in that year that the Whig government of the day in conjunction with the big landlords and landowners launched a conspiracy to smash agricultural labourers organizing a union in the Dorset village of Tolpuddle.

The agricultural labourers were in desperate plight, being forced down to starvation point on wages of 7s 8d a week. In Tolpuddle they demanded 10s and the employers agreed.

But later they went back on their word, instead cutting wages to 9s, then to 8s, right through to 7s and threatening 6s if the labourers continued to fight them.

The Tolpuddle men struck back. By October 1833 they had a union. Under the guidance of the pioneer socialist Robert Owen they launched the Tolpuddle Lodge of the Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers.

The men took oaths of allegiance to the union. Said their leader, George Loveless: 'The men consulted together what had better be done, as they knew it was impossible to live honestly on such scanty means. . . They willingly consented to form a Friendly Society . . . having sufficiently learned that it would be in vain to seek redress either of employers, magistrates or parson.'

Immediately the local farmers and landlords rushed to London to see the Whig Home Secretary Lord Melbourne. Between them they hatched a

plot to smash the union.

Spies were planted inside the Tolpuddle branch, legal opinion was sounded and a warning was duly posted in the neighbourhood. Then at dawn on February 24, 1834, six of the leading Tolpuddle trade unionists were arrested, and taken to nearby Dorchester jail.

As it was not then illegal to form a union, the six were accused under the Mutiny Act 1797 of administering and taking an illegal oath.

The trial was rushed forward and before a hand-picked jury and a bitterly hostile judge, they were found guilty on March 19. Their sentence: seven years transportation to the penal colony in Botany Bay.

A massive wave of strikes, demonstrations and agitation followed their exile.

Two years later all the men were given a full and free pardon. Their return was delayed and delayed, however, and the last, James Hammett, did not arrive in England until 1839.

By that time the Chartist movement had emerged. The English working class was for the first time moving independently as a decisive force in history.

Legitimately, every trade unionist on strike today in support of the jailed dockers looks to the Tolpuddle Martyrs as the forerunners of their struggle. These pioneers of the struggle for independent trade unions are immediately linked with the fight against this reactionary Tory government and its Industrial Relations Act.

But when the architect of 'In Place of Strife', Barbara Castle descended on Tolpuddle last



Barbara Castle, who was booed and jeered over Labour Party Industrial policy

Sunday for the annual commemorative march, it was nothing more than an obscene insult to the martyrs of 1834 and to the working class of today.

Here was the Labour bureaucrat who, as Minister for Employment and Productivity in the Wilson government, opened up the attacks on the trade union movement which the Tories have seized upon with relish.

In January 1969 the former 'Tribune'-ite 'left' bowed to the wishes of international capitalism and published the White Paper which was to be the basis for the Labour government's own Industrial Relations Act.

When the working class struck 250,000 strong on May Day 1969, the Labourites were forced to retreat, even though they fixed an agreement with the TUC leadership for disciplining strikers.

Not satisfied—and with their capitalist paymasters at their heels—the Labour government came back again in April 1970 with an Industrial Relations Bill.

And it was only the dissolution of parliament and their defeat at the June General Election

that prevented them from going ahead with the Bill.

On Sunday when Mrs Castle—whose husband incidentally voted for the implementation of the 'fair rents' Bill when it came up on Islington council—laid a wreath on the tombstone of Tolpuddle martyr James Hammett, he must have turned in his grave.

For here was the woman who spoke out against the December 8, 1970, strike against the Industrial Relations Bill which went on to become an Act and led to the jailing of the five dockers.

Her efforts to cover up for the betrayal of the Wilson leadership met with little success at Tolpuddle. 'Don't let anyone fool you that the Labour government proposed anything so iniquitous. If we had been returned in June 1970 and placed my Industrial Relations Act on the statute book, there would be no docker in jail today,' she told the 4,000 demonstrators.

'Rubbish! Rubbish!' bellowed a large section of her audience. Then she mentioned that talks were proceeding with the TUC on a new Industrial Relations Act, indicating clearly that the Labourites would still like to

carry on where they left off.

And again she told a jeering crowd that a prices and incomes policy was necessary when Labour was returned.

Her cover-up job fully exposed, she was forced to betray her contempt for the working class by turning on the hecklers and telling them to go back to school and learn to read.

Of course she offered nothing but words of consolation to the dockers with her 'mobilization of the sense of human fellowship'. It is clear that as far as she and the Labour leadership is concerned the Tories can stay in power and the dockers in jail.

Today the working class is far stronger than its descendants of 1834. They have mass trade unions with a membership of 10 million. For the last 70 years they have had their own political party.

But they have any number of traitors within their movement. The fight for the General Strike to force the Tories to resign and return a Labour government pledged by the mass movement to socialist policies also means a fight to clear the agents of the Tories out of the ranks of the Labour and trade union leadership.

## More Dubcek supporters on trial

FOUR more supporters of the former Czechoslovak Communist Party leader Alexandr Dubcek were given prison sentences in Prague on Tuesday.

They are Jarmir Dus, an Evangelical clergyman, Dr Ladislav Hejdanc, a historian, his wife Hedvika and Jiri Jirasek.

Dr Dus was sentenced to 15 months' jail, Hejdanc to nine

months' and the other two defendants to six months' suspended jail terms.

This is the fourth such trial to open in Prague since last Monday, and by no means all the oppositionists known to be in jail have yet been brought before the courts. Last week 13 oppositionists were sentenced to prison terms of up to six years for 'subversion'.

The Czech news agency Ceteka has announced a

similar trial in the central Moravian town of Brno, an important industrial centre. It said the defendants were being charged with 'forming an illegal group in 1970 to carry out subversive activities against the state and joining other people to it'.

Ominously, the defendants have been charged under the more severe section of the penal code dealing with 'subversion on a large scale or in times of national danger'.

## Rhodesians arrest 'squatters'

By a Foreign Correspondent

TWELVE Rhodesian Africans are now in prison charged with illegally squatting on 'white land' after they had resisted police attempts to drive them off their ancestral territory.

The arrested men are members of the Tangwena tribe who have fought a long struggle against the racist Smith regime's Land Tenure Act. The police, with dogs and helicopters, are now hunting other Tangwena who fled into the country around the area known as the Gaeresi ranch.

One of the arrested Africans is now in hospital after having been savaged by a police dog.

Police say it could be a 'long operation' to drive them from the ranch. The government has offered them inferior land for

'resettlement'. The best land in Rhodesia is reserved for whites and the African majority crowded onto the least productive land.

Under the Land Tenure Act, Gaeresi has been declared a 'white area', but the Tangwena have sworn not to leave. Tribal leader Rekayi Tangwena has said: 'Most of us were born here and we will die here too.'

In 1967 Rekayi was convicted of illegally occupying European land. He won an appeal, but a presidential proclamation overruled the appeal court decision.

Two years later police burned the huts of more than 20 families, but the Tangwena still refused to move and won a damages case against the government.

In 1970 police with dogs again burned huts and destroyed crops. They impounded more than 200 Tangwena cattle and later sold them at auction. A few tribesmen then moved to the new area

reserved for them by the government 20 miles away.

The remainder fled into the surrounding hills, living off wild fruits and roots while police hunted for them.

More than 100 children were sent to the nearby Nyafaru farm where they are still being cared for.

Last year the Tangwena returned to the land and rebuilt their huts. They planted small patches of maize but this was insufficient to feed the tribe, which has been relying on gifts of food.

The Smith government refuses to recognize Rekayi as the Tangwena chief. It has tried to bribe him off the ranch with the promise of a chief's pension if he moves to the new land.

He has refused, saying: 'The government does not need our land and we have never troubled them. If they try to move us we will only return again. They cannot defeat our will.'

## 'Trotskyist' students jailed in Yugoslavia

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

THREE Belgrade University students have been given prison sentences for trying to form an 'illegal Trotskyite party' in Yugoslavia.

One of the three, Pavlusko Imsirovic, was said by the prosecution to have attended the International Rally of Revolutionary Youth at Essen, West Germany, in July last year.

The prosecution claimed that the three students had 'founded a Trotskyite group in Belgrade and made preparations to found an illegal Trotskyite party'. The police claimed to have found 'illegal documents, brochures, translated extracts from Trotskyite journals and such like' when they arrested the students last November.

Imsirovic and Milan Nikolic were sentenced to two years' imprisonment and the third defendant Jelka Kljajic to one year. In court they denied the prosecution charges.

The trial follows an intensive police clamp-down on students at Belgrade where there is a tradition of student militancy. In an attempt to discredit the three students the Tito bureaucracy tried them at the same time

as right-wing anti-communist groups of Croatian nationalists.

The Yugoslav Communist Party leadership can fight the Croat nationalists only by bureaucratic methods. It dare not unleash the independent force of the working class which represents a direct threat to its own privileges.

Tito's policies of encouraging foreign investment and weakening the monopoly of foreign trade pose a deadly danger to the conquests of the Yugoslav revolution.

To maintain his relations with the capitalists of Europe and the US, Tito must hound and imprison all those who fight for the political independence of the working class against capitalism and bureaucracy.

Workers Press demands the immediate release of Imsirovic and his comrades. What is the position of the British Communist Party, which 20 years ago described Tito himself as a 'Trotsky-fascist' on instructions from Stalin?

## Marathon men forced to join work-in

THE 151 men sacked from Glasgow's Clydebank shipyard last week have been told to join the work-in.

The men were to have been re-employed on Monday by the Texas based Marathon Manufacturing Company but they cannot open for business without a £12m loan from the Tory government.

Delay in pushing the enabling legislation for the loan through the House of Commons meant that the cash was not available and Marathon was not in a position to begin to hire men.

Shop stewards 'were not happy about this', but at a meeting between the stewards, union officials, UCS liquidator Mr Robert Smith and representatives from Marathon at the weekend it was agreed the sacked men should join the work-in and receive pay from the fighting fund.



## Briefly . . .

ABOUT 200 workers, a third of the labour force at the Miles Redfern rubber factory in Hyde, Cheshire, are to lose their jobs by the end of the year.

The 72-year-old factory is to close down and most of its work will be transferred to other parts of the group in Leyland and Burton.

The factory, famed for its rubber heels, was taken over by the BTR group only nine months ago.

The shock announcement followed the previous day's announcement that the Ferranti is to axe 175 jobs at Chadderton, near Oldham.

Last week's increased unemployment figures showed that the number of workers wholly unemployed in the industrial north-west is now 135,511, a rise of 7,455 on the previous month's figures.

In the greater Manchester area, the unemployment rate is 4.4 per cent compared with 4.1 per cent in June. This also compares with a figure of 3.3 per cent for the same time last year.



Top: the Heathrow mass meeting votes for yesterday's stoppage. Above: Eric Rehnitz: 'TUC must come off fence.'

## London buses, lorries and airport stop

FROM DAVID MAUDE

LONDON'S transport services have been thrown into chaos by unofficial action by trade unionists on the buses, in commercial transport, at Heathrow airport and on Southern Region railways.

The strike by 24,000 red bus drivers and conductors left commuters stranded in the

centre of London while hundreds of tourists packed the terminals at Heathrow.

More than 120 men unanimously passed a resolution calling on all Southern Region drivers and second men to strike from midnight today if the five men have not been freed by 6 p.m. that day.

'We have pledges of support from Portsmouth drivers and in attendance were leaders of the Hither Green drivers and leaders of the station staff at Waterloo,' said Mr Derrick Fullick, a Waterloo driver.

The drivers' union, ASLEF, will hold an executive meeting today to decide what official action to take.

The first action by transport workers was taken on Monday.

Hundreds of striking drivers met outside the Royal docks, London, where they were urged to bring commercial transport in the capital to a halt.

The drivers chatted amicably with dockers' pickets, who handed out leaflets to the few vehicles trying to enter the docks saying: 'Five trade unionists in jail—why aren't you out?'

And after a brief docks stewards' meeting, Jim Carpenter, chairman of the Port of London Authority stewards at the Royals, said: 'Any differences with the drivers are past. We've proved that when we're under attack, we go as one solid body.'

Moves are now well underway for the formation of a joint action committee between drivers and dockers.

Eric Rehnitz told the meeting: 'We say to the trade union leaders, the time to lead is now. To Vic Feather and the TUC we say: "Come off the fence".'

He was confident, he said, that the drivers and dockers would be joined in the coming days by the whole of the working-class movement.

Jim Carpenter said: 'Vic Feather made many gallant speeches about what the TUC would do when it came to the crunch. He's got to be as good as his word and tell all trade unionists to stop work until these men are released.'

# Mrs Beryl Maudling's other 'favourite charity'

BY ALEX MITCHELL

WHEN Reginald Maudling's name was linked with the Poulson case it was announced that he had not received a salary for his chairmanship of one of the companies.

He had foregone a salary in return for a covenant to be paid to his wife's 'favourite charity', the Adeline Genee Theatre Trust at East Grinstead.

In the Wakefield bankruptcy court it was revealed that £22,000 had been agreed to go to the trust. Now another charity has suffered which bears the patronage of the ex-Home Secretary.

Ever heard of the International Social Service of Great Britain?

It's not a group which many workers and their wives would necessarily belong to.

Patron is the Duchess of Kent, president is the Countess De La Warr and vice-presidents are Sir John Balfour, the Rt Hon the Viscount Bearsted, the Lady Katherine Brandram, Lady Henriques, the Rt Hon the Lord Layton, Angela, Countess of

Limerick, the Hon. Richard Lyttleton and Lord Moyne. No shop stewards there!

One of the aims of the ISS is to study the conditions of migration as they affect the individual and his family.

In October last year the Home Office announced that a Tory scheme for giving assistance to immigrants wishing to leave Britain was to be administered by ISS.

The decision to make ISS the agency for repatriating immigrants, a vicious concession to the Powellites in the Tory Party—caused a great deal of uproar in race relations circles. Both the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants and the West Indian Standing Conference criticized the Tories for choosing ISS to run the scheme.

Particularly they objected to the fact that ISS is hardly a

'grass roots' operation.

Its fund-raising events find their way into the social pages of the posh newspapers like the Lord Thomson-owned 'The Sunday Times'.

Take the fashion pages of this Tory newspaper on May 16, 1971. It included a big spread by Ernestine Carter which began: 'England is especially fortunate in possessing the handsomest set of ambassadors of any capital one can think of off-hand. Rarely have accomplished diplomats been so happily matched with beautiful wives.'

This was a review of ISS's annual spring fair in that hotbed of racial conflict, Chelsea Old Town Hall. The number of coloured workers and their wives present was not mentioned. But Miss Carter, the doyenne of fashion writers, revealed that the Marquesa de Santa Cruz from Franco's Spain filled her money-raising stall with magnificent sherry.

Turning to the latest annual report of the ISS, the fair receives a special mention. It says that over £7,000 was raised, £2,000 more than the previous year. It goes on: 'We were fortunate last year in having Mrs Maudling as president and Lady Goore-Booth as chairman and a very able and experienced committee.'

So, Mrs Beryl Maudling's interests attend beyond her 'favourite charity', the Adeline Genee theatre, to ISS. On page 21 of the same annual report is another item of interest.

In a table headed 'Income and expenditure account for the year to December 31, 1971' appears the following entry: 'Government grant—£2,500'.

The state hand-out was made on the recommendation of the Home Office. Home Secretary during this financial year was none other than Reginald Maudling.



# THE BIG STRIPPER

BY PETER JEFFRIES

**Mr John Bentley, the 32-year-old multi millionaire seems certain to win the nomination as Mr Asset Stripper, 1972.**

And judging by the speech he made last week to shareholders in his company, Barclay Securities, it is a title he will carry with pride.

'The job of modernizing and rationalizing inefficient companies is probably the most important job to be done in the UK today—and the most immediate,' he said.

'Most of the problems we are suffering today could easily be solved by proper use of labour and resources. It is only because there are too many people carrying out worthless jobs which consequently mean too low salaries all round that the country is reaching a collision point between management and unions where nobody can benefit.'

Chairman Bentley also went on to explain his basic conception in outlining plans for next year:

'Barclay is undergoing a transformation this year in which it demonstrates its catalytic policy of acquiring smaller companies, modernizing them over a period and floating them or selling them off again as far more efficient and streamlined organizations, usually under newly-promoted energetic and proven managements to pursue their own initiative.'

Already this year ex-Harovan Bentley has won considerable notoriety in trade union as well as financial circles as a result of major deals in property, pharmaceuticals, toys, advertising and the British Lion film-making company.

In an interview to the press last month, soon after he had announced the closure of Triang's toy factory at Merton, Surrey, in which 1,200 will lose their jobs, he explained:

'We are not a sharp bunch of operators we do not go round in big Rolls-Royces, smoking cigars, making cynical comments. Our compensation rates to redundant workers are probably one of the best of all the big companies. We will be as generous as possible to the Merton workers.'

Mr Bentley may not ride round in a Rolls. We do not know. But it is certainly not because he lacks the where with all. Last year, apart from his £10,000 salary as chairman of Barclay Securities, he also received £60,000 in dividends and had a major stake in the vast increase in capital values which occurred in his empire. His personal fortune is reckoned to be between £2.5m and £3m.

What is Barclay Securities? It was originally formed in 1896 as Barclay and Sons and for 70 years traded as a normal pharmaceutical company until it fell victim of one of the many bids made by the Slater Walker empire.

Slater Walker is the banking and property concern headed by Mr Jim Slater. Until his appointment as Environment Minister in Heath's Tory Cabinet, Mr Peter Walker was deputy chairman and actively involved

in the company's affairs.

It was in 1969 that Slater Walker began its move into banking. It then formed a number of satellite companies, often headed by former Slater Walker executives. One such company was Barclay Securities. Others included Sterling Land and Cornwall Property Holdings. Under these arrangements Slater Walker acted as banker for the new companies as well as retaining a considerable minority shareholding.

John Bentley had been a key figure in the Slater Walker outfit. He had been Slater's henchman in the many breathtaking bids and takeovers which had characterized the rapid growth of Slater Walker conglomerate.

Certainly this experience was not lost on the now 'independent' Bentley.

Here is a summary of the main takeovers which have produced the enormous growth of Barclay Securities. In almost all cases the bids have been financed by an exchange of shares and some little rolling power from his ex-mentor, Jim Slater.

**1969:**  
**J. T. Morgan (Swansea) —**  
 Pharmaceuticals.  
**W. Hinds (Holdings) —**  
 Pharmaceuticals.  
**Jaynox —**  
 Pharmaceuticals.  
**J. H. Haywood —**  
 Pharmaceuticals.

**1970:**  
**D. Sebel and Co —**  
 Toys.  
**Mills and Allen —**  
 Poster advertising.  
**Leon and Ripley —**  
 Poster printing.  
**Interfile —**  
 Computer print outs.

**1971:**  
**Chad Valley —**  
 Toys.  
**Reynolds and Bransen —**  
 Pharmaceuticals.  
**North Staffs Poster Services —**  
 Poster advertising.  
**General Poster and Publicity —**  
 Poster advertising.  
**Dorland Advertising Holdings —**  
 Advertising.  
**Osborne Garrett Nagele —**  
 Hairdressers' Suppliers.  
**Triang Pedigree —**  
 Toys.  
**Europe Poster Services —**  
 Poster advertising.

**1972:**  
**Bellaire Cosmetics —**  
 Cosmetics.  
**British Lion —**  
 Film production.

	Sales	Profit	Dividend	Employed
1968	2.6	0.1	0.02	0.5
1969	8.2	0.5	0.09	3.1
1970	17.6	1.7	0.41	10.2
1971	32.2	3.1	0.61	17.8

This growth is reflected in the company's labour force. In 1968 only 150 people were employed by Barclay Securities. In 1971 this had grown to nearly 6,000.

After taking over a company, Bentley organizes it into one of three divisions: pharmaceu-



**Millionaire John Bentley, walks through the Roman temple in the backyard of his newly-acquired office in Curzon Street, Mayfair.**

ticals, toys and outdoor advertising (media). Bentley's ultimate aim is to make each of these divisions into independent companies, quoted on the stock exchange, with Barclay's retaining a large minority holding.

A good example of Bentley's techniques can be seen in the takeover of the outdoor advertising firm Mills and Allen for £4.1m in 1970. Within a few months the sale of property and some minor subsidiaries had raised over £2.75m so that Barclay Securities was left the main part of the company for a net cost of only £1.3m. As the remaining sectors of Mills and Allen were making a pre-tax profit of about £750,000 a year, this was clearly a highly-profitable investment.

A similar process was applied to Dorland Advertising Holdings, which was obtained in 1971 for £2.3m. During the following months Barclay Securities sold off land and subsidiaries for £3m and was left with assets valued at £600,000. It had made a profit of £1.32m. (55 per cent) on the deal.

In the case of takeovers in the pharmaceuticals field, Bar-

clay's completely reorganized the four subsidiaries bought in 1969 by establishing a central, computer-controlled system, to control sales and stock.

Two depots were almost immediately shut down and a major warehouse moved to new premises.

In October 1971 Osborne, Garrett, Nagele, the UK's largest hairdressers suppliers, was bought for £750,000. The following March the London headquarters were sold for £1.25m, so that Barclay had already made a profit of almost £500,000 and still kept the many branches of OGN which are currently being completely reorganized. The Rochester factory is being sold and the production of the factory being transferred to another new subsidiary, Bellaire Cosmetics.

The entire pharmaceuticals division is now being merged with Weston Pharmaceuticals. The combined company will employ 2,600 people and its 187 shops will have a turnover of around £30m. Weston's is to be quoted on the stock exchange, but Barclay's will still be in control through a minority shareholding and the nomination of key directors.

Then, last month, the Merton factory was sold for over £5m and another 1,200 workers were thrown onto the scrapheap. Only three months previously Bentley had closed the Moby toy factory at Erith in Kent and persuaded 250 skilled workers to move to his Merton factory.

His bicycle factory in Bir-

mingham and its stock have also been sold for about £1.2m and the wooden toy division of Triang was sold for £200,000.

As a result of these transactions, Barclay will recover in cash more than the purchase price of Triang. He is left with a large and profitable toy division which will at some point no doubt be 'floated off' to raise more money for future takeovers.

Barclay Securities latest acquisition is British Lion. Bentley's intentions about British Lion are at the moment not entirely clear. But it will certainly form part of his media division and Pearl and Dean, British Lion's advertising subsidiary, will fit neatly into the Bentley empire.

But the richest prize was certainly the 60-odd acres of valuable land which British Lion owns at Shepperton in Middlesex. If past form is a guide, this will be rapidly sold and another vast profit chalked up.

As interesting as the rise of Barclay Securities is the philosophy of its chairman.

'I am not being Nazi' he said in connection with one recent deal. 'I do exactly what I want

to do with my company. If I concerned myself with social problems I could run it for the greater benefit of the employees and less for the shareholders. I will be generous. It is not my intention to make people redundant deliberately. I am prepared to go along with any massive retraining programme and pay towards it. But the fact remains, shareholders would not go along with an unprofitable business.'

Certainly he is in the best position to judge the interests of Barclay's shareholders. The latest returns show him holding a personal stake of 1.2m shares. Currently valued at 205 pence, his holding is thus worth nearly £2.5m.

In the last four years an investor in Barclay Securities has made huge capital gains. In 1968, 100 10p ordinary shares cost £15 (15p per share). Since then:

Year	Dividend %	Share Price (£)
1968	121%	1.25
1969	15%	1.5
1970	37 1/2%	3.75
1971	50%	5
		11.5

Thus the initial £15 investment has paid £11.5 in the last four years and the 100 shares are now worth over £200—a capital gain of over 1,300 per cent.

Bentley would like to see his philosophy applied throughout the country:

'I personally believe that if it was politically possible to apply our approach to every company in the country you would release one third of the space in factories—they are unproductive, just as Lines was... I have just come back from Japan and there, if TV sets are not selling, a whole slice of the factory turns over to washing machines. That is the sort of flexibility and adaptability we should be aiming for.'

Of course there are a few saving formulae about the need for government retrain-

ing programmes to which Barclay's would be willing to contribute:

'I am extremely regretful about sacking workers', Bentley pleaded at the time of the Merton shut-down. 'It is a traumatic experience for us, but I am trying to get the best return on my money in the best interests of my company and the country.'

It would be wrong to look upon Bentley merely as a businessman hell-bent on profit, a product of Heath's 'New Britain'.

The point about such enterprises as Barclay Securities is that they actually amass their fortunes as a result of the bankruptcy and disintegration of the capitalist system.

As Bentley's record demonstrates, he is not primarily interested in production. His concern has been built up through shrewd financial deals whose ultimate aim was to bring about a contraction of production, or what Bentley euphemistically calls a 'process of rationalization and streamlining'.

Nearly 60 years ago Lenin and other Marxists characterized imperialism as the

parasitic stage in capitalism's history. More and more it threatened the destruction of the very productive forces which had been built up during its expansionist, progressive phase throughout the last century. Less and less was it able to develop the productive forces.

The boom firms of the 1970s are those whose activities are concentrated almost entirely on share deals, takeovers and asset-stripping—enterprises Marx dubbed over 100 years ago as mere 'coupon clippers'.

Meanwhile the basic productive industries—steel, coal, rails, engineering—continue to stagnate if not decline.

The mushroom-like growth of firms such as that headed by John Bentley is not a sign of the health of capitalism. It is an indication of its acute crisis, decline and disintegration.

## No sympathy Prentice criticized by sparks

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

REGINALD PRENTICE, Labour's shadow Employment Secretary, has been bitterly criticized for saying he has no sympathy for the four jailed dockers.

Prentice, who sits for the dockland seat of East Ham North, told the capitalist press within hours of the arrests:

'I have no sympathy at all with Bernie Steer and the others. They were wrong to organize picketing and blacking against the policy of their union. They were even wrong to defy the court.

'Trade unionists should not rally round these men as though they are later Tolpuddle Martyrs. They are just not worth it.'

Before entering parliament Prentice was on the full-time staff of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Transport House.

His reactionary outburst has produced an angry response from East End dockers and other trade unionists.

Tower Hamlets electricians' branch has passed a resolution unanimously calling on Prentice's constituency party to demand an apology for the dockers.

The resolution concluded by saying the people who make statements like Prentice's have no right inside the labour or trade union movement or to profess to represent workers.

It will be sent to Prentice's constituency party and the West Ham Trades Council.

# BSC cutbacks mean 80,000 lost jobs

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation closed 54 plants or sections of works last year and almost 20,000 workers lost their jobs.

And BSC says the process of rationalization and closure is by no means complete. Another 80,000 steelworkers could lose their jobs. The annual report states: 'Very substantial rationalization has still to be effected as the Corporation's long-term development plans are implemented.'

BSC says it hopes further sackings will be made with 'the close co-operation with the trade unions in the industry'.

In the year ending March 1972 BSC made a loss of £68m. Although there was a trading

surplus of £61m, huge interest payments (£37m) among other things turned it into a deficit.

Home sales fell by a massive 24 per cent last year to 12.6 million tons, the most severe decline in UK steel demand since the war as the recession developed throughout British industry.

The Tory government last year forecast that the deficit would run to £100m. And BSC says in the report it only managed to keep it to £68m because of closures.

The Corporation blames the government for much of the deficit by its refusal to sanction the required rise in steel prices.

The halving of the proposed increases in April 1971 is said to have cost BSC some £65m in lost revenue.

About 50,000 workers have been sacked by BSC since nationalization in 1967. And it is now clear that the government is planning to decimate the industry and concentrate production in five key centres.

In May the Tories announced an output target of between 28 to 36 million tons by 1980, with clearly the lower figure in mind. But that is not far below BSC's output at present.

Shortly afterwards 8,000 Scottish steel redundancies were announced. And there are undoubtedly secret plans to sack at least another 80,000 workers throughout the industry.

● At Port Talbot 1,400 blast-furnacemen walked out yesterday closing down the giant steel plant. They were protesting against the jailing of the dockers.

## THANKS FROM HANTS

Dear Friends,  
Our strike at Goodman's has now been successfully resolved with a £3 increase for all workers which is a step in the right direction towards equal pay.

On behalf of all workers and the strike committee I would like to thank you for the publicity you gave us, particularly in your edition of July 20. This kind of support has helped to keep morale high and has contributed to our eventual victory.

Yours sincerely,  
Shelagh Kirkby,  
Strike Committee,  
Goodmans  
Loudspeakers,  
Havant, Hampshire.

## Block on Tube Investments machinery

DURING THE holiday shutdown at Tube Investments, Walsall, trade unionists will take steps to see that no equipment is removed from the closure-threatened factory.

If the closure goes ahead, 1,400 workers at the stainless steel plant will be thrown on the dole. Walsall is in a part of the Midlands engineering belt already hit by severe unemployment.

Mr Albert Pritchard, spokesman for the Tube Investments action committee, told Workers Press:

'Our meeting with Lord Plowden, chairman of TI, was a complete waste of time. He told us that our best interests would be served by running the place down in an orderly fashion! If that was done he would help to "mitigate the social consequences".'

'He could give no guarantees of a takeover and said that the plant and site would be sold.

That makes us subject to laws of the market and we won't accept it.'

Mr Pritchard said the campaign was gaining financial and moral support, despite the fact that it was only in its early days.

'There is £2m worth of steel stockpiled here and we want to shift much of the production from here to their other factories. We had a meeting with union officials and we have their

co-operation in seeing that other plants in the group do not do work normally done here and that no overtime is worked.

'Already 24 other TI factories in the Midlands, who have been warned that they could be next, have written to Plowden seeking a meeting.'

Walsall Trades Council has passed a resolution calling for a mass lobby of the House of Commons and a meeting with Tory Ministers and local MPs.

# The US wavers over the dollar crisis

THE DECISION of the New York Federal Reserve Bank to intervene for the first time since last August to support the dollar exchange rate represents a desperate attempt to buy a little time in the face of a rapidly maturing world capitalist financial crisis.

In his August 15, 1971, measures, President Nixon broke the link between the dollar and gold.

The dollar became inconvertible and the basis of the 1944 Bretton Woods arrangements was destroyed. And once these forces were put into operation they could not be reversed.

Since that date US policy has been clear. It has been determined to force a series of currency revaluations on the Common Market which would leave the Europeans with an impossible disadvantage in the struggle for exports.

It is for this reason that for the last 11 months the US authorities have stood by and allowed dollars to flood into the European money market. The entire burden of supporting existing parity rates—agreed at in talks last December—has fallen on the backs of the Europeans, notably the Germans.

In their attempts to ward off a revaluation which would have put their exports at such a crippling disadvantage, the West Germans and others have been obliged to increase the volume of their dollar holdings under conditions where the dollar has no gold backing and is a grossly over-valued currency.

Last Wednesday the US banks made a partial change in this policy when they supported the dollar by selling a portion of their mark holdings.

But, as the West Germans

BY PETER JEFFRIES

were quick to point out, this can be only a very short run 'solution' to the problem because America only has a paltry \$429m worth of foreign currency as a component of her reserves.

Continued support for the dollar would involve the US in either

● Selling more gold. But the official gold reserve is severely depleted.

● Activating the 'swap' arrangements through the International Monetary Fund.

Under such arrangements, one country is allowed to swap its currency for that of another in order to preserve existing parity rates. But as the bankers know, such schemes were possible only in a period when all currency was linked through the dollar to gold.

Since August 15, confidence in the stability of all currency has been severely shaken. The hope that in these circumstances the renewal of 'swap' arrangement—the recycling of paper money—can solve anything, reflects the seriousness of the plight which the capitalist class is in.

There are indications that the American capitalist class is split on its tactics to deal with this crisis.

One group, centred mainly on the US Treasury, wants to force American policy immediately upon the Europeans and Japanese.

It was Federal Reserve Board chairman Arthur Burns who was largely instrumental in bringing about the change in US policy.

He was supported by President Nixon. Election considerations are certainly at work here. But whether the Americans will be able to wait for November until they move decisively against Europe is doubtful.

A high Treasury official in Washington was certainly right when he said of the support operation: 'It is a useful tactical manoeuvre, but not a solution

to international monetary problems.'

Nothing is solved because in the background stands the unresolved US balance-of-payments crisis. Only an improvement in the US payments balance can hope to strengthen the dollar.

But a stronger American payments position means an intensified payments crisis for all those countries whose survival depends upon the US market. In any case, fears are being openly voiced that the soon to be published half yearly US payments figures will mark a further deterioration.

'When we try to get to this basic problem in talking to the Europeans,' said a senior Treasury official last Thursday, 'we meet resistance everywhere.' The official said that other countries do not want to limit their exports, change their exchange rates or agree to American proposals to cut troop commitments abroad.

'What they would really like to see,' he said, 'is higher interest rates here, and capital controls—and we're not about to buy that.'

The Americans are to urge the Japanese to buy an extra \$1,000m worth of US goods this year. Otherwise America will be forced to take more steps towards protectionism.

Japan is being urged to make major purchases of US-enriched uranium and grain to close the current near \$4,000m trade surplus in Japan's favour. US Embassy officials preparing for the talks said that while the Japanese seemed aware of the great dangers, 'no one seems to have any urge to do something'.

The Japanese are to be told that unless they respond immediately to American proposals, 'they will face another Nixon-type shock'.

This is the real language of American capital as it prepares to do battle with Europe and Japan in the fields of trade and finance.

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A section of the giant march which went to Pentonville jail on Tuesday to show their solidarity with the five London dockers who were released by the NIRC yesterday.

# Nixon to meet Japan's new premier

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

**PRESIDENT Nixon will fly to Hawaii on August 31 for a two-day conference with the new Japanese premier Kakuei Tanaka on relations between the two countries, the White House announced yesterday.**

The sudden decision to meet, on Nixon's initiative, follows Tanaka's acceptance of an invitation from Chou En-lai to visit China.

Relations between Tokyo and Washington have been strained since August last year when Nixon imposed a 10 per cent tariff on Japanese exports and forced a crippling yen revaluation.

Since Nixon visited Peking earlier this year—a trip arranged behind the backs of the Japanese government—Japanese industrialists have been campaigning for the opening up of commercial relations with China.

Desperate for markets, they see China as potentially a large outlet for Japanese goods and hope to be able eventually to take part in joint projects to exploit Chinese mineral wealth.

The resignation of premier Eisaku Sato, a long-standing US stooge, and the appointment of Tanaka has opened the way for a dramatic turn in Japanese foreign policy.

Japanese officials have already made the first contacts with Chinese representatives, opening 'working contacts' through the

Chinese commercial mission in Tokyo.

Chou En-lai has set out three principles for the resumption of relations with Japan. These are that the People's Republic is the only legitimate government of China, Formosa is an inalienable part of China and the 1952 peace treaty between Japan and the Formosa government must be scrapped.

Tanaka has said he can 'understand' Chou's principles, a remark which has thoroughly alarmed the Chinese Nationalists on Formosa. Chiang Kai-shek's regime is heavily dependent on Japanese capital and Japan is one of its chief markets.

The Chiang government has a rigid policy of breaking diplomatic relations with any country which recognizes the Peking government.



# TV

## BBC 1

9.45 Along the River, 10.00 Casey Jones, 10.25 If You Were Me, 10.50 Tin Tin, 10.55 Magic Roundabout, 11.25 Cricket, 1.30 The Herbs, 1.45 News, weather, 1.55 Y Cymanfa Ganu, 2.20 Racing, 4.20 Play School, 4.45 Jackanory, 5.00 Boss Cat, 5.25 Barrier Reef, 5.50 News, weather.

6.00 **NATIONWIDE.**

6.55 **HE SAID, SHE SAID.** Panel game.

7.25 **TOP OF THE POPS.**

8.30 **THE BURKE SPECIAL.** James Burke.

9.00 **NEWS, Weather.**

9.25 **PLAY: 'EVELYN'.** Edward Woodward, Angela Scoular.

10.15 **THEM.** (New Series.) Comedy with Cyril Cusack, James Booth.

10.45 **A VIETNAM DIARY.**

11.55 **NEWS.**

12.00 **Weather.**

## ITV

11.30 Dialogue, 12.25 Women, 12.50 Cook Book, 1.15 Bellbird, 1.30 Zingalong, 1.40 Arthur, 2.05 Castle Haven, 2.30 Good Afternoon, 2.55 Racing, 3.45 Marcus Welby, 4.40 Nuts and Bones, 4.55 Atom Ant, 5.20 How, 5.50 News.

6.00 **WRECKERS AT DEAD-EYE.** 4: Boomer Hole.

6.30 **CROSSROADS.**

6.55 **FILM: 'BITTER VICTORY'.** Richard Burton, Curt Jurgens, Ruth Roman. Two inexperienced soldiers lead band of desert commandos in bid to capture important German army papers.

8.45 **NEAREST AND DEAREST.**

9.15 **GO, GO, GO WITH ARTHUR.**

10.00 **NEWS.**

10.30 **CINEMA.** Steve McQueen.

11.00 **THE AVENGERS.** Killer.

12.00 **ONE POINT OF VIEW.**

## BBC 2

11.00 Play School, 4.30 Cricket, 6.35 Open University.

7.30 **NEWSROOM, Weather.**

8.00 **GREAT PARKS OF THE WORLD.** Yellowstone, USA.

8.30 **EMMA.** Part 2.

9.15 **INDUSTRIAL GRAND TOUR.** Britain's industrial heritage.

9.25 **SHOW OF THE WEEK: KEITH MICHELL.**

10.10 **CRICKET.** 4th Test highlights.

10.40 **NEWS, Weather.**

10.45 **WORLD CINEMA: 'THE ROGUES' TRIAL'.** Social satire aimed at church and state.

Cyril Cusack as Coatsleeves in 'Them' on BBC 1.

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# NOW FOR GENERAL STRIKE

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile the working class throughout Britain showed its determination to mobilize and strike against the Tories and the jailing of the five London dockers.

London transport was hit after 24,000 drivers and conductors joined the strike and air traffic at Heathrow was disrupted by a stoppage of over 3,000 ground staff.

In Hull 300 shop stewards from more than 20 unions decided to recommend immediate strike. Hundreds of engineers have already walked out and thousands of workers on North Humberside decided to down tools.

In Leeds a mass rally of 3,000 building workers cheered a Liverpool docks shop steward when he demanded an indefinite General Strike until the Tory government was brought down. This is the mood of the working class.

In South Wales, Port Talbot's 14,000-strong steelworks was brought to near standstill after 1,400 blastfurnacemen walked out.

With 6,000 miners at ten collieries already on strike, all the coalfield's 35,000 miners were expected to stay away from the pits indefinitely from today.

Pits in Yorkshire and Scotland were on strike yesterday and more miners were expected to join in as meetings were held.

In addition to the 40,000 dockers out, tugboatmen, trawlermen, dockworkers, fish dock workers and warehousemen have all downed tools. Scores of ships are idle and fish cargoes have been left to rot.

Dock workers at Portsmouth struck indefinitely and all Medway and Kent ports were at a standstill. Three hundred men at Kingsnorth power station struck and were picketing other industries including Chatham naval base.

Drivers in Hull and London are supporting the dockers and on Merseyside 10,000 drivers have voted to strike indefinitely.

Road drivers, including bus drivers, joined the strike at 5 p.m. yesterday including men employed by Heaton's Transport. Liverpool Trades Council called a meeting of all Merseyside stewards last night to discuss co-ordinated action.

Seventy five South Wales miners marched on Pentonville prison yesterday from Kings Cross to a welcome by 250 dockers and other workers picketing the jail.

The national council of the National Graphical Association yesterday decided on a one-day strike on Monday, even if the dockers are released, to underline the union's opposition to the Industrial Relations Act.

International solidarity with the strike is spreading rapidly among dockworkers in Europe and the United States. The CGT, France's biggest union federation, 'blackened' all British ships on Monday in solidarity with the imprisoned British dockers. At Le Havre, on the channel coast, dockers immediately walked off British ships in port.

Other ports have now taken similar action. In Antwerp, Bel-

gium, the world's second largest port, dockers declared their readiness to act in support of the British strike. They said they were waiting for a request from the International Transport Federation.

Dutch dockers took prompt action—sending a telegram of support to London almost as soon as they learnt the five dockers had been jailed. There has also been sympathetic action by workers in Germany's ports, who have declared their willingness to strike and back the British stoppage.

A 'very temperate, reasonable, quiet' meeting of the TUC General Council decided to call the one-day national strike next Monday if the five jailed dockers were not freed. The purpose of the strike would be solely to secure the release of the five, said Feather. 'This is a one-day stoppage of work', he told reporters after the meeting. 'It would be quite illiterate of anyone to talk about this as a General Strike or a political strike.'

He deftly avoided specifying what happened to the TUC's campaign against the Industrial Relations Act if the dockers were released. 'We will probably accelerate it', he said.

He stressed that the TUC's talks with the Tory government on pay and industrial relations would be quickly resumed if the dockers were released. 'There's no question of our wanting to call the talks off altogether', he said.

The strike decision—communicated to affiliated unions and trades councils by letter yesterday afternoon—was taken by 18 votes to seven.

Six union leaders abstained from voting on the motion, which was proposed by Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Only Lawrence Daly, secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, spoke up for all-out action of an indefinite duration.

Those voting against the motion were: Walter Anderson and Audrey Prime (National Association of Local Government Officers), Lord Cooper and David Bassnet (General and Municipal Workers' Union), Jack Peel (Dyers and Bleachers' Union), Frank Chapple (Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union) and Edward Britton (National Union of Teachers).

NIRC president Sir John Donaldson, releasing the five dockers from jail, said they clearly had not purged their contempt. They had expressed no remorse for their illegal actions.

But the House of Lords judgement early that day had reaffirmed the principle of the Act that trade unions and not individuals should be held responsible for breaking the law. This meant the Transport and General Workers' Union had to make sure the blacking would stop and uphold the law.

Costs were awarded against the five men.

Hanging over today's meeting of the national docks delegates at Transport House is the judgement of the House of Lords on the Heaton's Transport and Cradocks case which led to the threat by the court to take away the entire assets of the T&GWU.

In view of the Law Lords' finding, leading officials of the T&GWU will have to sack shop stewards or face seizure of their union's funds or jail.

This will reinforce Sir John Donaldson's finding in the NIRC when he warned:

'The union is accountable if its officers, officials, representatives or shop stewards do their union work in breach of the law. It is

for the union to see that they do not break the law. If they persist in doing so they are unworthy of the unions trust and of continuing in office.'

If the union did not obey, the court, said Donaldson, would assert its authority in an 'unmistakable manner'.

In the case involving blacking of lorries at Hull, Donaldson appealed for union leaders to throw out 'militants'.

'Every union has its dissenters and they have a real contribution to make, but members who act in defiance of the union policy of obeying court orders are a liability which the union could well be without.'

This means apart from the massive fines and costs, Jones, O'Leary and local officials of the T&GWU may find themselves before the court on contempt charges if they do not act as policemen within their own union.

And the Lords' judgement does not end here. It establishes, with total finality, the principle that union officials can be penalized before the court for the actions of their shop stewards. The Act, as Workers Press has always stressed, is designed to smash the trade union movement with courts, judges and jails.

There can be only one demand from the docks delegates meeting today—throw out the Jones Aldington report. Instead of conspiring to reduce the docks labour force with more bribes in the form of severance pay, Jack Jones should be calling his entire union out on strike in support of his jailed members.

The report, which was endorsed by the entire union side of the port industries National Joint Council, is an insult to the Pentonville five who have gone to jail in defence of their rights.

Jones claims that the temporary unattached register on the docks will be abolished. But it will be abolished in name only.

Other dockers on full pay will be forced to subsidize men from the TUR who are working for employers. Jones coyly calls this 'work-sharing'. Dockers will recognize it as an attack on their hard-won wage levels.

On the key issue of inland container depots the report offers nothing. Firms will be 'encouraged' to take on registered dockers, and 'pressure' will be put on the groupage firms who operate round the ports. This is nothing less than a repeat of existing union policy.

The crisis of jobs will go on in dockland. At Liverpool, for example, Ocean Port Services, owned by Ocean Steamship, wants 600 men returned to the TUR.

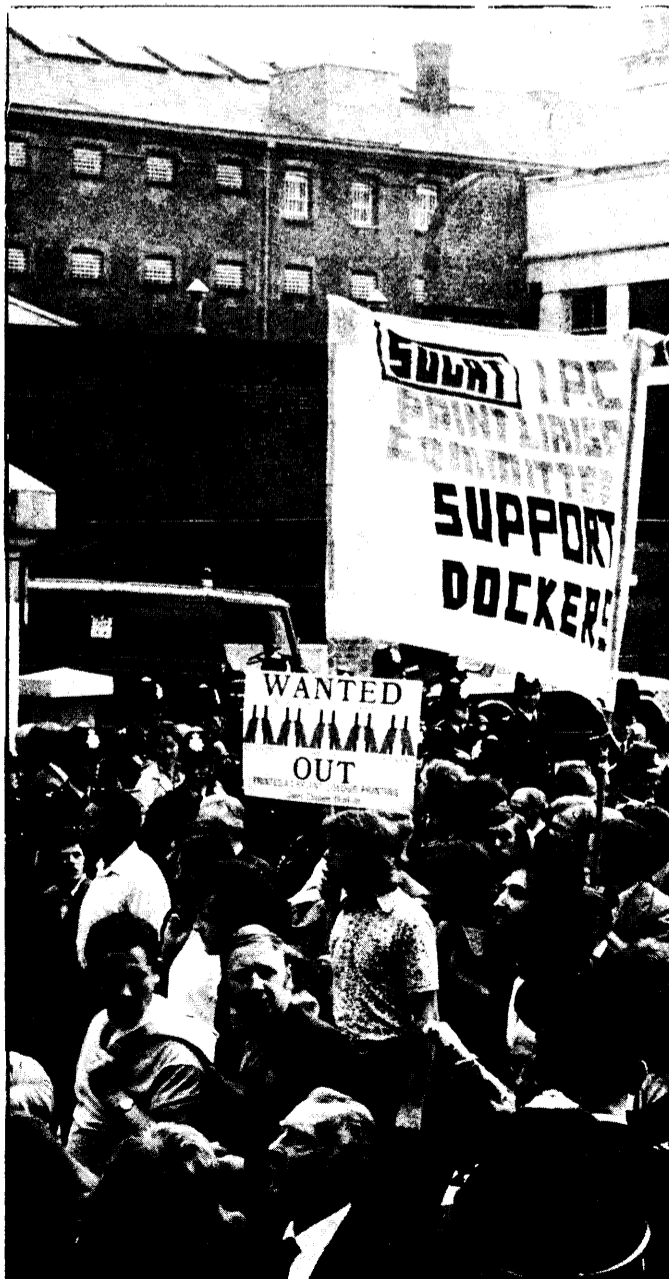
The attempt to force the report on the dockers is just another extension of official T&GWU policy, which, since Devlin, has been to decimate the dock and the road haulage labour force in exchange for a few extra pounds a week. Meanwhile the port employers, shipping lines and the road haulage firms have been able to increase productivity a hundred fold throughout the industry through containerization.

There is only one possible workers' policy for the docks and the transport industry—nationalization, without compensation under workers' control. This would solve the problem of labour surplus immediately.

A socialist government would slash hours on the docks by half and give road transport workers vastly improved pay and conditions. Then the working class, and not the employers, could reap the benefits of technical change. This policy, plus a complete stoppage of T&GWU members is what the delegates must demand today.



Above: Jubilant scenes outside the National Industrial Relations Court as news came that Sir John Donaldson had ordered the release of the dockers. Below: Trade unionists on an earlier demonstration outside Pentonville jail. Another picture p. 7.



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