

WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1972 ● No. 917 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Soviet oppositionist dies in labour camp

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He was serving a seven-year sentence for alleged 'anti-Soviet agitation' and died following an operation on his stomach. He was 33 years old.

Galanskov was arrested early in 1967 together with a fellow employee of the State Literary Museum, Alexander Ginsburg and two others. Ginsburg had published a 'White Book' exposing the earlier trial of Daniel and Sinyavsky.

Galanskov edited the unofficial literary review 'Pheonix' before his arrest and his poetry was circulated from hand to hand in manuscript through the Russian literary underground.

More than 700 people inside the Soviet Union signed protest petitions and appeals after Galanskov and Ginsburg had been sentenced behind closed doors in a farcical trial.

They were sent to the dreaded penal complex at Mordovia, east of Moscow and began a series of courageous hunger strikes and protests against the camp regime.

At the end of February 1969 they went on hunger strike to demand that the authorities



Yuri Galanskov: Hunger strikes

honour their previous guarantees against arbitrary punishments.

It is a measure of Galanskov's courage that he took part in these hunger strikes—often from a hospital bed—despite an active stomach ulcer which had troubled him even before his arrest.

One letter signed by Galanskov and his camp comrades in autumn 1969, describes the Stalinist camp network:

'Russia is still criss-crossed by a network of camps where—despite all the international conventions signed by the Soviet government—forced labour and cruel exploitation are the norm, where people are systematically kept hungry and constantly humiliated, where their human dignity is debased.

It is clear that this camp regime was a death sentence for a sick man like Galanskov. His blood is on the hands of the Kremlin leaders and all their international supporters including the British Communist Party which supports their system of counter-revolutionary repression.

BEFORE TORY PAY LAW TUC IN FULL RETREAT

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

THE TUC has abandoned any campaign against the Heath pay laws and is now preparing for further collaboration with the Tory government. This is despite yesterday's blatant Tory attack on 300,000 farmworkers who had their £3.30 pay rise frozen by government order. The farmworkers are the country's most exploited group with basic rates of £16.20 and average earnings of £22.

After hearing the news a spokesman for the National Association of Agricultural and Allied Workers said:

'This is a deplorable and quite unnecessary situation. We are a group of workers who are being penalized for a state of affairs we did nothing to bring about.'

But he said strike action would be unlikely. This is despite a call from the union's last annual conference to take industrial action if the Agricultural Wages Board did not come forward with a £4 offer.

The farm workers executive now seems certain to join the growing camp of trade union leaders who are doing their utmost to prevent any wages struggle with the government.

The TUC leaders have led the way with their own complete capitulation to the Tory wages dictatorship.

No help

Secretary Victor Feather has announced that there will be no special meetings at all to discuss the standstill and no help whatsoever has been offered to hard-pressed sections like the farmworkers who will clearly suffer a sharp decline in their meagre living standards over the next months.

While the TUC chiefs slam the door on the working class they keep their options open with regard to the government.

Both Feather and the so-called left-wing leader of the transport workers, Jack Jones, have said that talks might begin once more.

TURN TO PAGE 12

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The award was made by the Agricultural Wages Board on October 30. It brought the weekly minimum adult wage to £19.50, and was due to come into force on January 22.

Reg Bottini, general secretary of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, and Bert Hazell, president, saw Godber for half an hour to plead that the rise should be given on the date proposed, despite the freeze.

Godber confirmed that the award could not be paid while the freeze was on, but said that it would be fully implemented when it ended.

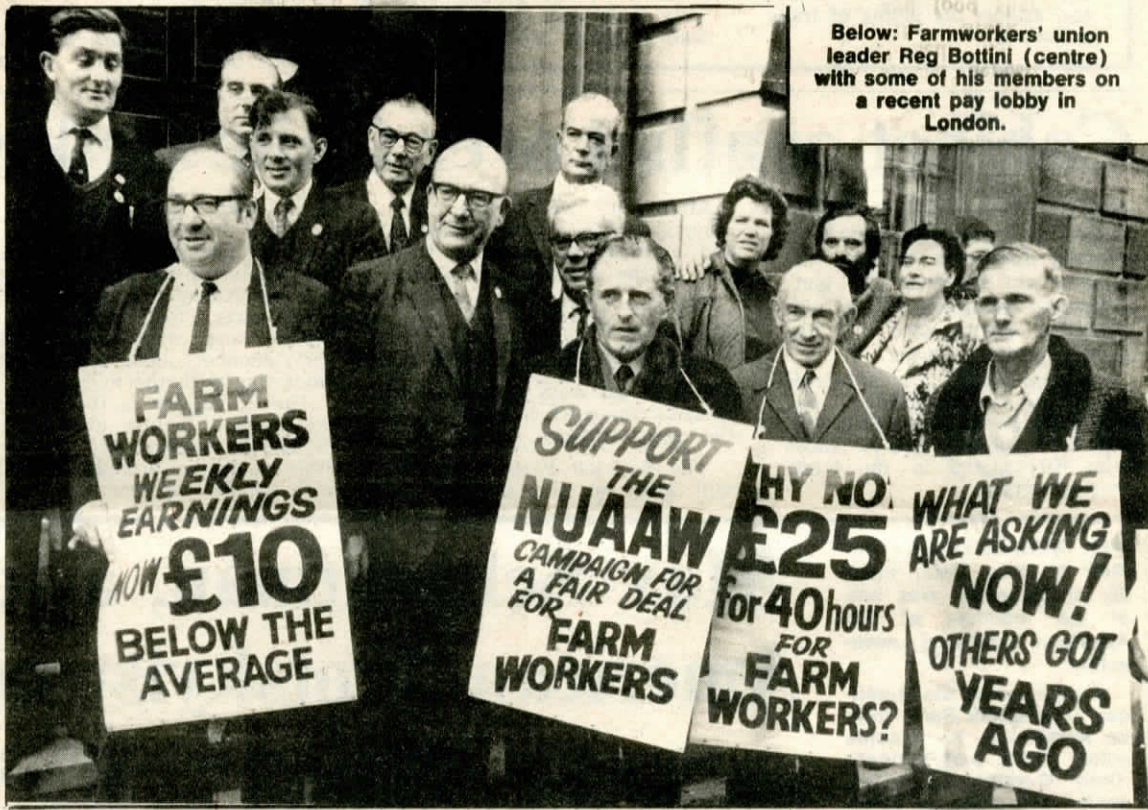
The same principle will apply to the award given to Scottish farmworkers, a week earlier, which brought their minimum wage to £19 a week.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday Chancellor Anthony Barber said there would be no backdating of pay rises held up during the standstill.

Commenting on the operation of the freeze against the farmworkers, Ray Buckton, general secretary of the locomen's union ASLEF, said:

'It's terrible. But it just goes to show that you can't play with these people who're in government now. You can't talk to them. There should be a joint trade union meeting to plan action against them.'

ASLEF's executive will be discussing its attitude on the wages question today.



Below: Farmworkers' union leader Reg Bottini (centre) with some of his members on a recent pay lobby in London.

Cut-back in bank lending

THE FIRST step to curb bank lending was taken by the government yesterday in the wake of the wage freeze.

It called on the banks to make 'special deposits' with the Bank of England amounting to 1 per cent of their liabilities in two instalments on November 30 and December 14.

This manoeuvre is intended to cream off money which would have been available to increase bank lending in December. The call is expected to amount to £220m for the banks and £2.6m for the finance houses.

This reverses the expansion of credit which began in September, 1971 when the pre-

vious 'special deposit' holdings were released.

On the Stock Exchange stores and food shares showed losses of up to 10p a time. Banks and HP shares also fell sharply, some by up to 20p.

Among consumer durables, one of the hardest hit was Hoover. Its 'A' shares slumped 36p to 500p.

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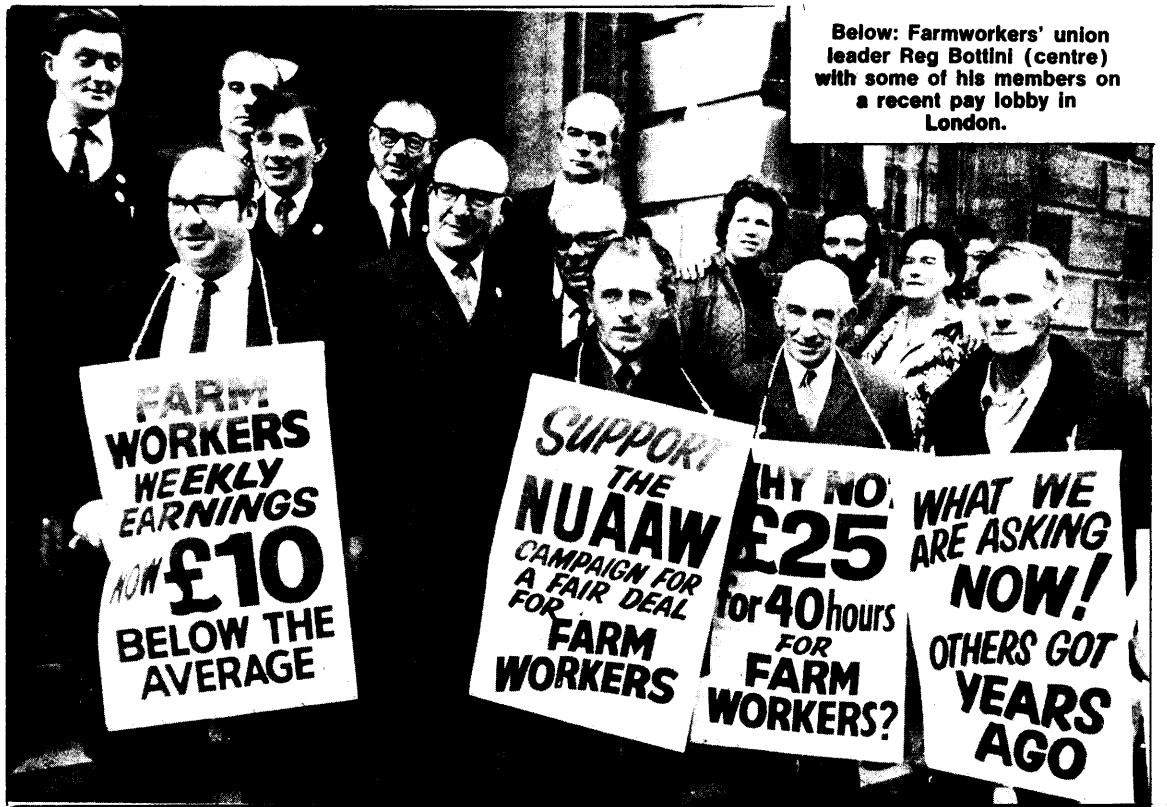
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What we think

Bankruptcy of Labour's 'lefts'

THE TORY Press is delighted with the results of the elections to Labour's Shadow Cabinet. 'The Times' calls it 'Very Good News for the Labour Party' and comments:

'The Shadow Cabinet elections are an excellent result for those who want to see a moderate and effective Labour Party and an independent parliamentary party rather than one which does just what the extreme left demands of it.'

The pro-Common Marketers have a 10-6 majority and one of their leaders—Mrs Shirley Williams—came joint top with 154 votes. Mr Reg Prentice, the right winger who denounced the five docks' shop stewards when they were jailed by the National Industrial Relations Court, also shared top place.

As the Tories seek to impose state control of wages and intensify their drive against living standards, the Labour parliamentarians elect a leadership which supports the basic planks of Tory policy.

They have cynically disregarded the opinions of the Labour Party and TUC conferences and of millions of Labour Party members and supporters.

For leading right wingers to have received such high votes they must have been supported by trade union-sponsored MPs whose unions are on record against the Common Market and against the jailing of trade unionists.

Above all, the vote is one more fruit of the collaboration between the right and the 'left' in the Parliamentary Labour Party. Mr Michael Foot received 146 votes. There has clearly been cross-voting between the right and the 'left'.

As 'The Guardian' pointed out with great glee:

'If the anti-Marketeters had been hunting witches, Mrs Williams would not be equal top of the poll. If the pro-Marketeters had been hunting warlocks, Mr Michael Foot would not have come third. Somewhere in the back rooms there has been a pleasing outbreak of tolerance.'

In practice, this 'outbreak of tolerance' means a totally unprincipled collusion in which the parliamentary 'lefts' have refused to fight the pro-Tory right wing. In return the right wing cast a few votes for Foot and company, but the entire advantage went to them. They know, in any case, that Foot represents no danger.

As 'The Times' pointed out: 'Mr Foot has played an increasingly statesmanlike role on the front bench.'

But the working class does not require this sort of 'statesmanship'. It needs a fight for principled leadership which will go onto the offensive against the Tory government and bring it down.

The new Shadow Cabinet is totally unrepresentative of the working class. And by helping to elect it, the parliamentary 'lefts' have once more revealed their complete bankruptcy.

Lowest poll since 1948

Abstentions show hostility to Nixon

ONLY A THIRD of the American electorate cast ballots for Richard Nixon despite his overwhelming victory over Senator George McGovern.

Nixon massed over 45 million votes against 28 million for his opponent, but 46 per cent of those Americans entitled to vote stayed at home. The abstention rate was the highest since 1948.

While many voters no doubt felt that the victory of Nixon was a foregone conclusion, a substantial proportion of those who abstained must have felt that the whole mammoth exercise was a fraud.

Many young voters as well as white and black workers, especially the 5½ million unemployed, must have been highly cynical about a choice between two representatives of big business and saw the minor parties as presenting no real alternative.

Both candidates are now enjoying holidays in the sun while millions of Americans have to find their way at all hours of the day and night to boring jobs in factories and offices or begin again the endless search for non-existent jobs.

The destruction of McGovern's electoral challenge has temporarily strengthened Nixon's position. Most observers claim that his trips to Peking and Moscow and his promise to end the US

forces' commitment in Vietnam played a decisive part in his victory.

This view is endorsed in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. A typical comment was that of the Polish radio's Washington correspondent who said that the President's victory owed a great deal to these visits as well as to the indications which he had given that he had em-

MOST CHINESE learned the name of presidential contender George McGovern for the first time in an issue of the Peking 'People's Daily' which gave the news of Nixon's victory. No Press comment on the result has yet been made, but Chinese officials have expressed satisfaction. The Maoist regime backed Nixon as an exponent of improving relations with China following his visit to Peking. An editorial along these lines is expected to appear in the 'People's Daily'.

braced the principles of 'peaceful co-existence'.

Hesitant voters had been swayed by 'the revelation of the existence of an agreement' with North Vietnam.

The view from Hanoi was more guarded. A local radio service reported that Nixon had 'been able to brag at great length about certain global diplomatic activities . . . and heap glory on himself.'

Hanoi Radio went on to say that his 1968 promises had remained unfulfilled and 'once the anaesthetic effect of the tricks of appeasement and the election

speeches disappears, the serious wounds . . . within the United States will fester more acutely.'

While Nixon is re-organizing his White House team he has to face the fact that despite his landslide victory the Democratic Party continues to hold a majority in the House of Representatives and picked up a couple of extra seats to strengthen its position in the Senate.

The Democratic majority in the Senate may make it difficult to push through legislation. At the same time, Nixon's victory will enable him to drive hard bargains with the Soviet and east European bureaucracies.

The Nixon Administration has only been waiting to get the election behind it before moving into action against the American working class. The election underlines once again the dangers confronting this powerful class, despite its strong union organization, as long as it has not its own political expression.

The need to establish a Labour Party becomes the main issue.

Nixon will also push ahead very swiftly with measures for intensifying the trade and currency war with Europe and Japan in line with the August 15, 1971, measures.

He will take advantage of the growing economic difficulties of the Soviet bureaucracy to drive hard bargains in the diplomatic and trading field. He aims, on the basis of a temporary accord with this cowardly and counter-revolutionary caste, to re-establish the world supremacy of American imperialism.

France denies clamp-down on Basques

FRENCH Minister of the Interior, Raymond Marcellin, yesterday denied categorically that France has any agreement with fascist Spain on treatment of refugees.

'We have undertaken no obligations at any level with General Franco on the subject of Spanish political refugees,' he told the Chamber of Deputies in Paris.

This does not square with the timing of Marcellin's recent

clamp-down on Basque political refugees in France who have been subjected to orders banning them from frontier provinces and in some cases have been expelled from the country.

Marcellin added that only about 100 'agitators' were affected by the measures. Though the police had treated them with 'patience and moderation' throughout 1971 their position had hardened.

Three Basque refugees arrested last Friday while on hunger strike in a church at Bayonne, near the border with Spain, were sentenced to jail terms on Wednesday for defying an order expelling them from the border provinces.

José Luis Uribarri (28), and Luis Aracama (30), were sentenced to three months imprisonment. José Iriarte (27), was given three months with two of them suspended.

The three had been sent recently to Lille, northern France, and returned almost immediately to the Pyrenees Atlantique Department, which borders on Spain.

Julen de Madariaga, the founder of the Basque nationalist movement ETA, is at present in the prison hospital at Fresnes, near

Paris. He was sentenced last week to three months' jail for defying an expulsion order and has been on hunger strike since October 26. He recently underwent a serious stomach operation.

No deal on ships

JAPANESE and European shipbuilders failed to reach agreement on the future trend in world demand for ships at a conference held in Tokyo. The Japanese, who hope to take over 80 per cent of the world's shipbuilding by the end of the decade, put forward an estimate of growing world demand which their competitors rejected as too optimistic.

Reason for the high estimate by the Japanese is that they do not want to slow down the expansion of their industry, now preparing to build million-ton tankers, which they are confident can take on all comers.

The Europeans, standing by a lower estimate, want an understanding to control production so that they will not be driven off the seas.

Cabinet conflict over Chile strike

PRESIDENT Salvador Allende faces the first crisis in his new cabinet now that conflict has broken out between the generals and members of his own Socialist Party who sit together in the cabinet.

Socialist Party general secretary Carlos Altamirano has broadcast on Chilean radio calling for reprisals against those who participated in the lorry-owners' strike.

Altamirano wants their employers' union to be dissolved and state employees who took part in the strike to be sacked.

Minister of the Interior General Prats and the other generals in the cabinet have rejected his demands and stated that they will not go back on the no-reprisal clause which was part of the return-to-work agreement.

The Socialist Party leadership will meet at the weekend to

decide what action to take.

If this is not to be another round of Socialist Party left-talk, they should investigate how they allowed Allende, a member of their party, to form such a cabinet and why three other party members joined him in collaborating with the military.

The SP faction is the strongest political faction numerically in the new cabinet, and the generals could be brought in only with the SP's agreement!

MAX SCHACHTMAN, who died in New York, aged 68, on Saturday, was one of the founders of the American Trotskyist movement.

A member of the American Communist Party from its foundation, he became editor of the party's paper 'Daily Worker'. He represented the party at meetings of the Communist International in Moscow in 1925 and 1927.

Schachtman, who was then secretary of the American Young Communist League, joined forces with James P. Cannon shortly after Cannon had brought back to the United States Trotsky's 'Critique of the Draft Programme of the Comintern'.

Max Schachtman, a founder of the American Trotskyist movement, dies

The publication of this document abroad was a very important contribution to the struggle for Trotskyism internationally.

Schachtman and Cannon, together with Martin Abern, formed the Trotskyist opposition within the Communist Party which later became the Communist League.

Schachtman was expelled from the Communist Party in 1929.

The Trotskyists later fused with the Muste or-

ganisation to form the Workers League.

They subsequently entered the Socialist Party of Norman Thomas before forming the Socialist Workers Party in 1938.

Schachtman translated many of Trotsky's work into English and wrote a number of exposures of Stalin's crimes, including 'Behind the Moscow Trial', recently published in Britain by New Park Publications.

Schachtman broke de-

finitively from Marxism in 1939, following the Stalin-Hitler pact.

Together with James Burnham he rejected the unconditional defence of the USSR and attacked Marxism from an eclectic standpoint.

Trotsky's polemic against this petty-bourgeois opposition within the SWP is contained in the book 'In Defence of Marxism'.

In it Trotsky describes Schachtman in the follow-

ing terms:

'Everybody is aware of the facility with which Schachtman is able to weave various historical episodes around one or another axis. This ability makes Schachtman a talented journalist.'

'Unfortunately this by itself is not enough. The main question is what axis to select. Schachtman is absorbed always by the reflection of politics in literature and the Press. He lacks interest in

the actual processes of the class struggle, the layers within the working class itself, etc.

'I have read not a few excellent and even brilliant articles by Schachtman, but I have never seen a single commentary of his which actually probed into the life of the American working class or its vanguard.'

After his break with the SWP, Schachtman moved to the right, founding the Workers Party based on his theory of 'bureaucratic collectivism'.

In 1958 he finally made his peace politically with the US establishment and joined the Socialist Party, by then a rump organization of bureaucrats and reformists trailing behind the Democratic Party.

Fighting the Tories' rent Act

Lobby strengthens Camden revolt

BY PHILIP WADE

THE LABOUR councillors in Camden who have reaffirmed non-implementation of the 'fair rent' Act already owe the Tory government £100,000 in missing revenue.

By the end of next week the government will be in a position to strip the council of its housing powers and move in a Housing Commissioner.

The question will then arise of charging the Labour councillors for the money which would have been collected had the Housing Finance Act been operated in Camden.

Camden's decision to stay the only London council fighting the Act came at the end of a short meeting on Wednesday night.

A Tory move to change the policy was defeated 28 votes to 20. Five Labourites voted with the Tories and three abstained.

And a whole number of Labour pro-implementers suddenly found all sorts of reasons not to attend the meeting. They were to be found as far away as Tel Aviv.

The council meeting had been asked for by the Tories following the warning letter sent Camden by the government on October 16. It expires next Thursday.

Tenants held a strong lobby outside the town hall and packed the public galleries when the meeting started. Their banners were draped round the chamber.

A deputation of tenants told the meeting that 85 per cent of Camden rent payers had pledged support to the council if the Housing Commissioner came in.

'Thousands of tenants all over London are looking to Camden tonight,' said their spokesman, Mr Bill Budd

For the Labour group, Cllr Peter Best, chairman of the key policy and resources committee, spoke against implementation.

It was reported that on Monday he had tried to reach some compromise within the Labour group with a suggestion that rents should be increased by 40p a week to reach levels where rebates could be paid.

But the Labour group threw the suggestion out and decided to remain firm.

'A default order will now be made against us,' he told the council meeting.

'Some tenants may suffer hardship under a Housing Commissioner — but tenants appreciate the fight has to be carried out.'

Cllr Best ruled out any question of disciplinary action against Labour councillors who might vote for the Tories. 'We don't operate a whip system here,' he said.

Tenants cheered him, however, when he ended: 'We are not giving in to the Housing Finance Act now or at any other time.'

Earlier the Tories had tried to move reference back of the recommendation to reaffirm non-implementation. During their speeches there was talk of a 'plague of squatters moving across the borough' and calls for a return to 'law, order and sanity'.

Tenants from the Camden and other areas joined a large lobby outside the town hall on Wednesday night to make plain their opposition to any implementation of the Tory rent Act.



Dentists oppose payment for treatment at 18

THE INNER London Local Dental Committee has launched a campaign against the government's proposal to reduce the age of payment for dental treatment from 21 to 18.

It has asked Inner London dentists to subscribe £4 a head for the campaign, but so far has received only about £1 a head.

The Committee has also declared that it is not unethical for dental practitioners to reject treatment under the National Health Service, where this treatment would be uneconomic, for patients whom they are willing to treat as private patients.

The British Dental Association has condemned this practice.

Lead danger: T&GWU demands a public inquiry

LOCAL Transport and General Workers' Union officials yesterday demanded an immediate public inquiry into high lead levels in the area of a south London factory.

Mr F. J. Howell, the union's London regional engineering officer, disclosed that some workers at the factory had also been found to have high lead counts in the past 12 months.

The factory is H. J. Enthoven, lead merchants, in Rotherhithe Street, Southwark. Nine children living near the factory are having additional blood tests after samples revealed dangerously high lead levels.

Howell said: 'We now believe that in the full interests of the public and our members in factories, the full facts should be known as quickly as possible.'

The question must immediately be asked—if Howell knew about the high lead levels, why didn't he disclose it until now—after children have been infected?

The union had made its own investigation and would help an inquiry team to bring out the facts, he said.

Five hundred people in the

Acorn, Lavender and Amos estates near the factory now face tests after initial blood-tests on 24.

Opposition Chief Whip and MP for Bermondsey Bob Mellish has called for a report from Southwark's medical officer on the danger.

Shell loss

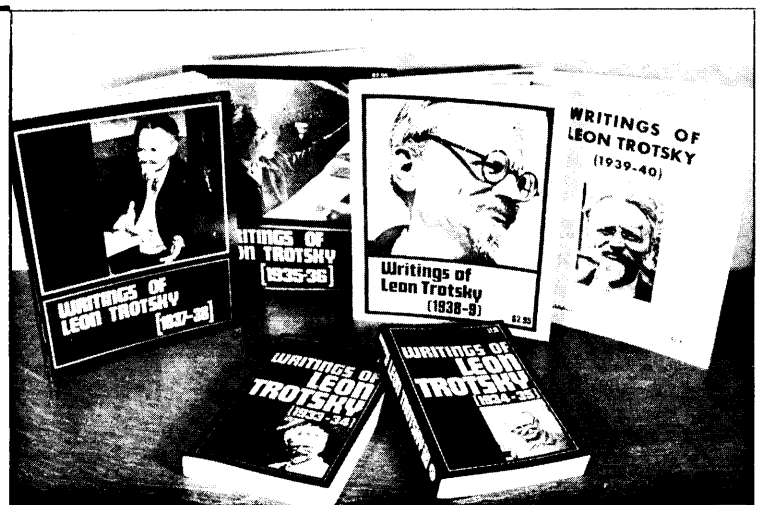
ROYAL Dutch Shell Group, Europe's second largest company, has announced devastating losses in net income for the first nine months of this year.

In a statement yesterday the company disclosed net income for the third quarter was £45.1m compared with £91.2m for the corresponding period last year.

Total net income for the first nine months slumped from £315.7m last year to £171.5m this year.

Writings of Leon Trotsky

1933-1934	£1.43
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1935-1936	£1.25
1937-1938	£1.25
1938-1939	£1.25
1939-1940	£1.05



These extremely vital writings by Leon Trotsky between the years 1929 and 1940—his third and final exile from the Soviet Union—are now available in Britain from the Paperbacks Centre (see advert below).

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Left: Nixon and Eisenhower, the partnership for 1952 presidential elections. While campaigning against scandals, corruption and communists, Nixon was hit by the uncovering of his secret funds. Below left: Nixon campaigning for Ike in 1952. Below right: Lily-white Democrat, Adlai Stevenson.

the Nixon camp that Republican chairman Summerfield, on the Eisenhower campaign train, had sent for a report on the procedure for changing vice-presidential candidates!

A desperate Nixon claimed that the story had been got up by communists in the Democratic camp.

From then on, wherever he appeared, banners would be unfurled reading 'Whoever Mentions \$16,000 is a Communist!'

The CIO unions openly declared that Nixon had been bought by the real estate interests 'who know a good investment when they see one'.

Then, to Nixon's consternation, Eisenhower began to weaken.

The General told newsmen on his campaign train: 'Of what avail is it for us to carry on this crusade against this business of what has been going on in Washington if we ourselves aren't as clean as a hound's tooth?'

Pressure began to be put on Nixon to resign from the ticket. But he clung on. It was up to Eisenhower. Would the General sack him? Day after day the Nixon camp waited.

The fateful phone call came at 10.05 p.m. on Sunday, September 21, 1952. It is quite clear Eisenhower wanted the initiative to come from Nixon. Nothing doing.

Nixon finally put it on the line. He told Eisenhower: 'I want you to know if you reach a conclusion either now or any time later that I should get off the ticket, you can be sure that I will immediately respect your judgement and do so.'

This wasn't what Eisenhower wanted. He replied, in effect, that he did not think he should be the one to make that decision. But Nixon certainly wasn't going to volunteer for the slaughter—he stayed on the ticket.

On September 23 Nixon spoke on a national hook-up of 64 NBC television stations, 194 CBS radio stations and practically the entire 560 station Mutual Broadcasting System radio network.

The day before the broadcast Eisenhower was receiving messages from Republicans all over the States. They were three-to-one against Nixon. An hour before Nixon went on the air, Governor Dewey phoned him to say that a poll of Republican campaign managers showed heavily against him.

In his speech, Nixon turned it all on. One passage ran:

'We did get one gift. A man down in Texas heard Pat on the radio mention the fact that our two youngsters would like to have a dog. And believe it or not, the day before we left on this campaign trip we got a message from Union Station in Baltimore saying they had a package for us. We went down to get it. You know what it was?'

'It was a little cocker spaniel dog in a crate that he sent all the way from Texas. Black and white spotted. And our little girl named it Checkers. And you know the kids loved that dog and I just want to say this right now, that regardless of what they say about it, we're going to keep it.'

The show business newspaper 'Variety' commented, accurately, that the broadcast contained 'all the schmaltz'.

Darryl F. Zanuck, the film producer, described it as 'the greatest performance I have ever seen'. But in the Eisenhower suite the General's wife was weeping into her handkerchief. Nixon was saved.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

The Rise of Richard Nixon. By Jack Gale. Part Two

'THE CRUSADE FOR POLITICAL PURITY'

In 1952 Richard Nixon was Republican vice-presidential running mate for Dwight D. Eisenhower. With barely six years of politics behind him, this was a phenomenal rise.

The Eisenhower-Nixon programme was 'Against Crooks and Communism'—and it became known as a 'Crusade for Political Purity'.

Said Nixon: 'What corruption means to all of us is that every day we read about a scandal. You know, as a matter of fact, this [Democratic] Administration is going to go down in history as a scandal-a-day administration.'

'You read about another bribe, you read about another fix, you read about another gangster getting favours from the government . . . and are sick and tired of it.'

At this time, Nixon's salary as a senator was \$12,500. In addition, he got \$2,500 tax-free for general expenses, a maximum of \$2,000 for telegraph, telephone and

stationery bills, \$70,000 for a staff and one free round-trip home per session.

But in his first year he crossed the continent three times on speaking tours, went half-way across—and back—13 more times, made three visits to the south and ten up and down the east coast. His bill for Christmas cards alone was over \$4,000.

He was not then a leading Republican, so he had to get money from somewhere.

In 1950, a special trust was opened at a Pasadena bank in the name of Dana C. Smith, a Pasadena lawyer. The more generous of Nixon's backers for Congress and Senate were privately solicited for donations.

In 1951 Smith—together with Nixon's principal lieutenants, Bernard Brennan and Murray Chotiner—barnstormed California for support. Yet, a year later, fewer than 100 donations had been received.

Nixon began to turn on the heat. He demanded \$10,000 from southern California and \$5,000 from the north. He wrote to Smith:

'I feel very strongly on this matter and, frankly, I intend to condition my future co-operation with Republican finance on whether they support our programme. After all, I am the only man who appeared at the various Republican finance dinners who has received no benefit whatever from them. This, of course, was due to the fact that I did not happen to be running this year.'

At the 1952 Republican Convention, a few Nixon stories began to go the rounds. One was that he got a 'supplementary salary' of \$20,000 a year from 100 Californian businessmen, each of whom chipped in \$200.

This story was shrugged off.

But, on September 18, 1952, the front-page of the 'New York Post' screamed 'Secret Nixon Fund!' The story went on: 'Secret Rich Men's Trust keeps Nixon in Style beyond his Salary.' United Press and Associated Press relayed the story to every US daily paper.

Consternation reigned in Republican quarters. Top strategists discussed which would be more damaging—to keep Nixon on the slate in

view of the allegations, or to drop him and lend credence to them.

A jubilant National Democrat chairman, Stephen Mitchell, demanded that Eisenhower drop either Nixon or his fulsome observations on public morals.

Plaintive Republicans in Chicago complained that they'd discovered that the lily-white Democrat Adlai Stevenson had exactly the same sort of fund, but nobody wanted to know about it. Nixon was the news.

Nixon himself complained—with some justification—that the Democratic vice-presidential candidate wouldn't look good under the spotlight. He had, said the piqued Nixon, put his wife on the Federal payroll.

It was no good. Nixon was on a national tour. In the early days ambitious Republicans had jostled to get into the front row when the photographs were taken. Now they edged out of the camera range.

They weren't encouraged by the official announcement that the California Franchise Tax Board would investigate the Nixon fund. News drifted to



THE APARTHEID CONNECTION

BY JOHN SPENCER

The British Steel Corporation is negotiating a deal with the state-owned Iron and Steel Corporation of South Africa (ISCOR) which could destroy thousands of jobs in Britain and torpedo plans to build a new plant in Scotland.

BSC is negotiating the deal in partnership with two big German companies, August Thyssen and Klockner. The deal would make South Africa a major partner in Common Market steel production.

Instead of improving and building new plants in Britain and West Germany, production will be expanded in South Africa, where wages are low and unions illegal.

BSC's investment in the South Africa project could be as much as £500m — almost half the total amount invested in the entire steel industry in Britain since 1956.

The project would be a death-blow for the expansion of capacity planned at Ravenscraig in Scotland and might well affect BSC's plans for a major development of steel-making capacity at Scunthorpe, Lincs.

Lord Melchett, the Old Etonian chairman appointed by Anthony Wedgwood Benn, is now examining detailed reports on the South African project drawn up by BSC experts.

They visited the site of the proposed new developments at Saldhana Bay on the arid, remote Atlantic coast north of Cape Town. The hinterland of this part of South Africa contains rich deposits of iron ore.

Under the scheme the British-German consortium, working in harness with ISCOR, would build port facilities and plant to export

an estimated 8 million tons of semi-finished steel a year.

Total crude-steel production for the last full financial year was 20.4 million ingot tons. The South African plant could, when fully operational, supply up to a fifth of current British steel requirements.

Naturally, the South African steel would be much cheaper than that produced in Britain. Wage rates for black workers in South Africa are only a fraction of those paid to British workers — and there are no union problems.

Any disputes are 'settled' by the extremely efficient South African police, backed by the best-armed military machine in the entire continent. A number of British firms—including several BSC subsidiaries, Dorman Long, Stewarts and Lloyds and Baldwins—are already reaping the benefits of investing in apartheid.

The German partners in this enterprise will also appreciate the advantages of operating under these conditions. They were prominent under the Nazi regime in employing slave-labour and making immense profits.

They are ruthlessly axing their ageing plant in the Ruhr, where production is expensive and wage rates are high. The Ruhr plant is a long way from the sea and local deposits of ore and fuel are becoming worked out.

For maximum efficiency and competitiveness, modern steel plants should be situated by the sea, in a position to import the cheapest ore and coal while cutting transport costs to a minimum.

French and German steel barons are planning such a factory at Fos-sur-Mer, near Marseilles, but the cost is escalating very rapidly and the partners are desperate for more funds.

The drive to reduce steel-



Factory building for Dorman Long who are reaping the benefits of investing in apartheid. Above: living conditions of black workers.

making costs is fuelled by competition from the extremely modern Japanese factories which have stepped up their exports to Britain five times over the past two years.

European firms already have a foothold in the expansion of South African steel manufacture. The Austrian combine VOEST has completed a partnership arrangement with ISCOR for a £170m plant to produce semi-processed steel.

The Austrian firm will have a 49-per-cent interest, leaving ISCOR with a controlling 51 per cent. The scheme is likely

to serve as a model for the British-German enterprise if this is given the go-ahead.

South Africa's interest in these developments is obvious: not only will the apartheid regime be bolstered by huge inputs of additional capital, but the country will have an assured outlet to the Common Market for a considerable slice of its steel production.

In addition, the scheme will give the South Africans another major port which it badly needs to reduce the pressure on the existing ports at Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth and East London.

NO EXILE IN PERU FOR OPPONENTS OF BANZER

The military dictatorship in Peru recently gave a helping hand to Hugo Banzer, the Bolivian dictator. The Peruvian police arrested five Bolivians who had come to Peru to seek exile in order to avoid incarceration in one of Banzer's concentration camps.



Bolivian dictator Banzer

Members of the Castroite National Liberation Army, they had gone to the Peruvian Embassy in La Paz and had received documents there legalizing exile in Peru.

Banzer has demanded their extradition on a trumped-up pretext: he accuses them of being petty criminals. If they are sent back to Bolivia, they will certainly be executed. The Peruvian dictator has taken the first step to meeting his demand by arresting them.

The same police were in action recently against 3,000 families who had invaded common lands near Lima and set up their shacks.

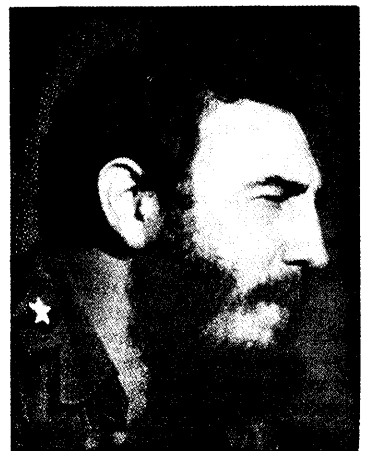
The police violently attacked some settlers and then established road-blocks in an attempt to starve them into submission.

Once the blockade had begun, the agents of the government's corporatist body, SINAMOS, began to talk with the families and tried to persuade them to leave their homes with the promise of alternative homes.

The families rejected these wiles and held onto the little that they had.

Both Fidel Castro and the Peruvian Communist Party have given their support to the Peruvian government, claiming that it is a great advance on the road to 'socialist humanism'.

If this is Fidel's idea of socialism, what can it be like in Cuba?



Fidel Castro



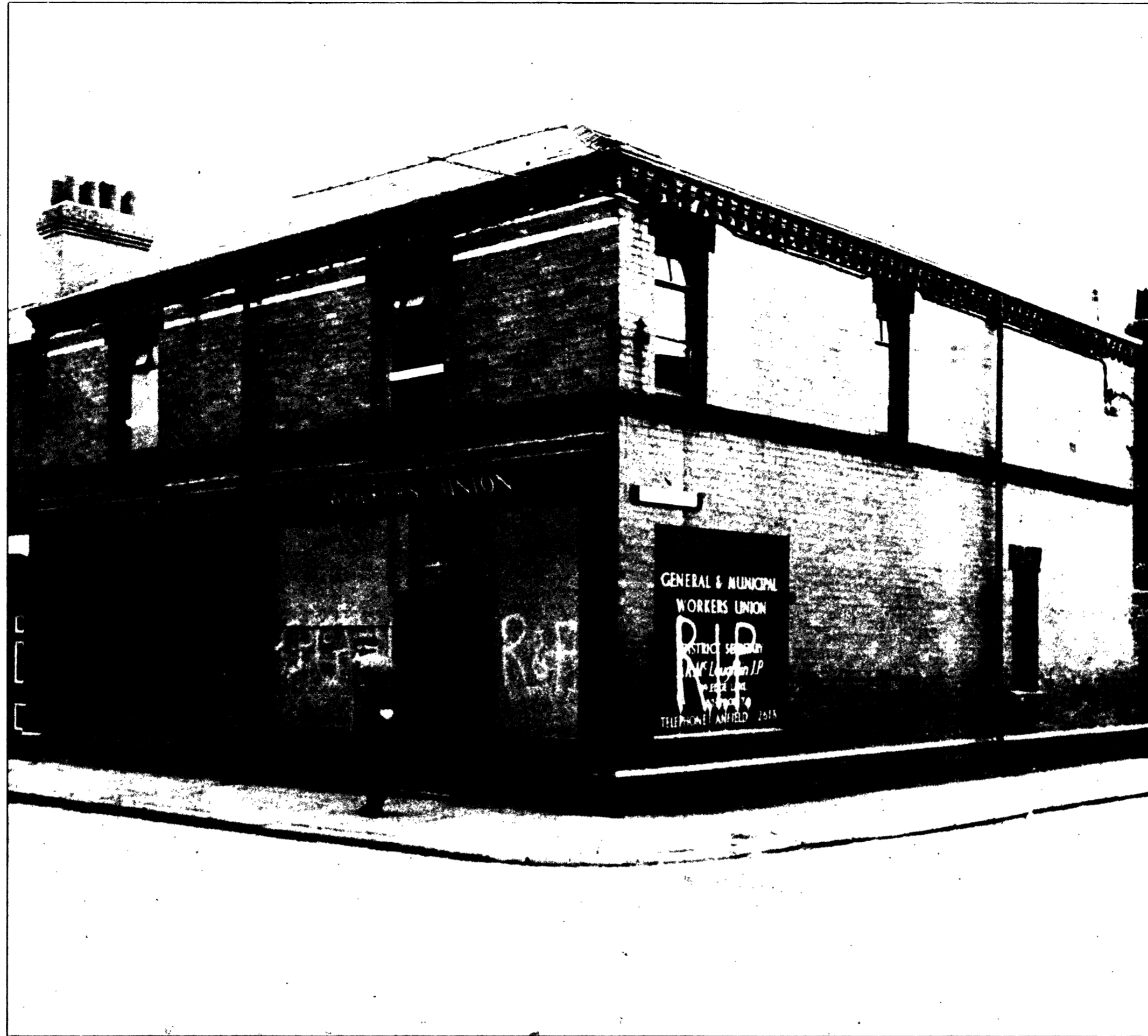
THE ELECTION THAT DIDN'T CHANGE THE G&MWU

BY DAVID MAUDE

Some surface changes may follow this week's election of David Bassnet to head the General and Municipal Workers' Union in Lord Cooper's stead. But whatever these may be, they will in no way reverse the right-wing policies which have dominated the union.

At 48, Bassnet has been a G&MWU official for more than 20 years. And as a national industrial officer he has been a cornerstone of the union's rigid hierarchy. Bassnet's friends say he wants to give the union a more 'dynamic' image, with more stress on rank-and-file democracy through industrial conferences. His critics say the only difference between Cooper and the new man is one of style. Where Cooper liked to be seen as a bluff, no-nonsense sort of chap, Bassnet cultivates the approach of a thoughtful, slightly aloof, academic. But the two men are at one, the critics say, on the fundamental issues facing the trade union movement. Writing in the April issue of the G&MWU journal, for instance, Bassnet talked about repeal by a Labour government, of 'those sections [of the Industrial Relations Act] which are against the basic interests of the trade union movement'. The implication is that there are sections of this notorious document which are acceptable and can be retained. This kind of line is no surprise from a union leadership which maintained complete public unity last year at a time when Cooper was advising registration under this same Act.

But apart from occasional statements of this kind in his union's journal, Bassnet and his colleagues remain on the whole somewhat reticent on the burning questions of the day. They are judged, therefore, by their actions. And their actions during the biggest upset to hit the union in recent years are remembered with bitterness by many G&MWU members. They are judged, therefore, by their actions. And their actions during the biggest upset to hit the union in recent years are remembered with bitterness by many G&MWU members. The 1970 Pilkington strike was opposed from the outset by the man who now heads Britain's third largest union. Bassnet, who as national officer was responsible for the firm, wanted a return to work on the management's terms, 'a drastic reform of the wages structure and a complete overhaul of outmoded industrial relations'. Pilkington's terms at that time were 50p on top of the existing £14.50 basic rate. More than 11,000 glassworkers at St Helens, Pontypool, Doncaster, Glasgow, Birkenhead and St Asaph had struck for a 10 guinea increase. Talk of a return was treated with derision. But when the company upped its offer to £3-with-'strings' Bassnet and the G&MWU executive were able to get most of the smaller factories back to work, leaving the 8,000 at St Helens out on their own. There the offer was decisively rejected at a series of mass meetings. Attempts by local union officials and some shop stewards to split the strikers with a secret ballot were rebuffed. The rank-and-file committee leading the strike declared they would not recommend a return for less than £5 as a flat-rate payment or £3 on the basic rate. The terms Bassnet wanted the glassworkers to accept, explained committee chairman



Gerry Caughey at about this time, were 'a now-you-see-it-now-you-don't affair'. The £3 would not be placed on basic rate. It would be a flat payment remaining the same no matter how many hours of overtime were worked, but being cut down if anyone worked less than 40 hours. With the strike five weeks old, the strikers were brusquely informed by G&MWU local officials that they could no longer be considered shop stewards for the union. It was an acid comment on the role of the union leadership that this penalty for leading a mass, popular movement for wages should be announced, as it was, on May Day. Small wonder that workers should carry placards through St Helens that day reading 'G&MWU—RIP'.

FAILED

The breakaway movement which resulted from the union's role at St Helens was further strengthened by its offer—seen as a bribe—of £12 'hardship money' if the strikers returned, its co-operation with the Labour government's court of inquiry into the dispute and the participation of loyalist

stewards in a vicious Press witch-hunt. But the great store of hostility they were building up against themselves did not stop Bassnet and the G&MWU leaders trying, trying and trying again to end the strike. Towards the end of May 1970 the union even stooped in desperation to calling in local clergy to 'supervise' yet another secret ballot. Even that failed to break the strikers' ranks. It was left to Victor Feather and the TUC to pull Pilkington's and the G&MWU's chestnuts out of the fire. By May 23, 1970, with the Labour leaders just four weeks away from their poll battle with Heath's Tories, Feather had persuaded the glassworkers back to their jobs with promises of changes in the union. Ten days later G&MWU secretary Lord Cooper and his executive virtually forced the glassworkers out of the union by refusing to meet their leaders at Congress House to discuss grievances in the factory, leaving 27 members at Pontypool victimized for refusing to accept Pilkington's terms and peremptorily informing the rank-and-file committee at St Helens it should disband. The boot really went in following the Tory election victory, when, in August, 800 men were sacked for striking in defence of a man who

wanted representation by someone he chose. After more than two years of company stonewalling and union prevarication men who led the 1970 strike remain workless and blacklisted today.

BUSINESSMEN

Meanwhile Bassnet has got on with his 'reform of the wages structure'. This has brought the Measured-Day Work system to Pilkington factories, alongside a corporatist-style network of joint committees for fixing pay and dealing with disputes. There are other leading lights in the union who deserve special mention. Derek Gladwin, the southern region organizer, is one of the officials who is heading places. He has just been made chairman of the executive committee of the Industrial Society, a corporatist-style body which preaches 'harmony on the shop floor'. Sitting alongside Gladwin on the committee will be bankers, big businessmen, members of the National Industrial Relations Court and members of the Tory Party. Gladwin's appointment, announced earlier this week, has

embodied this philosophy in the most dramatic way. He is both trade union official and 'boss'. Gladwin was among the group of trade unionists and CBI leaders who went to Buckingham Palace a week ago to talk with the Duke of Edinburgh about a conference to be held on industrial relations in Oxford in 1974. The motives of this conference were clearly expressed in a Press release which said: 'The aim of the conference is to bring together men and women under the age of 45 from management and the trade unions to consider what they can do to improve the relationship between industries and communities and between individuals and their work. These will be people who in the future will be responsible for decisions likely to affect their fellow citizens.'

In other words the conference is about breeding industrial and managerial technocrats. It has nothing whatever to do with the aspirations of the working class to free themselves from the parasitical bondage of capitalism. But when these corporatist-type bodies come on the scene it is the G&MWU which leaps into the forefront to offer them a veneer of trade union responsibility. Andrew Cunningham, the union's northern region officer,

embodies this philosophy in the most dramatic way. He is both trade union official and 'boss'. Four years ago he became chairman of the Newcastle Airport Authority, which just happens to employ a number of his own members. Picture the scene when the ground staff at the airport, represented by Cunningham, go to the management (Cunningham) for increased pay, shorter hours and better conditions! And this is not Cunningham's only link with management. He is also chairman of the Tyneside Passenger Authority which runs the bus service in the Newcastle district, chairman of the Durham Police Authority and a Durham County Councillor. His active business life was also revealed in a dramatic way during the Poulson bankruptcy hearing at Wakefield. Under cross-examination from Mr Muir Hunter, QC, John Poulson, the Pontefract architect and friend of ex-Tory Home Secretary Reginald Maudling, admitted that both Mr and Mrs Cunningham were on his payroll either directly or indirectly. They had also received free holidays at his expense—two of them abroad and one in southern England. One of the holidays abroad—costing £256—was in Estoril, a seaside resort in Portugal which has an extreme right-wing regime.

The choice of Portugal for a free holiday at the expense of Poulson's empire is astonishing—if only because Cunningham also sits on the Labour Party's Southern Africa Solidarity Fund Committee which is allegedly pledged to supporting African guerrilla movements fighting Portuguese colonialism. Cunningham carries his personal politics right to the top of the Labour Party. He is a member of the 26-man National Executive Committee, the senior administrative body in the Party. And he got there this year, for the eighth successive year, by virtue of the one million votes of Jack Jones and his Transport and General Workers' Union. Cunningham is not actually Robinson Crusoe in the G&MWU when he accepts fee-paying chairmanships with the ruling class. Lord Cooper, on his retirement as general secretary, was with Yorkshire Television, the National Bus Company (£1,000 a year), the Meat and Livestock Commission and the Thames Conservancy Board. (The general secretary before Cooper was Lord Williamson, who now fills a generously-paid place on the board of directors of Securicor, Britain's largest private police force. Other members of this board include Lord Thorneycroft, the former Tory Chancellor of the Ex-

chequer, Lord Brooke, the former Tory Home Secretary, Ray Gunter, former Labour Minister in Harold Wilson's 1964 government, police commissioners, and fire brigade chiefs.) There is, perhaps, no more exaggerated example of a British trade union so dominated by right-wing bureaucracy, A visit to the union's palatial headquarters—a manor house called Ruxley Towers set in rolling lawns of Esher, Surrey—is enough to convince any trade unionist of the direction which the present leadership is attempting to direct the union.

UNITE

The right-wing road being taken by the Coopers, Bassnets, Cunninghams and Gladwins, is a far cry from the charter laid down by the militant Gasworkers' Union of 1889 which is the main stem of the modern G&MWU. It stated: 'All members should understand that the interests of all workers are one, and a wrong done to any kind of labour is a wrong done to the whole of the working class, and that a victory or defeat of any portion of the army of labour is

a gain or a loss to the whole of the army, which by its organization is marching . . . to its ultimate goal—the emancipation of the working class. Workers Unite! Only the All Trades Unions Alliance, the industrial arm of the Socialist Labour League, fights within the trade unions for the construction of a leadership which can carry forward these socialist objectives. Glassworkers, shipyard labourers, laggards, cleaners, dustmen, kitchen staff, dockers and the variety of unskilled workers in the G&MWU have the power in their hands to end the class-collaboration and the reaction of their leaders. At the ATUA national conference at Birmingham on October 21, more than 2,000 trade unionists took a unanimous decision not to allow the right wing to run amok with the Tory government. The conference voted to start an immediate campaign for the building of a revolutionary party. G&MWU members and other trade unionists are invited to write to Workers Press to obtain a copy of the detailed conference document.



Jack Jones, the Duke and Derek Gladwin, the G&M's southern region organizer. Far left: New head of the G&M, David Bassnet. Left: Pilkington workers at St Helens showed what they felt about the G&MWU.

In January next year the Soviet Union and Franco's fascist state enter formal trade relations. The trade and cultural pact with Spain is signed and delivered in the blood of thousands of Spanish and international workers who fought against the fascist forces during the Spanish Civil War. Today we continue a vital series of six articles tracing the growth of links between the Moscow Stalinists and the fascists. Our special writer on Spanish affairs, Juan Garcia, has translated key documents in this accord and combed libraries and the embassies to present this series of articles exposing Stalinism. The British Communist Party and the 'Morning Star' remain absolutely silent on this counter-revolutionary pact between the Kremlin and Franco.

MOSCOW AND THE SPANISH FASCISTS

PART 2 JUST A COMMERCIAL AFFAIR?

The ceremony in September of this year at the Spanish department of the OECD in Paris in which Alexis Nicoli Mazhulo, vice-Minister of Soviet Trade and José Luis Ceron, Director-General of Trade at the Spanish Foreign Ministry signed a trade pact was—according to both men—a strictly commercial affair.

Political commentators in the Spanish Press were quick to point out that a pact which brought to fruition over 14 years of secret diplomacy was much more than a business deal:

'However, the strict secrecy of this type of negotiation of great public interest makes many experts in Paris think that the commercial delegations will have a certain paradiplomatic tone. This is especially so considering that every economic rapprochement is, to an important extent, a political rapprochement.' ('La Vanguardia' correspondent, September 16.)

A brief diary of this secret diplomacy shows that for some time a network of close relations has been building up between the fascists and the Kremlin bureaucracy.

The first diplomatic advances were made in Paris between the Spanish and Soviet ambassadors in 1958—the Count of Casas Rosas and Serguei Alexandrovitch Vinogradof. Spain demanded as a precondition of negotiations that the Spanish gold sent to the Soviet government by the Second Republic in exchange for arms in the Civil War should be returned.

January 1960: The German cargo boat 'Schweaunasi' arrived in Bilbao with 150 Soviet tractors. A German boat left Bilbao with two tons of Spanish synthetic fibre en route for Odessa.

During 1961: The new Spanish ambassador in Paris, the Count of Motrico, met Vinogradof, as arranged by Manolio Brossio, the then Italian ambassador to France. Vinogradof proposed cultural, commercial and sporting exchanges between the two countries. In June, Spain and the USSR established a commercial agreement for the export of 2,200 tons of synthetic fibre to Russia and the export to Spain of 40,000 tons of gas-oil.

December 1962: Vinogradof gave the Count of Motrico a note from the Soviet government addressed to Franco on the de-nuclearization of the Mediterranean zone.

March 1964: A group of Spanish businessmen led by Luis Orchanda negotiated in Moscow for the possible purchase of Soviet petrol.

April 1964: It was announced that the Soviet Union would



exchange a million tons of petrol for Spanish lorries.

June 10, 1964: The Soviet Union participated in the International Trade Fair in Barcelona.

September 7, 1966: The Polish boat 'Goanks' left Seville with 10,000 tons of rice en route for the Soviet Union. In December, another Polish boat took 2,000 tons of Spanish rice.

November 2, 1966: Contract signed between the Soviet firm 'Tractor Export' and the Spanish firm 'Prodac' for the purchase of 300 tractors to the value of 30 million pesetas. The Spanish Ministry of Trade would not authorize the purchase.

February 1967: The first conversations take place on the question of a Soviet-Spanish agreement normalizing commercial shipping between both countries. Normal shipping is established.

March 1967: The Economic Affairs Ministry of the Spanish government authorizes on a reciprocal basis the entry of Soviet ships into Spanish ports for commercial purposes.

June 1967: Agreement on petrol between Spain and the Soviet Union on the sale of 500,000 tons to Spain. June 21, the first shipments arrive in Spanish ports.

April 12, 1968: A group of Soviet businessmen visit Spain and reach agreements with Spanish exporters.

April 1968: Marcelino Camacho, a leading member of the Workers' Commissions, the illegal trade unions of Spanish workers, was tried by a fascist court in Madrid. He refused to reply to any of the questions put to him by the prosecutor

and shouted: 'Down with the dictatorship and its emergency laws!' The trial was suspended and Camacho jailed to await a new trial.

May 24, 1968: A Soviet pavilion is set up in the Spanish International Agriculture Trade Fair.

January 8, 1969: Soviet shipping experts arrive in Madrid to begin discussion on Soviet cargo and tourist shipping lines stopping at Spanish ports.

January 17, 1969: Secret negotiations in Madrid in relation to passenger, cargo and fishing boats.

August 12, 1969: An agreement is signed which allows Soviet fishing vessels to stop for repairs and provisions in the Canary Islands.

December 26, 1969: Lopez Bravo, the Spanish Foreign Minister, became the first Spanish fascist minister to set foot in the USSR. During a stop-over at Moscow airport, he met the Soviet deputy Foreign Minister Kovaliev.

October 2, 1969: The Soviet Union purchased 150,000 pairs of Spanish shoes.

March 29, 1970: A permanent delegation arrived in Madrid which will take care of Soviet maritime interests in Spain: Messrs Dyrchenko, Bogomolof, Chouriguine and Essaew.

February 18, 1970: Marcelino Camacho, a leading member of the Workers' Commissions and supporter of the Spanish CP, was sentenced by a Madrid court to three and a half years' imprisonment, having already served two years after his arrest in 1968.

August 1970: Police fired on a demonstration of 1,000 building workers in Seville in



Marcelino Camacho, a leader of the illegal workers' commissions, has been in prison for most of the last 5 years. Above: Franco and Hitler review Spanish troops in Hendaya on October 23rd, 1940.

protest against delays in signing a new wages agreement. Three workers were shot dead. **March 16, 1971:** An official Spanish delegation in Moscow began exploratory talks for closer trade ties with the USSR. The delegation leader is Señor Cerón Ayuso. **April 1, 1971:** A Madrid pro-

secutor demanded five years' imprisonment for ten members of the Spanish Communist Party for illegal organization and an extra year for allegedly destroying pictures of General Franco and José Antonio Primo de Rivera.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

PIN-UP

If Enoch Powell ever makes it back into the Tory Cabinet, there is one civil servant who will be in the firing line.

The unfortunate man is Sir Leslie O'Brien, governor of the Bank of England.

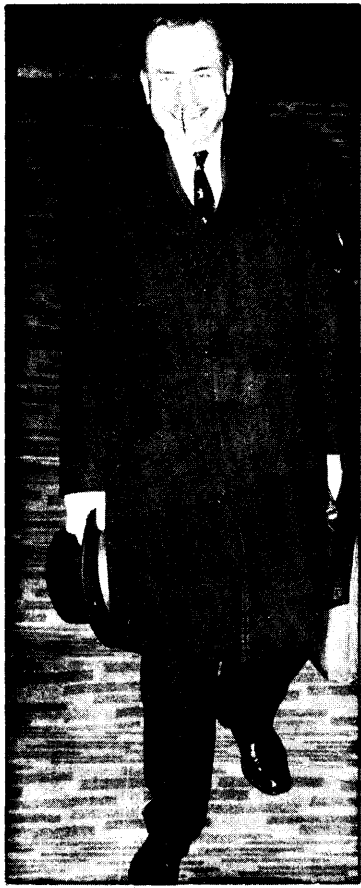
At a reception the other day Powell revealed that O'Brien is 'my favourite pin-up boy'.

'I've always had a warm spot for him,' Powell said. It was Powell playing with heavy irony. He then revealed that 'no man did more damage than Sir Leslie did in 1968 at Basle'.

Powell then recommended that everyone should carry around a copy of O'Brien's recent statement to the bankers' dinner at the Guild Hall when he admitted making past mistakes.

It was an immensely amusing document, he said.

Everyone should keep a copy in his wallet. 'In moments of depression you can bring it out and you can be chuckling in just a few seconds,' he said.



DYNASTY

The Geddes dynasty is having a hard time of it these days. But whatever the outcome they shouldn't be short of a penny. Just look at the appalling situation at P&O with everyone but everyone making a takeover bid for the shipping company.

And everywhere you look is a member of the Geddes dynasty. Ford Geddes' father, Sir Irvine Geddes, was chairman of the Orient Line which merged with P&O in 1960.

Ford Geddes succeeded his own second cousin, Sir Donald Anderson, when he took over the chair last year.

Also on the board until he retired this year was another Geddes cousin, Lord Ross Geddes, who formerly worked for the Admiralty.

Ross Geddes is the son of the first Lord Geddes, the surgeon who became British ambassador in Washington and later chairman of Rio Tinto.

Down the road at Dunlop—in a bad state following the financial losses made by partner Pirelli in Italy—the Geddes' are, would you believe, just as deeply involved.

In the early 1920s Sir Eric Geddes and Sir George Beharrell rescued Dunlop from a nasty turn and set in chain another ladder of Geddes succession.

It was the same Sir Eric Geddes who drew up the plans in 1922 for savage cuts in public expenditure by the government. Among other things, pay cuts were proposed for policemen and teachers and children under six were to be kept away from school.

He also became Minister of Transport, First Lord of the Admiralty and later chairman of Imperial Airways, forerunner of BEA and BOAC.

Sir Eric became chairman of Dunlop, followed by Sir Edward Beharrell, followed by his son and then came Sir Reay Geddes, Sir Eric's son.

Very much in the family tradition of attacks on the working class, Sir Reay Geddes will be known to many shipyard workers as the man who in 1965 produced the report recommending ruthless rationalization of the industry.



Nixon and Brezhnev together in Moscow. We look forward to working together for several more years.

THE RE-ELECTING OF THE PRESIDENT

STALINIST CRISIS BY JOHN SPENCER

When President Nixon is inaugurated for his second term in the White House next January he will owe a special debt of gratitude to the bureaucratic leaders of the USSR and China.

Their support for his campaign has been every bit as valuable to the President as the millionaires who pumped over \$10m into his campaign fund. Since the epoch of 'ping-pong' diplomacy opened last year the bureaucracies have been falling over each other to display their approval for Nixon.

Their decisions to receive the Vietnam war-mongers in Moscow and Peking have played a big part in establishing Nixon as a diplomatic lion. At the same time they have forced the North Vietnamese to accept very dangerous terms for a ceasefire deal.

The 'New York Times' remarked on Moscow's support for the Nixon campaign in an article on October 29 headed 'Soviet Press, after ignoring the campaign, indicates Moscow favours Nixon'.

And earlier last month the 'Los Angeles Times' indicated that: 'Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny reportedly came very close to endorsing the re-election of President Nixon' on October 4.

Russell Train, chairman of Nixon's Council on Environmental Quality, told the paper's reporter after meeting Podgorny that the Soviet President had said 'he looked forward to working with President Nixon for several more years'.

The reporter added that Podgorny's attitude 'seems to reflect a general Soviet sympathy for Mr Nixon's campaign'. Soviet newspapers were silent about the wholesale sabotage and bugging organized by the Republicans against McGovern.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko has recently

been holding discussions with Nixon to fix an official visit to the United States for Leonid Brezhnev next spring.

Chinese leaders apparently also wanted Nixon's return as President. Reuter's correspondent James Pringle, reporting on the eve of the election, wrote:

'Chinese leaders expect President Nixon to win the US presidential elections and would no doubt prefer to work with the man with whom they have opened a dialogue, diplomats accredited in Peking said here.

'Though the Chinese have been careful never to say so on record, the leadership has its reservations about the apparent intentions of the Democratic candidate, Senator George McGovern, to reduce US troop levels in Europe, the diplomats said.

'This, as Chinese leaders see it, would strengthen the hand of the Soviet Union and enable Moscow to reinforce its already massive deployment of forces along the Chinese border.

'I think one can say the Chinese would like to see Nixon re-elected for a variety of reasons,' one informed western diplomat said here.

'Recent Chinese government statements and editorials attacking the United States for its delay in signing the Vietnam peace agreement have referred to President Nixon by name, but made no mention of the presidential elections.

'Chinese officials, when asked by foreign envoys about their views on the election and Mr McGovern, for the most part murmur "that's an internal affair of the United States" and change the subject.

'However, one foreign diplomat here has been told by a Chinese acquaintance that "it seems Nixon is going to win". This opinion, although almost never expressed openly, seems to sum up Chinese thoughts on the election which observers believe Peking is following with close interest, despite the official silence.

'Some diplomats believe the Chinese are happy at the prospect of Mr Nixon's re-election. "After all," said one, "they invested in Nixon and have been fairly nice to him though attacking him now and then on his Indo-China policy."

'He said the Chinese had had personal contact with President Nixon, his chief foreign policy adviser, Dr Henry Kissinger, and people around them.



'They (the Chinese) invested in Nixon and have been fairly nice to him ...'

'"They know they can work with them as they did last February (when Mr Nixon visited Peking) and during Kissinger's own visits here," he added. "McGovern is an unknown man and new people would come with him into the White House."

'China's attitude towards Nixon is based on the fact that the President, in the Shanghai communiqué signed at the end of his visit to China, undertook to withdraw US forces from Taiwan as tension in the area diminished.'

All of which goes to show how cheaply the Stalinist bureaucracy can be bought and how eager they are to court the favours of the American imperialists and the enemies of the world working class.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

CASTLEFORD: Saturday, November 11, 6.30 p.m. The Ship, Aire Street.
WIGAN: Sunday November 12, 12 noon. 'Dog and Partridge', Wallgate.

TYNESIDE: Sunday November 12, 7.30 p.m. 'Robin Hood', Wallsend High Street, WALLSEND. 'The Crisis in Shipbuilding'. Speakers: Stephen Johns (Workers Press), P. Daley (secretary Swan Hunter's boilermakers shop stewards' committee), Les Jordan (boilermaker, Walker naval yard).
 Chairman: Vincent Foy.

READING: Monday November 13, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Club, Minster Street.

ACTON: Monday November 13, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road, W3. 'Transform the SLL into revolutionary party.'

WATFORD: Monday November 13, 8 p.m. Trade Union Hall (upstairs). Woodford Road, opposite Watford Junction Station. 'Transform the SLL into revolutionary party.'

NORTH KENT: Monday November 13, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue, Rochester.

HULL: Monday November 13, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Kingston Square.

COVENTRY: Wednesday, November 15, 7.30 p.m. Elastic Inn, Cox Street (opposite Theatre One).

WEALDSTONE: Tuesday, November 14, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Station Road.

PAISLEY: Wednesday November 15, 7.30 p.m. Paisley Town Hall.

BASINGSTOKE: Sunday, November 19, 7 p.m. The Hop Leaf, Church Street.

BRACKNELL: Monday November 20, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre.

TV

BBC 1

9.38-11.45 Schools. 12.00 Let's get going. 12.25 Dechrau canu. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Joe. 1.45 The craftsmen. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Racing from Cheltenham. 3.45 House of pipes. 4.00 Clangers. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Magic roundabout. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Help. 5.15 Michael Bentine time. 5.45 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 **BARNEY BEAR.** Heir Bear.

6.55 **THE PINK PANTHER SHOW.**

7.15 **THE VIRGINIAN: MEN FROM SHILOH.** The Mysterious Mr Tate.

8.30 **DAD'S ARMY.** If the Cap Fits...

9.00 **NINE O'CLOCK NEWS** Weather.

9.25 **CANNON** ... Scream of Silence.

10.15 **FRIDAY TALK-IN.**

11.00 **1972 EUROPEAN MODERN DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP.**

11.40 **LATE NIGHT NEWS.**

11.45 **REFLECTIONS.** Friday Brown, The Fivepenny Piece.

12.15 **Weather.**

General Charles de Gaulle died two years ago. Tonight BBC 2 shows the second of two documentaries from France 'De Gaulle - The Free Frenchman'. It details the political life of this natural gift to the cartoonists... and photographers it seems from our example on the right.



REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Let's face it. 3.00 Film: 'The Over the Hill Gang'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 Cartoon time. 6.35 London. 7.30 FBI. 8.30 London. 9.00 New Scotland Yard. 10.00 London. 10.30 Senators. 11.30 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 10.32 News. 10.35 Film: 'The Revenge of Frankenstein'. 12.00 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.25 Wendy Craig tells... 12.40 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Galloping gourmet. 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Weekend. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.35 Out of town. 7.05 Sale of the century. 7.35 Film: 'Seven in Darkness'. 9.00 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.00 London. 10.30 Weekend. 10.35 Film: 'Chamber of Horrors'. 12.30 News. 12.40 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Gustavus. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'The Cross of Lorraine'. 9.00 New Scotland Yard. 10.00 London. 10.30 Stanley Baxter picture show. 11.00 Now it's your say. 11.30 Man detained. 12.30 Weather.

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

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 4.25-4.50 Stesion cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30-11.00 Outlook. 11.00-11.30 Sports arena. 11.30 UFO. 12.30 Weather.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 3.30 Shirley's world. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 Skippy. 4.50 London. 5.20 Primus. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 O'Hara. 8.30 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Film: 'Summer of the 17th Doll'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 3.30 Dangerman. 4.20 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.30 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Protectors. 8.00 Adventurer. 8.30 London. 9.00 New Scotland Yard. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Hell to Eternity'.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.34 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Randall and Hopkirk. 4.23 News. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 UFO. 8.30 London. 9.00 New Scotland Yard. 10.00 London. 10.30 Spectrum. 11.00 Film: 'Hysteria'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 Merrie melodies show. 4.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar, weather. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Cade's county. 8.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Amorous Adventures of Moll Flanders'. 12.20 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 3.25 I dream of Jeannie. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.25 TV funnies. 4.50 London. 5.15 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.20 Cartoons. 6.40 Kick off. 7.00 Dora. 7.30 Dundee and the culhane. 8.25 Comedians. 9.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'The George Raft Story'.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Yoga. 3.00 London. 3.25 Dangerman. 4.25 Merrie melodies. 4.50 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Cade's county. 8.30 London. 10.30 Film: 'The Strange One'. 12.25 News. 12.40 Epilogue.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 3.30 Quentin Durgens. 4.20 Shirley's world. 4.50 London. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 A place of her own. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 London. 10.30 Friday night. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Film: 'Dracula's Daughter'.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 3.25 Let's face it. 3.55 Katie Stewart cooks. 4.20 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.05 Thompson at teatime. 6.35 London. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hogan's heroes. 8.00 McCue's music. 8.30 London. 10.30 Points North. 11.00 Film: 'Mary Had A Little'. 12.30 Meditation.

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ITV

9.30 Schools. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Wendy Craig tells... 12.40 First report. 1.00 Melody inn. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Junkin. 3.25 Marcus Welby MD. 4.20 Adventures of Gulliver. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 Nanny and the professor. 5.50 News.

6.00 **TODAY.**

6.35 **CROSSROADS.**

7.00 **THE PROTECTORS.** Brother Hood.

7.30 **HAWAII FIVE-O.** Vashon, the Son.

8.30 **DORA.** Dinner at Eight.

9.00 **UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS.** 'Whom God Hath Joined...'

10.30 **POLICE FIVE.**

10.40 **FILM: 'COTTAGE TO LET.'** Leslie Banks, John Mills, Alastair Sim. An inventor's cottage is a hive of espionage activity, unknown to him.

12.10 **ROAD TO DAMASCUS.**

12.15 **SPYFORCE.** 27 Hours.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school.

6.35-7.00 **IRELAND.** Freedom to Achieve Freedom.

7.30 **NEWSROOM.** Weather.

8.00 **MONEY AT WORK.** Taking Stock.

9.00 **HERITAGE.** The Changing of the Guard.

9.25 **DOCUMENTARY: 'DE GAULLE - THE FREE FRENCHMAN.'** Portrait of the statesman who personified his country.

10.55 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

11.00 **DOCUMENTARY** continued.

Gas-fire strikers reject formula

WORKERS at the Robinsons and Willey gas-fire firm at Liverpool have voted to continue their strike for union recognition.

They have overwhelmingly rejected a so-called 'compromise' presented by both management and union officials that the men and women workers accept arbitration.

The strike began more than two weeks ago when three shop stewards were dismissed for organizing workers into the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Immediately about 300 of the 400-strong work force walked out. Since then there has been a daily picket outside the factory which has succeeded in cutting production and ending all deliveries to and from the premises.

But the T&GWU has not made the strike official and has attempted to get the men to agree to a wretched formula which would provide no guarantee against victimization or for complete union recognition.

In this situation the strikers have mounted pickets at the Islington headquarters of the union declaring: 'Don't let union scab on us.'

● Strikers at the Robinson and Willey gas-fire factory in Liverpool yesterday called for trades council support in backing transport firms who have broken their picket line.

Stafford evidence in private

NEW EVIDENCE in the appeal bid by Dennis Stafford and Michael Luvaglio, convicted five years ago in the 'one-armed bandit' murder trial, is now to be heard in private. The decision has been reached by Mr Justice Croom-Johnson, the judge who is to sit as an examiner next Monday to hear the evidence.

It was originally intended that the new evidence and the re-examination of some of the witnesses who gave evidence at the trial at Newcastle-upon-Tyne would be in public.

Stafford and Luvaglio were convicted in 1967 of murdering their fruit machine business associate Angus Sibbert (33), who was found shot dead in a car in the village of South Hetton, County Durham. Both men are serving life sentences.

Socialist Labour League LECTURES

OXFORD

Thursday November 23
Opponents of Marxism
Thursday November 30
Marxism—the science of perspective

SOUTH OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE
Lake Street, 8 p.m.

Lectures given by G. Healy
SLL national secretary

LIVERPOOL

Wednesday November 15
The Third International
1919-1924

ROOM 'A' MUNICIPAL ANNEXE
Dale Street, 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday November 22
The Third International
1924-1929

Wednesday November 29
Stalinism 1932-1938
Wednesday December 6
Trotskyism and the founding of the Fourth International

COMMON HALL HACKINS HEY
off Dale Street, 7.30 p.m.
Lectures given by Tom Kemp (SLL Central Committee)

As we forecast exclusively last Saturday . . .

Revolt at the Yard

BY ALEX MITCHELL

ROBERT MARK'S new style of law and order at Scotland Yard has provoked a revolt, particularly among CID officers.

Since the beginning of this week there have been two signs of the rift in the force.

On Wednesday night at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Police Federation a group of detectives staged a walk-out in a protest against the new discipline and internal investigation procedures which Commissioner Mark has imposed.

There is also a leaflet being circulated at the Yard by the dissidents. It says: 'We, as CID officers, say that morale is now at an all-time low. We feel that too many recent findings against CID officers are ruthless and we expect to be treated justly.'

What is at the root of their complaints against Mark is the 'reorganization' underway since the new commissioner took office earlier this year.

There has been an unprecedented amount of reshuffling since Mark came to office. These changes include:

- The early retirement of Peter Brodie, Assistant Commissioner (crime).
- The early retirement of Frank Williamson, Inspector of Constabulary (crime).
- The suspension and resignation of Commander Ken Drury, chief of the Flying Squad.

- The suspension and charging of Detective Chief Inspector Victor Kelaher, head of the Drugs Squad.

To cap these rearrangements in the top hierarchy, the police were faced with the resignation of their most senior spokesman, Home Secretary Reginald Maudling.

Coinciding with his

New strong-arm police for France

FRENCH Minister of the Interior, M. Marcellin, has just announced plans for increased police repression in France.

The 19-per-cent increase in his budget for the next year will mainly be spent on the following innovations:

- Introduction of the British method to bring the police closer to the people—the same policeman will be in charge of inspection and protection



MARK OF THE YARD

No amount of bourgeois propaganda like 'Z-Cars', 'Soddy, Soddy', 'Dixon of Dock Green', 'Scotland Yard' and 'Special Branch' can obscure the fact that Britain's biggest police force, the Metropolitan Police, is undergoing enormous strains on morale. There have been an unprecedented number of early retirements, suspensions and internal investigations. In this article ALEX MITCHELL reports on the crisis down at the Yard.

A dinner was held recently for senior CID officers. It is an annual affair at which the best-paid glamour boys of the force get together for a warm and convivial evening.

Guests of honour this year was the newly-appointed Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Mr Robert Mark, the man who looks more like a bank manager than a copper.

Mark delivered an ice-cream speech to his colleagues in which he apparently told everyone to pull their socks up. When he sat down the occasion was marked by the fact that scarcely a cheep or cheer went up.

Indeed, when he finally left the banquet there were loud denunciations of the new chief who was accused of 'stabbing us in the back'.

The situation has become so tense that Mark quit New Scotland Yard as a complete stranger.

Mark's poor standing with the ranks has been growing for some time, even before he took over the No. 1 job last April.

He was called from Leicester by the Labour government and installed at the Yard in a way which ruffled the feathers of the ruling order. They objected to a 'late developer' being thrust over the head of other senior officers.

The Bugan's principle which has operated in the senior positions for decades.

When Sir John Waldron, the former commissioner, was asked to retire there were two things on the running for the job.

One was the name of the man who was under investigation.

This followed a drugs case at Aldridge in which Kelaher was alleged to have been involved in drug smuggling.

Without revealing the names of the officers, The Times published the news of 'two senior officers on the subject of law and order'.

The officers called for the reintroduction of capital punishment, stiffer sentences for all types of offences and greater powers for the police.

It was a move calculated to upset Mark's softer approach and it failed because the old guard failed to take account of the enormous support of the Home Office and with politicians of both major parties.

There was another factor. Rumours were current that corruption at the Yard had reached fantastic proportions.

'The Times' itself had conducted an inquiry which led to some senior officers being convicted on corruption charges.

Despite all the political difficulties and the likelihood of unfavourable publicity, the Tory government decided that Mark should be the man to carry through an intensive cleaning operation.

INTERNAL INQUIRY

When Mark's appointment was announced in November last year the Yard was already involved in a major internal inquiry. Detective Chief Inspector Victor Kelaher (191)

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LAST SATURDAY'S WORKERS PRESS EXCLUSIVE

resignation Commander James Crane, head of the Fraud Squad, was put in charge of an investigation into the Poulson empire with which Maudling was associated.

Last Saturday Workers Press exclusively revealed in a centre-page article the infighting at the Yard.

Yesterday the Tory Press was obliged to examine

the same story. In a front-page article the Rothermere-owned 'Daily Mail' declared:

'Police morale at an all-time low: Yard men storm out after row.'

The Beaverbrook paper, the 'Evening Standard' said: 'Scotland Yard's top men hit out at their chief.'

At the angry meeting of the Federation in Central

Hall, Westminster, the new Home Secretary, Robert Carr, attempted to stifle the growing dissatisfaction with Mark's new regime.

He told the 2,000 audience he had complete confidence in their new chief, in his deputy and in the force as a whole.

Amid loud cheers, he said that law and order should get a higher place among national priorities.

There was greater violence today and in the field of industrial disputes certain types of picketing were causing concern.

He said he had recently met 16 police officers, including Mark, to discuss violent crime, including picketing.

'If we could sway public opinion a degree or two, it would make the policeman's life much better,' he added.

● The Long Service and Good Conduct medal has been awarded in Police Orders to Det Chief Insp Kelaher, who has been summoned to answer allegations of conspiracy. Kelaher, along with four junior detectives was summoned on Tuesday to appear at the Guildhall to answer allegations of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice in relation to an Old Bailey drugs trial last year.

Trade war kills 1,000 jobs

MORE than 1,000 textile workers at Courtauld's £7m factory at Skelmersdale, Lancashire, are to be thrown on the dole. Management blames the closure of the almost brand new factory on 'labour difficulties'.

The facts are otherwise. Courtauld's and the other major British fibre maker, ICI, have had their lucrative markets wrecked by three factors:

- The import tariffs imposed by President Nixon on August 15, 1971.
- The flooding of the fibre markets by cheap Japanese produce.
- The development of a totally new synthetic fibre process which makes the Skelmersdale project 'out of date'.

Now the impact of the trade war is being resolved at the expense of the jobs of workers at Europe's largest weaving mill.

The factory, opened in 1968, is about ten miles from Liverpool.

The £472m manufacturer said in a statement read to shop stewards:

'Since it was set up, very considerable efforts have been made to make the Skelmersdale factory viable and profitable both in the interests of the company and in the interests of those who are employed here.'

'In spite of all these efforts we are forced by the cumulative effect of continual labour difficulties to recognize that a closure of the factory is an inevitable consequence.'

Alfred Barton, manager of Skelmersdale Employment Exchange, said the factory employed just over 1,000 workers—almost all men.

He added: 'It will be an extreme problem to find these men new jobs. But at the present we are not sure where they all live, although most of them live in this area.'

He said unemployment in Skelmersdale and Ormskirk was 6.2 per cent compared with the national average of 3.6 per cent and the regional average of 4.7 per cent.

Fred Hague, general secretary of the Amalgamated Weavers' Association, said: 'To say the Courtauld's announcement is a surprise is to put it very mildly. It looks as though 800 of our members and 200 other people are going to lose their jobs.'

'We do not think industrial relations are as bad as the firm suggests. There is a tremendous amount of goodwill among the men.'

'We have not had the chance to meet the firm to see if any of the employees can be transferred to other parts of Courtauld's business.'

The men at the back of the mass sacking are none other than Labour peer Lord Kearton, Courtauld's chairman, and the director in charge of labour relations, and Lord George-Brown, the Foreign Secretary and economics 'wizard' of the Wilson government.

By a cruel irony the weaving plant was opened in 1968 to help 'soak up Merseyside's unemployment.'

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WE have begun to be concerned at the slow response to our Fund this month. We know that most of you, dear readers, seriously feel the steep price increases beginning to dig into to fight back is with Workers your pockets.

The trade union leaders might cringe and crawl before the Tories and accept their

latest laws to stop wages going up, but on this occasion thousands of workers are not behind them. Trade unionists, every where, will be forced to tackle this Tory government as their cost of living continues to sharply rise.

Only Workers Press can provide the political leadership for the struggles ahead. We must

not, therefore, waste any more time in the campaign to raise this month's target of £1,750. Make up now for lost time by raising extra amounts. Collect as much as you can and post immediately to:

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November Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London, SW4 7UG

Choice facing AUEW £5,000 or confrontation

RIGHT-WING engineers' leaders of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers are today expected to argue for payment of the £5,000 fine imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court for contempt.

The union is committed to a policy of complete refusal to co-operate with the institutions of the Industrial Relations Act, but the right wing will claim that refusal to pay the fine would mean a stand-up confrontation with the law as a whole.

MILITANT AUEW members from CAV, Acton, north London, have sent a telegram to the engineering union's executive calling on their officials to refuse to pay the £5,000 fine imposed by the National Industrial Relations Court. They state that their subscriptions are not to be used in this manner.

Already Jim Conway, AUEW engineers' section secretary, has said 'serious consideration' will be given to the judgement. 'We have no intention of defying the law to that extent,' he added.

Union president Hugh Scanlon has declined to comment until after an executive meeting of all four sections of the union today.

There had been reports that

Dispute procedure by 1973

A NEW disputes procedure for the engineering industry may be tied up 'before the end of the year', union leaders said in York yesterday.

The executive of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions accepted an invitation from the employers to resume talks on an agreement to replace the 50-year-old York Memorandum scrapped last December.

It is expected that the talks —broken off earlier last year on

he volunteered to face arrest for failing to appear at the NIRC on Wednesday. Bill John, the executive member responsible for legal affairs, also said he did not expect the fine to be paid.

The AUEW — and the trade union movement as a whole — stands at the crossroads over this fine.

In many sections of the labour movement the union has been regarded as the main bulwark of opposition to the Act. Payment of the fine would deal a severe blow to this opposition.

But as one leading official pointed out yesterday: 'Resisting the Act is one thing, but there comes a time when you either have to drop your front of resistance or go on to get rid of the people who are keeping the Act in operation.'

That time has now come for Scanlon and his executive. It is either capitulation, or mobilize action to force the Tories out of office.

The union has until November 21 to decide whether it will pay up, but it seems certain that the key decisions will be taken today or at the engineers' section executive on Tuesday.

One possibility is that the right wing will attempt to shift responsibility for the decision onto a recalled national committee. The national committee is the policymaking body of the union and if such a move were accepted it would be with the clear intention of changing policy.

The right will argue that the engineers' section simply cannot afford an expensive confrontation

with the court, since it is already spending £8.85m a year on an income of £7m and must put its financial house in order.

In a speech to the section's final appeal court last month, Conway drew attention to the fact that 17 per cent of its 1.25 million members were more than 26 weeks in arrears with the contributions and should strictly be lapsed. At the same time the union has suffered a 76,000 loss in the last year.

But if the union is in difficulties financially, these difficulties must be laid at the door of the right-wing leadership which has dominated the union for years.

If there is disillusionment with the substantial failure of the

recent national pay claim, this must be laid at the door of the executive itself. And if there is a decline in membership this is due at least in part to its failure to get rid of the Tories and halt the massive labour shake-out in the industry.

Already a number of branches have written to AUEW headquarters at Peckham Road insisting that there must be no reversal of policy by the union and that the fine must not be paid.

Many more such resolutions are expected.

But the real question before today's meeting must be: is a serious campaign going to be developed now to remove the Tory authors of the NIRC from office?

TUC IN FULL RETREAT

FROM PAGE 1

There is growing evidence to show that the TUC has agreed to help the government over the period of total freeze by discouraging all wage battles.

Feather's only reaction to the freeze on the farmworkers was that it was 'rather odd'.

Meanwhile the miners' leaders have put back their own wage claim once more.

But the mood of surrender among the top union bosses was best expressed by Jones.

In one of the most right-wing statements he has ever uttered, he offered to become a partner with the Tories in managing the capitalist economy.

He said the unions were sincere in their approach to the government:

'We want an understanding, because sooner or later it must become common practice in advanced industrial countries that social policy is a matter of negotiation between unions, employers and the government of the day.'

Later, for a concession on pensions, Jones offered to become an agent of the Tory government.

'I want to make it very clear that had the government been ready to make a decisive move forward on pensions, then I would have been ready to stomp the country calling for sacrifices by the whole community to meet that commitment.'

Jones is here talking of a government which has created a million unemployed, set up a court which jailed five of his members for picketing and attempted to rob the working class of every basic right it possesses —including now the right to a standard of living.

But his position is the position of almost every TUC General Council member. It is clear they will do nothing to defend the working class from the Tory onslaught —on the contrary many of them agree with it in secret.

This means that the campaign to mobilize the working class against the government and the rotten TUC leadership must be stepped up immediately.

Workers can be unified behind this struggle. There is not a single dispute, whether on wages or pay, that does not involve such a political confrontation. The Tories have made sure of this by their courts and fines.

But the call to force the Tories to resign is not just a phrase.

Philosophy not a crime—counsel

IT WAS not yet a crime to have ideas and a philosophy, the 'Angry Brigade' trial jury were told yesterday at the Old Bailey.

Ian McDonald, counsel for one of the defendants, said that Cmdr Ernest Bond, in charge of the case since June 1971, considered that anyone with certain ideas could be a member of the Brigade.

'It is the most damning indictment of their case', said McDonald about Bond's statement.

There were many pressures on the police to secure convictions.

Reports that the police had 'targets' to reach had been described as 'think writing'. But, added McDonald, crime reporters only wrote such stories from the contacts they had.

On chemical evidence presented by the prosecution, McDonald said it consisted of 'Alice in Wonderland' reasoning.

'When it suits the prosecution, scientific techniques are relied upon. On other occasions, it is thrown aside and you are asked to use common sense.'

Two of the defendants, Anna Mendelson and Hilary Creek, were given bail until Monday.

Exactly how this can be achieved is the key question.

The Communist Party and the 'Morning Star' continually demand a General Election. But a section of their own membership on the miners' executive voted on Wednesday against submitting the £7 wage claim immediately.

Equally the Party members at the TUC Congress did nothing to stop the TUC-government talks.

In other words the Stalinist call for a General Election is just a gloss to paint over their practical efforts to cover up for the treachery of the union leaders who avoid confronting the Tories with the mass movement.

The possibilities of a General Election depend on the way the mass movement against the Tories is built up.

The call to bring down the Tories must become the starting point of a campaign to mobilize the mass movement which will face the industrial and political conditions to force the Tory government to resign.

This is the campaign of the hour. Such a struggle would create the conditions for the return of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

BRIEFLY

CLIVE JENKINS, leader of Britain's largest white-collar union, yesterday condemned the government's state pay plan as 'anti-democratic'. 'We will now be committing criminal offences if the government says so,' Mr Jenkins, general secretary of ASTMS, was speaking at the annual conference of the Institute of Directors at the Albert Hall.

SCOTTISH REGION

Young Socialists Recruitment campaign

Special showing of 'Right-to-Work' film.

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He said the government was to blame for the present inflated money supply. He accused the Tories of being 'counterfeiters' and thus the real creators of inflation. On anti-inflation legislation, he said: 'The introduction of criminal law into our industrial relations is fundamentally anti-democratic.' After his speech he said the legislation had been 'sloppily drafted'. He said his own union would continue to press wages demands. If faced with criminal action his union would drive a coach and horses through the legislation. He said the whole idea of dividends restraint was an absurdity. 'It is so illiterate,' he added.

BUSMEN members of Transport and General Workers' Union 5/92 branch have formed a committee to organize the defence of branch chairman Jim Butler and three other Nottingham municipal busmen who face charges arising from a one-day strike of the bus crews on Saturday September 2. The four busmen were remanded on bail on November 20, when they elected to go before a jury on a total of 13 charges.

Socialist Labour League
Greater London Rally

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