

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1972 ● No 923 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## FEATHER FOR MORE TALKS WITH HEATH THE TUC ACCEPTS STATE PAY LAW

BY DAVID MAUDE

**VICTOR FEATHER**, the TUC general secretary, yesterday held secret talks with the government and the Confederation of British Industry, less than a fortnight after Heath's announcement of his pay control law.

This is despite the TUC Economic Committee's statement last week that 'it is impossible for discussions to be held in circumstances where the results of collective bargaining are to remain frozen by such ill-judged and objectionable provisions'.

More important, it is despite the government's attack on the farmworkers in the law's name and the CBI's advice to firms employing between 5 and 6 million workers that they should not even talk to them about pay.

Today the Tories are expected to follow up their attack on the farmworkers by blocking the pay claim of 250,000 low-paid hospital workers (see p.12).

Neither move seems to have disturbed the arrangements for yesterday's talks in the slightest. The forum for the talks was the five-man working party set up earlier this year by the National Economic Development Council.

This was the body which set up the initial talks and working parties for the full-scale negotiations at Chequers and Downing Street. Its members are Feather, CBI director-general W. O. Campbell Adamson, Sir Frank Figgures of the National Economic Development Office and the government's top two civil servants, Sir Douglas Allen and Sir William Armstrong.

A meeting of the whole NEDC, chaired by Heath, is due on December 6.

No minutes are taken at meetings of the five-man working party.

Described by one union leader yesterday as 'just some of the lads getting together for a gin and a chat', this is an extremely useful forum for class-collaboration. Clearly Allen and Armstrong will report straight back to their political masters. But as far as Feather is concerned there is no report-back to the trade union movement.

Feather's participation in these talks is completely shameful.

News of it leaked out on the

same day as an announcement that wholesale prices are now rising at an annual rate of almost 9 per cent. This makes nonsense of the Tory claim to be able to hold down retail prices in the shops.

The TUC secretary said a week last Wednesday that he and his colleagues would only consider the idea of new talks with the government 'in the light of any changed atmosphere or any new development that might take place'.

Yet the only development which has taken place in the eight days since those words were uttered is a tightening-up of the Tory dictatorship over pay.

Even as the working-party talks were being set up, the CBI were calling for changes in the Counter-Inflation (Temporary Provisions) Bill to make clear that incremental increases for millions of white-collar workers are out, out, out.

The decision to take part in the new talks means the TUC leaders have decisively gone over to co-operation with the Tories' pay-control law.

Feather is supposed to be leader of Britain's 10 million trade unionists.

The people who pay his wages are not Heath and the Tory Cabinet, but those like the farm and hospital workers who are being kicked in the teeth by Heath.

He is equally responsible for those like the draughtsmen, and the scientists and technicians, who have said they will proceed with official strikes in spite of the pay law.

But at a time when he and the TUC General Council should be drawing up concrete plans to force the Tory pay-dictators out of office, Feather is engaged in friendly chats with their chief organization men.

Trade unionists will draw the obvious conclusion: that like their Labour Party counterparts in parliament, the union chiefs have decided to co-operate lock, stock and barrel with the Tories' strategy for a permanent legal structure which will govern all wages.

Doncaster MP Harold Walker,

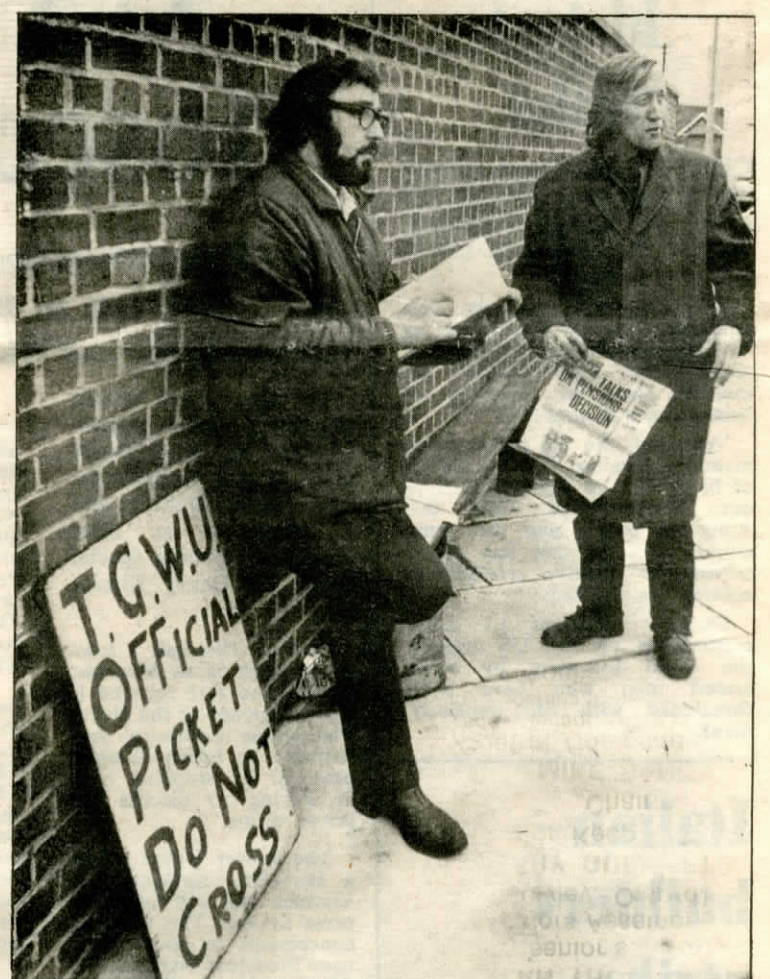
the man who helped Barbara Castle implement her wages policy, made this clear in the House of Commons during the unsuccessful Labourite bid to get exemption for the farmworkers.

The 'conspicuous weakness' of the Bill was that it did not assure workers it would be applied fairly all round. Neither was it clear it would be operated with 'compassion'. 'Those cardinal elements are absent from the Bill', he said.

In other words, Labour MPs would vote wholeheartedly for the law if the Tories would make a few more noises about the low-paid.

Such interventions are utterly cynical and totally dangerous. They are designed to lose the working class time in its fight against the greatest threat to its basic rights ever mounted by the employing class in Britain.

But what the Feathers and Walkers are proving every day is the urgency of the fight for the alternative, revolutionary leadership, for the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party as decided by the All Trades Unions Alliance national conference.



Dockers picketing the Midland Cold Storage depot in Hackney yesterday slammed moves by lorry drivers to cross their line. They also condemned suggestions their picketing was illegal as claimed by Eric Rehnitz, lorry drivers' leader. ● See story p. 12.

Socialist Labour League  
Greater London Rally

**CELEBRATE  
3RD ANNIVERSARY  
OF WORKERS  
PRESS  
BUILD THE  
REVOLUTIONARY  
PARTY**

**SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 19  
7 p.m.  
Porchester Hall  
Queensway, W2**

**PREMIERE**

SHOWING OF A  
NEW FILM

**THREE  
YEARS  
OF  
WORKERS  
PRESS**

Showing the  
developments and  
gains since the  
first issue of  
Workers Press,  
September 26, 1969

Speakers:

**G. HEALY**  
(SLL national secretary)  
**CONNIE FAHEY**  
(Wilmslow tenants' leader)  
**CORIN REDGRAVE**  
(Equity)  
**ROY BATTERSBY**  
(ACTT)  
**ALAN THORNTON**  
(Deputy senior steward  
Morris Motors Assembly,  
Cowley, Oxford)  
**GARY GURMEET**  
(Editor Keep Left)  
Chairman:  
**MIKE BANDA**  
(SLL Central Committee)  
(Union and tenant speakers  
appear in a personal capacity)  
Admission 15p

Details of provincial meetings—see p. 12

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1972 ● No 923 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## FEATHER FOR MORE TALKS WITH HEATH THE TUC ACCEPTS STATE PAY LAW

BY DAVID MAUDE

**VICTOR FEATHER, the TUC general secretary, yesterday held secret talks with the government and the Confederation of British Industry, less than a fortnight after Heath's announcement of his pay control law.**

This is despite the TUC Economic Committee's statement last week that 'it is impossible for discussions to be held in circumstances where the results of collective bargaining are to remain frozen by such ill-judged and objectionable provisions'.

More important, it is despite the government's attack on the farmworkers in the law's name and the CBI's advice to firms employing between 5 and 6 million workers that they should not even talk to them about pay.

Today the Tories are expected to follow up their attack on the farmworkers by blocking the pay claim of 250,000 low-paid hospital workers (see p.12).

Neither move seems to have disturbed the arrangements for yesterday's talks in the slightest. The forum for the talks was the five-man working party set up earlier this year by the National Economic Development Council.

This was the body which set up the initial talks and working parties for the full-scale negotiations at Chequers and Downing Street. Its members are Feather, CBI director-general W. O. Campbell Adamson, Sir Frank Figgures of the National Economic Development Office and the government's top two civil servants, Sir Douglas Allen and Sir William Armstrong.

A meeting of the whole NEDC, chaired by Heath, is due on December 6.

No minutes are taken at meetings of the five-man working party.

Described by one union leader yesterday as 'just some of the lads getting together for a gin and a chat', this is an extremely useful forum for class-collaboration. Clearly Allen and Armstrong will report straight back to their political masters. But as far as Feather is concerned there is no report-back to the trade union movement.

Feather's participation in these talks is completely shameful.

News of it leaked out on the

same day as an announcement that wholesale prices are now rising at an annual rate of almost 9 per cent. This makes nonsense of the Tory claim to be able to hold down retail prices in the shops.

The TUC secretary said a week last Wednesday that he and his colleagues would only consider the idea of new talks with the government 'in the light of any changed atmosphere or any new development that might take place'.

Yet the only development which has taken place in the eight days since those words were uttered is a tightening-up of the Tory dictatorship over pay.

Even as the working-party talks were being set up, the CBI were calling for changes in the Counter-Inflation (Temporary Provisions) Bill to make clear that incremental increases for millions of white-collar workers are out, out, out.

The decision to take part in the new talks means the TUC leaders have decisively gone over to co-operation with the Tories' pay-control law.

Feather is supposed to be leader of Britain's 10 million trade unionists.

The people who pay his wages are not Heath and the Tory Cabinet, but those like the farm and hospital workers who are being kicked in the teeth by Heath.

He is equally responsible for those like the draughtsmen, and the scientists and technicians, who have said they will proceed with official strikes in spite of the pay law.

But at a time when he and the TUC General Council should be drawing up concrete plans to force the Tory pay-dictators out of office, Feather is engaged in friendly chats with their chief organization men.

Trade unionists will draw the obvious conclusion: that like their Labour Party counterparts in parliament, the union chiefs have decided to co-operate lock, stock and barrel with the Tories' strategy for a permanent legal structure which will govern all wages.

Doncaster MP Harold Walker,

the man who helped Barbara Castle implement her wages policy, made this clear in the House of Commons during the unsuccessful Labourite bid to get exemption for the farmworkers.

The 'conspicuous weakness' of the Bill was that it did not assure workers it would be applied fairly all round. Neither was it clear it would be operated with 'compassion'. 'Those cardinal elements are absent from the Bill', he said.

In other words, Labour MPs would vote wholeheartedly for the law if the Tories would make a few more noises about the low-paid.

Such interventions are utterly cynical and totally dangerous. They are designed to lose the working class time in its fight against the greatest threat to its basic rights ever mounted by the employing class in Britain.

But what the Feathers and Walkers are proving every day is the urgency of the fight for the alternative, revolutionary leadership, for the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party as decided by the All Trades Unions Alliance national conference.



Dockers picketing the Midland Cold Storage depot in Hackney yesterday slammed moves by lorry drivers to cross their line. They also condemned suggestions their picketing was illegal as claimed by Eric Rechnitz, lorry drivers' leader. ● See story p. 12.

Socialist Labour League  
Greater London Rally

**CELEBRATE  
3RD ANNIVERSARY  
OF WORKERS  
PRESS  
BUILD THE  
REVOLUTIONARY  
PARTY**

**SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 19  
7 p.m.  
Porchester Hall  
Queensway, W2**

**PREMIERE**

SHOWING OF A  
NEW FILM

**THREE  
YEARS  
OF  
WORKERS  
PRESS**

Showing the  
developments and  
gains since the  
first issue of  
Workers Press,  
September 26, 1969

Speakers:

**G. HEALY**  
(SLL national secretary)  
**CONNIE FAHEY**  
(Wilmslow tenants' leader)  
**CORIN REDGRAVE**  
(Equity)  
**ROY BATTERSBY**  
(ACTT)  
**ALAN THORNETT**  
(Deputy senior steward  
Morris Motors Assembly,  
Cowley, Oxford)  
**GARY GURMEET**  
(Editor Keep Left)  
Chairman:  
**MIKE BANDA**  
(SLL Central Committee)  
(Union and tenant speakers  
appear in a personal capacity)  
Admission 15p

Details of provincial meetings—see p. 12

# What we think

## The politics of inflation

THE FIGHT against inflation is now the main preoccupation of every international capitalist conference and gathering. Like a malignant disease inflation is afflicting every country of the capitalist world.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development has expressed 'extreme disquiet' about the question, while on Wednesday the Common Market parliament berated the EEC Finance and Foreign Ministers for failing to produce plans to fight inflation at their recent summit.

Inflation is an inseparable part of the monetary arrangements on which world capitalism is based. It is endemic in the capitalist system. The world monetary system after World War II was based on the dollar which was itself convertible into gold.

The American government's refusal to sell gold since August 15 last year has undermined the whole edifice of paper money and credit erected during the years of boom.

This has removed the last barrier to runaway inflation which is undermining the purchasing power of money in every capitalist country. Inflation has now become a major political question for the ruling class.

There is only one way they can overcome it and that is by depriving the working class of its basic rights, destroying its organizations and forcing the masses into conditions of starvation, unemployment and war. In short, the solution is political.

But the Common Market governments have not yet created the political conditions to carry out this programme. The workers of Germany,

Italy, France and Britain are an undefeated force of enormous power blocking their path.

Under these conditions the employers are unable to agree about what to do. The OECD conference, representing 23 capitalist states, proposed 'expansionary policies to take up economic slack' as one means of combating inflation.

This should be done 'with caution', they said. Caution is certainly required, because the proposal is the economic equivalent of force-feeding an overweight patient as a cure for obesity. There is no cure for inflation in economic juggling of this type.

What is required is war on the working class, and this is the essence of the reactionary alliance of monopolists in the Common Market.

In Britain, the Tory government's Industrial Relations Act has been

followed by the imposition of rigorous state control of wages, stripping the working class of the basic right to fight for a standard of living.

Similar measures are being actively planned by the top circles of the Pompidou regime in France. In Germany, the employers are throwing all their weight behind the Christian Democrats led by Barzel and Strauss to gain office on a nakedly anti-working class programme in the Bundestag elections.

In Italy, influential industrialists are backing the fascist Italian Social Movement in the hope that it can bring back Mussolini's corporate state and discipline the working class.

The police have just had their powers of arrest, originally granted under the fascists, fully restored by the right-wing coalition which presides over an administration riddled with fascist sympathizers.

For the reactionary monopolists of the EEC the fight against inflation means nothing less than the preparation of civil war against the working class.

The great strength of the working class must be mobilized to smash this reactionary conspiracy through the construction of revolutionary parties all over Europe to lead the working class in the enormous struggles that are ahead.

## Castro wants hi-jack talks

CUBA'S Fidel Castro is willing to negotiate with the US over anti-hijack measures, despite the continued blockade of the island.

A government statement says that talks could take place at the Swiss embassy. Pointing out that Cuba had become an obvious place for hijackers to bring planes it goes on:

'Although the US government maintains against Cuba a policy of blockade and aggression, it is our consideration for the American people and the community at large that has determined our positive attitude as regards the problem.'

Castro's readiness to make concessions to the US follows the latest hijacking by three armed men who have been threatened with life imprisonment.

## Italian builders strike

ITALIAN building workers stopped work yesterday in support of a pay claim. Regional strikes will be held during the rest of the month.

In southern Italy 200,000 engineers in state-assisted industries held a four-hour protest strike against lack of progress in a new labour contract and the state's refusal to discuss new investment with the trade unions.

Civil servants in the south were also out seeking new grading structures and a three-year contract.

SOVIET UNION hopes to have a new advanced type of nuclear power plant in operation in the 1980s, a top Russian official said yesterday. Andronik Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Atomic Energy, told an international conference of nuclear scientists in Washington, the Soviet Union is forging ahead in the development of a so-called fast breeder reactor.

Petrosyants said the fast breeder reactor, which produces more plutonium than the uranium 235 used to fuel it, was projected to start taking over from current nuclear stations in 1985.

## Envoys head for Paris

# US relies on Moscow pressure

THE US government hopes to bring the Vietnam war to a speedy end by unremitting air attacks and the increased pressure which it believes Moscow and Peking are putting on North Vietnam.

Le Duc Tho, North Vietnam's chief negotiator at the Paris peace talks, is now in Moscow after visiting Peking, and is expected to meet President Nixon's special envoy Dr Henry Kissinger.

Le Duc Tho had a low-level reception in Moscow, despite the fact that he is a key member of the North Vietnamese Politburo. Apparently he broke Kremlin protocol by stopping over in Peking to discuss the peace terms.

The Soviet Union wants a cease-fire agreement in Vietnam and will no doubt press Le Duc Tho to make concessions to South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu, who is demanding the withdrawal of northern troops from the south.

So far the North Vietnamese have been standing firm on the nine-point agreement which Thieu refuses to accept. The question is how much pressure Moscow and Peking have been able to bring to bear upon Le Duc Tho in preparation for the coming decisive meeting with Kissinger.

Thieu has briefed his own chief negotiator in Paris, Pham Dan Lam, not to make any concessions. The Americans, who back Thieu and have been pouring in arms to assist him to control the south if peace comes, depend very much on Moscow and Peking being able to exert pressure on Hanoi to accept Thieu's points.

Peking and Moscow are preparing for a bitter contest for influence in Indo-China and the whole of

south-east Asia as American control loosens.

China's leading military man recently described Soviet revisionist social imperialism—to use the Maoist jargon—as 'more deceptive than the old-line imperialism and therefore more dangerous'.

Chou En-lai has expressed doubts at Soviet sincerity in wishing to see the Vietnam war brought to an end.

The Soviet response has been growing irritation and hostility.

On November 1 the Russian ambassador walked out of a reception at the Algerian embassy in Peking when the Chinese Foreign Minister Chi Peng-fei made an attack on the 'superpowers', i.e. the USA and the Soviet Union, whom he accused of collusion.

# Miners upset union plans for peace with Pompidou

STRIKING miners from the potash mines in Alsace demonstrated 800-strong in Paris yesterday in support of their wage claim.

8,500 miners have now been on strike for four weeks and their determination to win their claim in full has hardened since they rejected the offer made on November 5.

This guaranteed a 3-per-cent increase in basic pay, 1-per-cent increase in production bonus and the raising of the end-of-year bonus from 406 to 600 francs.

The miners' leaders have demanded a 5-per-cent increase in basic pay, extra bonus and holidays.

The number of miners in the pits of the Alsace Potash Mines (MDPA) has decreased from 12,300 in 1963 to 8,600 in 1972 and productivity has gone up by 70 per cent.

This intensification of exploitation has not led to any of the improvements in wages or conditions promised by their union leaders when they accepted the productivity drive.

On average over the last 20 years eight workers have been killed each year. Two workers a day are injured in the pits.

The mine is nationalized and Pompidou's government clearly wants to inflict a decisive defeat on the Alsace workers as part of its drive to starve the French

working class into submission.

Union leaders have admitted that if the management's offer had been made a month and not a week ago, they would have accepted it.

Now, as the strike hardens, it will become more difficult to sell a deal to their members.

The CGT-CFDT (communist and socialist) trade-union federations have organized collections for the miners, and the Stalinists have made great play of support from the local clergy who rang their church bells for the miners!

However, they are attempting to isolate this strike from the mass workers' movement to avoid a confrontation with Pompidou.

# Tokyo stock market dealings suspended

BY A FOREIGN  
CORRESPONDENT

FEARS of a collapse on the Tokyo stock market led to the suspension of dealings after a feverish boom which had sent share prices soaring to record levels.

The authorities claim that the closure is to permit the vast backlog of paper work to be dealt with and to protect the health of stock exchange clerks. On Tuesday over 1,000 million shares changed hands.

The inflow of foreign exchange resulting from the prospect of another yen revaluation has contributed to the supply of funds for speculation. There are also fears that the government intends to curb land speculation.

Buying of steel, chemical and heavy electrical shares was especially heavy. The increase in share prices is entirely out of line with profit trends and at present levels the average yield is down to about 1.8 per cent.

This shows that the stock market boom has a speculative origin and that the bubble could easily be pricked with wide-ranging repercussions not only in Japan, but in other stock exchanges.

The Tokyo stock market is one of the most sensitive at the present time and the role of bank finance and credit in industry means that a collapse of share prices would bring many business failures.

Although Japanese businessmen are resigned to a revaluation of the yen, it could well be a signal for a major financial crisis.

## East-West talks on troop reductions

TROOP reductions in Europe will be discussed at a conference in Switzerland beginning on January 31 next year.

Invited to attend are the Soviet Union and its allies along with the various NATO powers, said Walter Scheel, West German Foreign Minister. France had not been invited because it was no longer a NATO member.

Bilateral talks between the USA and the Soviet Union on strategic arms limitation resume next week.

TWO BELGRADE publications have been banned and withdrawn from circulation this week for containing views contrary to the current communist party line. The latest issue of 'Student', the Belgrade University students' paper, has been banned for reprinting an article which presented social-political conditions in the country 'in a distorted manner'.

Stephen Johns reports from Merseyside...

# Liverpool stewards retreat over blacking on docks

MILITANT shop stewards in the port of Liverpool are waiting anxiously to see if their union officials will launch a bid to lift the ban on Craddock Brothers—the haulage firm 'blacked for life' on Merseyside docks.

Craddock's remain the only haulage firm of any significance facing sanctions from dockers and the Transport and General Workers' Union is eager to get them called off. While they remain there is always the chance of more action in the National Industrial Relations Court and possible fines.

Last week the black on another transport firm, Howitt Brothers, was lifted after a cash payment to two Howitt's drivers who, the dockers said, had been victimized. But Craddock's presents a bigger problem.

Craddock Brothers was the firm involved in the recent case at Liverpool Crown Court where two dock shop stewards and T&GWU official Harold Verrinder were acquitted of demanding money with menaces.

Craddock's road manager, John Rycroft, claimed Verrinder had asked for £200 to be paid into the dockers' fund as the price of lifting the black on the firm.

Mr Verrinder said Rycroft made the suggestion and on the evidence the jury believed Mr Verrinder and the stewards.

The incident led to great bitterness on the docks. Rycroft's performance in the witness box was a particular source of anger and as retribution the firm was blacked 'for ever'—a decision endorsed by the national ports shop stewards' committee.

There are those shop stewards, however, with a more conciliatory attitude. After the case was closed last Thursday, Jimmy Symes, chairman of the Liverpool docks stewards' committee commented:

'If Craddock's want to talk to us then we are prepared to talk about it.'

And the way the Howitt's issue was disposed is another pointer that prospects for Craddock's may be improving.

The lifting of the Howitt's black split the stewards down the middle. Their key decision was carried at a meeting of about 70 stewards, by only two votes.

The original aim of the action, to get Howitt's stewards reinstated, has failed. Instead union officials claim that the men, James Jones and Brian Dean, have accepted £300 each 'blood money' as one dock steward described it.

## Two sacked

Trouble at Howitt's began back in August when the two men were sacked. They treated it as a case of victimization—the issue that had particularly annoyed the firm was the strike action the men took when the NIRC jailed five London dockers.

An appeal to the Howitt's drivers to support them failed. Then the two drivers approached dockers working at ACE Containers, a depot run by Ocean Port Services employing registered dock workers.

The black went on and was extended throughout the port.

The slow burn towards crisis then began. Howitt's went to the NIRC, which decided that any decision should be postponed pending talks between the firm's lawyers and the T&GWU's legal advisor A. C. Blyghton—fast becoming the unions' number one mouthpiece at the NIRC.

On October 14 the case was again adjourned for more talks. These were not successful and four days later the NIRC found the union was responsible for the action (indeed Mr Verrinder had supported it) and told the officials to get the black called off.

More desperate talks began. But again they were unsuccessful. On October 24 they broke down. The T&GWU, urged on by the stewards, was still attempting to get the two drivers reinstated.



On October 30 the court gave the union a time limit to get the black off—the case was beginning to look like the battle with Heaton's Transport when the union paid out a cool £55,000 in fines.

Finally the T&GWU was forced to make its first open appeal to get its members to stop what in the days before the Industrial Relations Act was normal trade union activity in defence of members.

## 'Lift black'

On Monday October 31 the T&GWU's finance and general purposes committee instructed the dockers to lift the black. General secretary Jack Jones made a personal intervention and called for acceptance of 'reasonable terms of settlement'.

It was at this stage that the officials began to cook up the formula that saved the union from another clash with the law. This involved a compensation payment to the drivers.

But at first they were unsuccessful. With four days to go before the court deadline, talks between Howitt's and the officials broke down. Managing director Olive Howitt said that re-employing the men was out of the question.

The stage was now set for last Wednesday's stewards' meeting—held three days before the deadline.

What happened on that day has all the marks of a carefully-planned move to get the decision to lift the black through the stewards' meeting.

The Howitt's issue was placed on the agenda by Jack Collins, a steward and Labour councillor for Bootle. But many stewards were either unaware it would be raised or unaware that there would be a move to lift the black.

By 1 p.m. about 20 stewards had drifted away from the meeting to attend to other matters. A key group of six who would not have supported lifting the black (therefore destroying the two-vote majority) went away to attend to a dispute.

Howitt's came up when Jack Collins asked Lew Lloyd, the full-time docks official sitting in at the meeting, about the rumours over the possible payment of compensation to the drivers.

According to shop stewards, Lloyd then confirmed that £300 had been offered and the men were ready to take it. He then went on to lay out the case for lifting the action.

His main argument was that the dockers were once more the fall guys—the Howitt's drivers were working normally and would not support Jones and Dean.

It was the typical divide-and-rule agreement that the T&GWU in theory is supposed to be against. But Lloyd could not have warned about the possibility of more NIRC fines—this would have not impressed the dockers, who despise the court.

The attitude of the Communist Party stewards—led by the Stalinist Pat Docherty—was, as one docker told me, 'rather diplomatic'. They called for a postponement of the decision until the joint committee between dockers and transport stewards could meet to investigate Lloyd's claims.

## Premeditated

But despite strong opposition the issue was pushed to a vote which was carried, with the Communist Party faction in opposition.

One can only speculate as to how premeditated Wednesday's events were. Certainly when dockers who had left the meeting

heard of the vote they were surprised and, for the most part, angry.

'When we left we had no idea it would come up,' one told me. 'Our meetings are informal and anyone can put an item down on the agenda. But you would have thought someone would have told us that the Howitt's move was coming up.'

The 'lift-the-black lobby' had also been strengthened by the morning's discussions. These involved a series of requests from other workers for support and blacking action by dockers.

On one issue—a request from the CAV occupation committee at Fazakerley, Liverpool, to black CAV-Lucas goods—CPR Pat Docherty had used Lloyd's argument. He opposed the black because, he said, the CAV men should put their own house in order first and get support from workers within the Lucas combine.

## Strategy

The lifting of the Howitt's black, following on the decision to end action against Heaton's means the strategy of Jack Jones and the top T&GWU leadership is nearing total success.

The pockets of resistance to the employers are now small and isolated.

Craddock's still face sanctions and the London dockers are still picketing the Midland Cold Storage, part of the Vestey empire. But there is the threat of another court action here and one can expect that the pressure from the union to lift the action will grow greater every day.

The employers, in other words, have ended up with all the aces.

Action to prevent the drift of jobs away from dockland has

petered out and the so-called concessions made to 'abolish' the unattached registers have turned out to be their opposite.

In practice employers have had to pay for little 're-allocation' of dockers because of the thousands who have taken severance pay and left the industry. The Jones-Aldington settlement in fact has aided the employers' plans to get rid of the immediate 10,000 surplus they say they have on the docks.

Meanwhile, despite the tremendous struggle put up against the court by dockers, in most centres the union is falling into line and acting on the dictates of the NIRC.

And the court is duly grateful. Dockers should reflect on the words of Sir John Donaldson:

'This case [Howitt's] illustrates that it is in the interests of all parties, and indeed, of justice generally, that in the case of this kind all parties should attend and put all the facts before the court.'

'The T&GWU has at all stages kept us fully informed of what has been going on, and we are very much obliged to them for having done so.'

## MARXISM AND RANK-AND-FILE-ISM

### An analysis of the tactics and strategy of the International Socialists

As the Tories seek to impose a corporate state and smash down the living conditions of the working class, the Labour and trade union leaders—assisted by the Communist Party—refuse to lead any struggle. The central task, therefore, remains the building of a revolutionary leadership in the working class. This raises the key question of the fight for Marxism in the trade unions. Political tendencies such as the International Socialism group oppose the development of Marxist consciousness in the unions and instead substitute a worship of spontaneous rank-and-file militancy. In practice they line up behind the Communist Party to keep revolutionary politics out of the unions.


**STARTING TOMORROW**

A vital series of Workers Press articles, Mike Banda, a member of the Socialist Labour League Central Committee, examines the tactics and strategy of the International Socialism group.

Be sure of your copy by telephoning CIRCULATION 01-622 7029

# PAPERBACKS CENTRE

28 Charlotte St  
London W1



**NOW OPEN**  
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs  
9 a.m.—6 p.m.  
Fri 9 a.m.—7.30 p.m.  
Sat 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

BOOKS ● PERIODICALS ● NEWSPAPERS



MARTIN MAYER

## ARMY TERROR... CONTINUED

BY PHILIP WADE

**Last week the British army occupying Northern Ireland 'expressed its regrets' when it shot a woman walking down a street in Belfast.**

The official report says the army was firing at a 'gunman' and 'unfortunately' a few shots hit an innocent woman bystander.

To the people of Ulster, however, it was by no means the first time this has happened. It was just one more case of the army terror which has been imposed on them since 1969.

The oppression continues daily. People are whipped off the streets or from their homes for 'questioning'. Some are released while others do not return so quickly.

Take the case of James Corbett from Ballymurphy, Belfast.

On December 26 last year he was interned. He spent three-and-a-half months in Long Kesh.

At the Palace Barracks, Holywood, he made a 'voluntary' statement after being tortured by the army. In June this year he was finally released.

That was not the end of the affair, as his mother, Mrs Margaret Corbett, told the Association for Legal Justice. 'Since Operation Motorman

began on July 31 my son has been arrested seven times.

'This morning [September 5] he was lifted at 5.30 a.m. He is now at Castlereagh police barracks "helping police with their enquiries".'

'On each of these occasions James has been beaten and there are several eye-witnesses who have seen him being kicked out of Saracens. On Saturday August 12 a gun was clicked at his head in my presence and the presence of the children.'

Two more families have reported how without any provocation the army fired rubber bullets at very young children.

Michael Tohill, from the Ardoyne district of Belfast, told about his six-year-old daughter, Katrina.

'I was at the bottom of Clonard Street when my daughter came and told me Katrina had been hit by a rubber bullet. I rushed up to the house, but Katrina was already away at the hospital.'

'The six-wheeler had been around the area about six times, when suddenly there was a report from the six-wheeler and Katrina was hit. It had been fired from the back.'

'After about one hour we were able to take Katrina home. She was in the house half an hour when she started to vomit up blood.'

'I left the house to go to

North Howard Street to see the man in charge of the Green Jackets. I saw this officer and informed him what had happened to my daughter.

'He told me he already knew what had happened. "The innocent sometimes suffer," he said. "The injuries as far as I know are bruised ribs and vomiting up blood."'

Another young child hit by a rubber bullet was six-year-old Geraldine Tohill. An eye-witness told of the army's blatant and unprovoked attack:

'I was at the junction of Kane Street and Bombay Street when a Saracen had just turned the corner. The soldiers in the back of the Saracen fired one rubber bullet at children playing on the edge of the footpath.'

'One child was hit in the ribs. It was six-year-old Geraldine Tohill. At this time there were no incidents in the area, and this attack was uncalled for.'

'Mrs Tohill took Geraldine to the hospital and the doctor told her that if the rubber bullet had hit the child straight-on instead of at a side angle, the child would never have spoken again.'

'The child had severe bruising and lacerations and was hysterical. She refused to stay in hospital and had to be brought home.'

Other people, like Mrs J. Walker, of Gibson Street,

Belfast, have been terrorized without reason by the army. Shots have been taken at them standing in their homes and relatives beaten and taken away.

'On Friday afternoon, September 22, I was standing at my own door watching the children play in my hallway,' Mrs Walker said.

'A shot was fired in the Grosvenor Road. As soon as I heard it I rushed to get all the children into my house.'

'I felt something hitting me in the face. Fragments of the wall had hit me. The army had fired at my house and were running up the street.'

'I shouted at the soldiers that they could have shot me or my children. Their answer was they should have aimed lower. Two soldiers rushed inside and came out again. When more soldiers came I told them two had already been in.'

'At this they started to push me about. My sister was pushed and kicked because she told the soldiers to leave me alone. One of the soldiers tried to push her head through a window.'

'Next morning at 8.45 they came and arrested my sister.'

'When I complained to the army barracks I asked about my sister who had been taken away in a Saladin. I was told she was wanted for an incident.'

## MEAT MEN MERGE

Anticipation of high meat prices once Britain joins the Common Market has invoked a whole spate of mergers and takeovers.

Food firms are expecting high prices to stay and think—with some justification—housewives will have to switch to lower-priced foods.

Part of this movement would involve a substantial improvement in the outlook for cheaper meat-based foods like sausages and pies.

That is why all and sundry are bidding for pie manufacturers Scott-Bowyers—itsself the result of a merger last February.

Fitch-Lovell the food manufacturers opened the bidding for Scott-Lovell with a £36m offer. A merger would create a £110m group.

But dairy firm Unigate has also made an offer to merge into a £130m group. Scott-Bowyers' shareholders are reported to be in favour of such a deal, excluding the Fitch-Lovell men.

The story does not end there, however. Both British American Tobacco and Imperial Tobacco are considering bids for both Fitch-Lovell and Scott-Bowyers.

## DOLE ON CLYDEBANK

There were a staggering 55,000 redundancies on Clydeside in the ten years from 1958 to 1968.

These figures, which leave out the thousands of jobs lost since the Tories took office two years ago, have come from researchers at Glasgow University.

Total manufacturing employment in the area—which includes the industrial heart of Scotland—dropped by 7 per cent, or 22,000.

This is because although 55,000 jobs were lost, only 33,000 new jobs were provided. Most of the jobs lost involved men, but less than two-thirds of the new jobs were for male workers.

The researchers found that local manufacturers played little part in bringing any new jobs to the area and found most of Clydeside's economy controlled by external firms.

## COMPUTER CON

Hundreds of immigrant workers who paid for expensive computer training courses have found the diplomas awarded at the end completely worthless.

The Islington Committee for Community Relations in north London has compiled a dossier of such occurrences, fully documenting the cases.

They include a 17-year-old West Indian girl who paid out £105 for a punch-operating course. No employer would recognize her qualification.

Another case involved a West Indian worker who gave up his job as a storekeeper to go on a three months' full-time course in computer operating costing £175.

Another man, married with three children, claims he spent his £300 lifesavings on a three-month full-time course in programming. At the end he could not get a job.

The report says: 'These are but a few of the cases. It appears that there are many more.'

Labour MP for East Islington John Grant wants the allegations investigated.

# THE FIFTH COLUMN IN THE ITALIAN WORKING CLASS

A cry of alarm was heard from Eugenio Cefis, president of the Italian chemicals group, Montedison, in a letter to his employees last week.

'We are in the midst of a land-slide which threatens to drag us all down with it if we do not create the basis for everything to be gradually strengthened.'

He added, as an additional warning, that the company was 'in a situation of extreme economic weakness'.

Not only does this mean the collapse of Montedison, but also the collapse of the dreams of Signor Cefis.

In the summer of 1971, he left the management of the state-holding, ENI, to become chairman of Montedison. This marked the crowning of Cefis's activity, since he had got ENI to buy up sufficient shares to control the company.

The reorganization of the chemical and textile industries in Europe has destroyed all his carefully-nurtured plans. He now finds himself in conflict with Girotti, ENI's new chief, who is spearheading rationalization in Italy and wants a say in the organization and the financing of the chemical conglomerate.

Cefis wants a free hand with the profitable sectors, but he also needs more money. The private shareholders are not thought to be very enthusiastic about helping him out, so as a last resort ENI will perhaps come to the rescue.

Whatever they decide cannot halt the world-wide recession. Indeed, the decisions taken so far and the gloomy predictions outlined above mean even more severe attacks on the Italian working class.

After their summer holidays Montedison workers soon realized they were not faced with the perspective of a 'hot' autumn of militant strikes over the renewal of wage contracts, a simple repetition of the strikes in 1969.



Eugenio Cefis

On August 18, Montedison announced five factories would close throwing 1,000 workers in the synthetic fibres and chemicals division out of work. The factories were 'unproductive' and had to go to ensure survival in the Common Market. The shake-out was the first phase in the planned destruction of 8,000 jobs.

Negotiations for the new wage contract began in the midst of a wave of factory occupations, strikes and demonstrations for the right to work.

The renewal of contracts in the engineering industry, which were also on the agenda, made a struggle to the end against premier Andreotti and Italian



Workers who occupied the Montedison factory in Valle Susa discussing the struggle against rationalization.

capitalism seem inevitable to the 'lefts' who worship the spontaneous movement of the working class.

The Italian Communist Party and trade union leaders, however, had very different ideas. They were and still are more concerned about the survival of the rule of capital than the fight for jobs.

Strikes and General Strikes are consequently limited to a protest of a few hours to avoid threatening these exciting experiments in 'advanced democracy' and 'peaceful co-existence'.

Necessary adaptations are made to moods of militancy, but only to be better positioned to betray this militancy. This is one of the lessons of the negotiations of the new contract for chemical workers which began in private talks between unions and employers on September 21.

In Milan, on the same day, police attacked workers occupying the Farmitalia plant in Milan with truncheons and tear-gas bombs.

Such confrontations and rising militancy in the factories forced a break in the negotiations and a one-day strike was called on September 28.

On the eve of this strike, the three Italian trade union federations—the CGIL, CISL, and UIL—issued a joint communiqué, another militant ges-

ture, calling for a 'national day of struggle' on October 10 for workers in the chemical industries and ancillary industries.

The language of Fantoni, co-secretary of the CISL, was far from militant. He appealed to the government and the employers' confederation, Confindustria, to pursue a policy of 'economic expansion' and renew the 'philosophy of wage contracts' and 'positive confrontations'.

His CISL henchman, Sartori, spoke out against the one-day national strike which was mainly championed by the Stalinist wing—the CGIL—of the trade union bureaucracy. Sartori said he was in favour of contracts being signed 'which involve in the present conjuncture increases in costs which, in general, firms can afford'.

Predictably, the one-day strike call from the Stalinists was a cover for an agreement to be reached which was fully acceptable to the CISL whose leadership is largely in the pocket of the landowners and big business of the south, the right-wing Christian Democrats.

A left front for behind-the-scenes manoeuvres was vital to avoid joint struggles between chemical and engineering workers whose contracts came up for renegotiation over the first weekend in October.

On October 9, a deal was signed and the one-day national strike was off.

The deal, which fixes wages for three years, granted an increase of 16,000 lire a month, less than the increase granted in 1969, and 4,000 lire less than that demanded by the trade union bureaucracy. It guarantees a 12- to 16-per-cent increase in compensation for certain shift workers from . . . May 1974.

The Stalinists and the right wing combined forces to prevent any struggle against the monopolies. No demands were raised for the removal of the Andreotti government or for the Italian Communist Party to form a government which would nationalize the basic industries under workers' control.

The fight for wages was at all times separated from the fight to defend jobs as part of a socialist programme for the Italian working class.

The ominous predictions of Montedison's Signor Cefis and the daily attacks by fascists on the Italian labour movement are a warning to all those who adapt to the Italian Communist Party and the spontaneous militancy of the working class. The only defence of the working class is the struggle for an independent Marxist party in Italy based on the policies of Trotskyism.

## GARAUDY EMBRACES THE CHURCH

For many years Roger Garaudy was the French Communist Party's principal spokesman in seeking a dialogue with the Catholic Church. At the same time he was a zealous advocate for Stalin.

In the period before the last party congress held in February 1970 Garaudy came into collision with the party leadership and was later expelled.

More recently he has sought a reconciliation with the Christianity of his youth and admits that during his years in the Communist Party religion never lost its attraction for him.

He stated these views in a book called 'The Alternative', published five months ago, which has had a considerable success. In it he tries to amalgamate Marxism with the idealist philosophy of Kant and modern Christian theology.

Garaudy, who was never a Marxist but only one of the consecrated ideologists of French Stalinism, has now even abandoned the position of materialism. His philosophy can now be summed up in a phrase he used in a recent interview.

'To live our history in the perspective of the Resurrection is,' he says, 'to be conscious that we are fully responsible for our history'.



He goes on to say that scientific proof of the resurrection of Christ is not necessary; it was a symbolic act to be grasped through faith.

Thus Garaudy goes on his knees and recites the catechism that he learned in his adolescence, descending into a farrago of mysticism in which he equates resurrection with revolution.

After accepting the role for many years of apologist for Stalinism, the repentant Garaudy, though not yet actually calling himself a Christian, is on the way back to accepting the authority of the Church.

With his last book Garaudy makes his final bow to Marxism and completes an evolution which will give the Stalinists the opportunity to say, we told you so. In fact, of course, Garaudy is a product of Stalinism and the theoretical degeneration to which it leads.

In his earlier books Garaudy already displayed an ignorance of Marxist theory and the history of the workers' movement which makes his recent evolution no surprise.

Incapable of leading any kind of opposition against the Stalinist leadership of the French Communist Party, Garaudy's latest turn totally discredits him as far as the working class is concerned.

# DIARY OF A SOMEBODY

BY ALEX MITCHELL

Cecil Harmsworth King, the Fleet Street newspaper tycoon who ran the Mirror group for a quarter of a century, has blown the gaff.

He has published a personal diary he kept from 1965 to 1970 during the years of the Wilson government.

He says that the published material is only 'excerpts' from his daily account of his meetings with Cabinet ministers, bankers and businessmen.

He told a literary luncheon the other day that the book 'is only a third or a quarter of the diary. I have cut out any passages which could form a breach of confidence'.

If the 300-odd pages published on Monday represent the edited and more discreet sections of his diaries, the rest must be absolutely sensational!

In a fit of cranky pique, King has released his diaries while he and all the other participants are still very much around and in business.

He utterly exposes the links between the Tory Press and the top politicians and in the process reveals their frailty. His prose is enlivened by a poisonous streak which vilifies the majority of the dignitaries he sups with. It is written in the most lethal vein—the jugular vein.

Understandably, King has been censured by the ruling class. In the capitalist Press you can find review after review which lambasts the man they previously crawled before.

Woodrow Wyatt, the Labour MP who drew a salary from the 'Daily Mirror' for years in return for writing a reactionary column, said in 'The Sunday Times' last weekend:

'Cecil King is a monumental bore. I used to have lunch with him only because he was the chairman of IPC (the International Printing Corporation) and I wrote a column for the "Daily Mirror". I have never heard from Cecil King an original idea, an amusing remark or anything which indicated why he should have emerged at the head of a large business and newspaper empire without owning more than a handful of shares.'

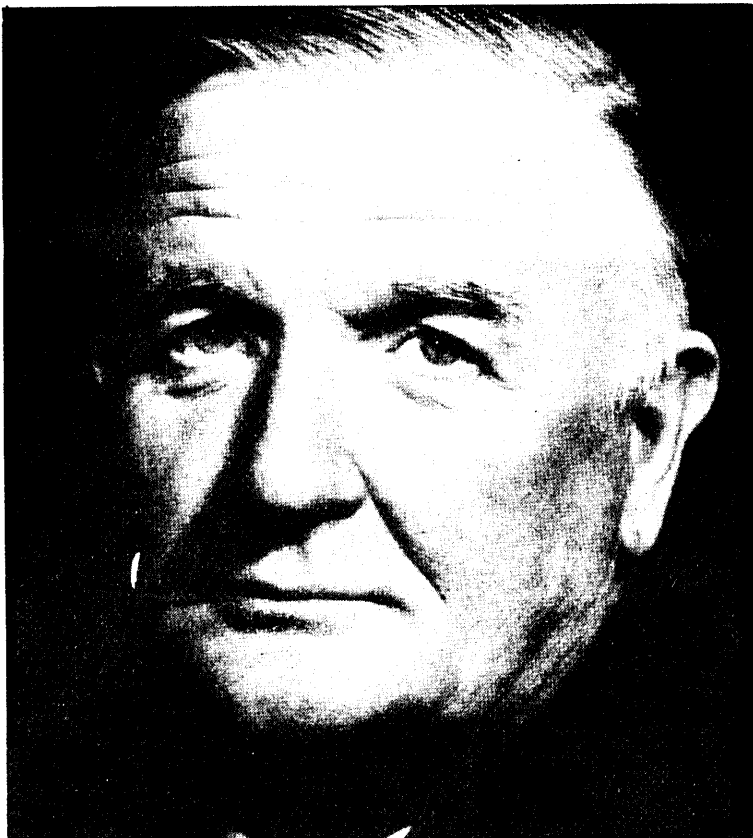
Richard Marsh, the Labourite turned railway hatchet man for the Tories, was so incensed over the entries about him in King's diaries that he wrote a letter to 'The Times'. 'One can only say—UGH to King's caddish behaviour', wrote the offended Mr Marsh.

(Marsh's public indignation is odd. When King spoke to the Press earlier this week he said he would shortly be having lunch with none other than Victor Feather of the TUC and . . . Richard Marsh.)

In the 'UK Press Gazette' Colin Valdar, one of King's editors, ended his outraged article with this pomposity:

'It is a desperate situation for journalists when a man who has been one of their most distinguished associates and champions shows so little respect for the privileged sources which his position in newspapers opened to him. From a mannered man, it is an ill-mannered example.'

And on a BBC television



programme last week, the Liberal Ludovic Kennedy, foamed and fumed as he interrogated King about his 'breach of faith' in bringing out conversations and anecdotes about the men in high places.

The disgruntled King has shrugged off the threats to cut him out of high society. He told the guests at his book launching: 'I don't think I have betrayed any confidence. It was just ordinary conversation. The diary was not compiled with a view to publication. Had I remained in Fleet Street, obviously I would not have published any book.'

He said that the theme of the diary was that 'our political emperors have no clothes'. When reminded that Woodrow Wyatt had described him as 'a monumental bore', King said drily: 'I have had harsher epithets applied in the past. But Mr Wyatt is a considerable authority.'

As King himself says, he wrote the diary 'from the front row of the political stalls'. From this vantage point he was involved in the most intimate discussions on the political and economic life of the country.

He got his job as head of the largest newspaper publishing group in the world by virtue of his marriage to the sister of the newspaper barons, Lord Northcliffe and Lord Rothermere. His editorial control extended over the largest newspaper chain ever concentrated in the hands of one man—the 'Daily Mirror', the 'Sunday Mirror', the 'Sun' and the 'People'.

His main plaything, the 'Daily Mirror', gave all-out backing to the Labour Party in the 1964 General Election, because, as King said, he felt 'that it was time for a change'.

'We did everything for Wilson and the Labour Party we could think of. I even drove about London in my office Rolls with a red flag on the bonnet saying "Vote Labour".'

King's backing for the Labour Party was based on the assumption that the Wilson government would attend to two major questions—enter the Common Market and deal with the trade unions. When neither of these objectives could be achieved by Wilson

(King believes he didn't try seriously enough) he became disillusioned and slumped into what was described at the time as 'melancholia'.

His diary reveals important discussions which commenced behind the scenes about the possible formation of a national government in which he and other captains of industry would play a vital role in running the country.

In preparing for high office King accepted Wilson's offer of directorships with the Bank of England and the National Coal Board. Here he was aligned with the respective chairmen, Lord Cromer and Lord Robens, who were also private advocates of a national businessmen's government. Another malcontent that he held talks with was ex-Labourite Sir Oswald Mosley who became leader of the British Union of Fascists.

On May 10, 1968, he wrote an astonishing front-page, signed editorial entitled 'Enough is enough' in which he called for Wilson's replacement as Prime Minister. A few days later his 13 co-directors called for his resignation and he was ousted from the board.

The significance of King's diaries is not simply in his petty likes and dislikes. It is in his extremely precise and intimate vision of political developments. And when King speaks he is not a complete loner; what he was saying during the years 1965-1970 is only a reflection of what a larger number of them were saying.

And if they were planning corporatism during these years, how much more sinister must be the talk in the parlours and powder rooms of the rich today.

He has clumsily blurted out the truth about the crisis in ruling-class circles—warts and all. For revolutionaries it is a book well worth reading because it provides such a candid appraisal of the nature of at least a section of the class enemy.

Further extracts from King's diary will be examined in Workers Press during next week.

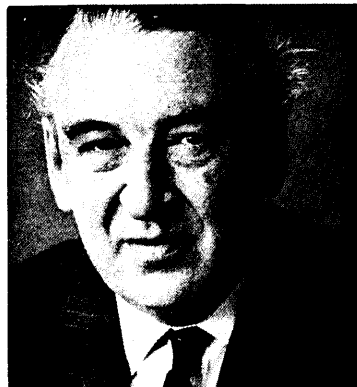
'The Cecil King Diary 1965-1970' is published by Jonathan Cape at £3.

## 'OUR EMPERORS HAVE NO CLOTHES' SAYS KING



Denis Hamilton, Editor in Chief, Times Newspapers:

'Denis Hamilton came and talked politics—comparing notes on the future. He tells me that both Macmillan and Rab Butler foresee a National Government and assume that they will be invited to join it.' (August 1966.)



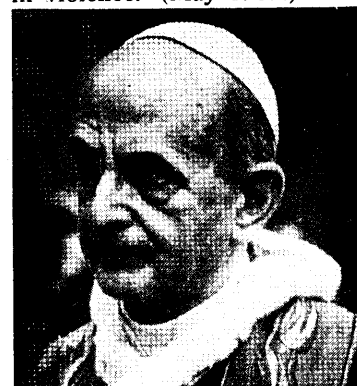
Lord Cromer, Governor of the Bank of England, now US ambassador:

'Rowley Cromer came to dinner at Hampton Court last night. He anticipates financial trouble by September. In the long run he expects trouble with the trades unions to end in violence.' (May 1967.)



Sir Max Aitken, Chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers:

'Max Aitken talked complete nonsense. It is hard to see what can be done with such a man.' (October 1965.)



Pope Paul:

'From London Pope Paul seems to be a ditherer. On the spot this impression is fully confirmed. What is not realized in England is that the Pope is the most potent figure in Italian politics—the Christian Democrats are in effect the Pope's own party.' (January 1967.)

Sir Harry Nicholas, Ex-general secretary, Labour Party (writing about battle for new general secretary):

'The interesting thing is that the Labour Party is in an awful mess and obviously needs the best man they can find. Instead the choice is between Tony Greenwood who is useless—but a toady of Wilson's—and Harry Nicholas who is only useless.' (July 1968.)

Douglas Houghton, Ex-Minister, chairman of Parliamentary Labour Party:

'I spoke well of Houghton and said I was sorry he had gone. Wilson said he couldn't keep a man of 68 in the Cabinet . . . This is, of course, pure nonsense. Why exchange a useful little man of 68 for a total dud, like (Patrick) Gordon Walker, of 59?' (January 1967.)



Richard Helms, Director of the CIA:

'He said he employed enough PhDs to man a university, men with first-class intellects who thought they were serving their country this way better than by getting higher salaries elsewhere. He thought our Secret Service quite good, having regard to their resources.' (September 1966.)



Anthony Crosland, Labour Housing Minister:

'Tony Crosland is a curious character: good-looking, charming, very intelligent, but immature and quite silly at times. Crosland's main interest was in a Lib-Lab pact. He said the government cannot go on as it is and an agreement with the Liberals is the only hope.' (September 1965.)



Richard Marsh, Chairman of British Rail:

'Marsh, though uneducated, to me shows intelligence and judgement. So much so that when he applied for a job outside politics I arranged for him to have £500 per annum from the Mirror to keep him in. Wilson knows this and says he will soon be in the Cabinet.' (August 1965.)



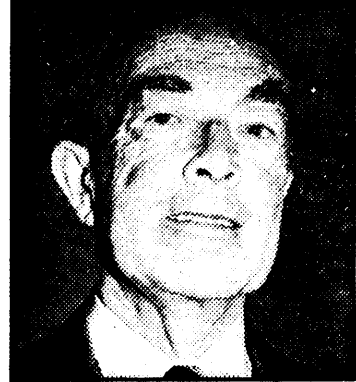
Reginald Maudling, Deputy prime minister:

'Dear Reggie, though very intelligent, does like a good lunch and parties that go on late into the night.' (July 1965.)



**Sir Alec Douglas-Home. Tory Foreign Secretary:**

'I agreed with those who greeted his appointment to the Foreign Office with derision, and his nomination to 10 Downing Street with stupefaction.' (July 1965.)



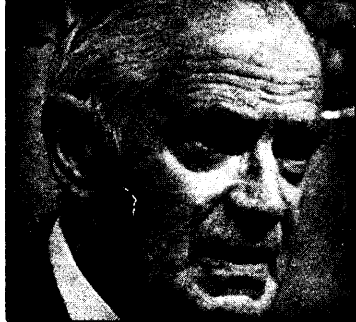
**Lord Shawcross. Ex-Labour minister, chairman of City Takeover Panel and BSA:**

'A brilliant man and a most charming one, but hard to say why his career hasn't really been worthy of him... is now said to be lazy.' (July 1965.)



**Lord Longford. Labour Cabinet Minister:**

'Frank Longford quite useless—mental age of 12.' (July 1965.)



**Michael Stewart. Foreign Secretary:**

'I think honest, intelligent, and (on his feet) articulate, but a man so dim as almost to be invisible.' (July 1965.)



**Charles de Gaulle. French President:**

'De Gaulle had given Wilson a glittering reception at the Grand Trianon, and then, having illustrated to his own satisfaction the importance of de Gaulle and the nullity of Wilson, took him under a spreading chestnut tree and fairly clobbered him.' (July 1967.)



**Sir Arnold Weinstock. Chairman GEC:**

'Lunch with Arnold Weinstock. He thought our problem in industry was not strikes but the fact that though the men didn't strike they didn't work. He believed in equal pay for equal work, but the men's wages should be brought down to that of the women.' (May 1969.)



**Victor Feather. TUC general secretary:**

'Lunch yesterday for Vic Feather. I have known him well for years, as the "Mirror" paid him a £500-a-year retainer, and he was a useful source of trade union opinion. He seemed to think a national wages board was not an impossible idea.' (April 1969.)



**Ray Gunter. Wilson's Labour Minister:**

'Ray Gunter to lunch: a nice little man. Gunter was amusing about trying to teach [Richard] Crossman the facts of life: that the British working man does not want to see equal wages for women; does not like family allowances; has little sympathy for the lower-paid worker.' (October 1968.)



**Lord Stokes. Chairman of British Leyland:**

'He has a pleasant personality and is, I believe, a good salesman, but that is all. Any suggestion that he is a "great industrialist" or whatever is nonsense.' (February 1969.)

**Peter Shore. Minister for Economic Affairs:**

'Crosland will not impress the business world—even less will Shore, who, though 43, gives the impression of being a clever undergraduate. I should say his ceiling would be as a university lecturer in economics. However, he is a friend of Wilson and that, presumably, is enough.' (August 1967.)



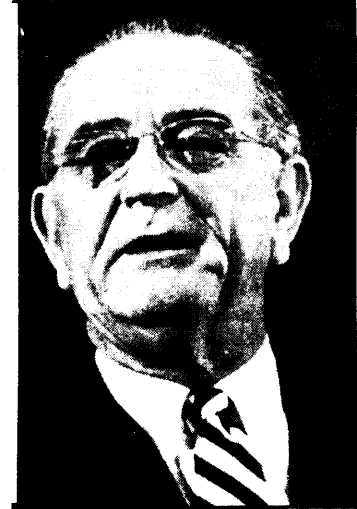
**Enoch Powell. Tory MP:**

'What impressed me, and what I did not know of before, was his love of the army and particularly of the discipline of the army, especially when he was a private. He may be the herald of a new fascist regime—but we have certainly not heard the last of Enoch Powell.' (December 1968.)



**Denis Healey. Labour Defence Minister:**

'He [Heath] also mentioned in passing that Denis Healey is intolerably arrogant. He had been this when they were both (and Roy Jenkins) at Balliol.' (July 1968.)



**Lyndon Johnson. US President:**

'He is obviously obsessed by Vietnam and finds it difficult to talk or think of anything else. He seemed to judge people by their willingness to stand by him, so he spoke very warmly of Harold Holt (who is a pleasant nonentity), of Bob Menzies (much abler than Holt, but a lazy snob).' (September 1966.)



**Lord Goodman. Chairman of the Newspaper Publishers' Association:**

'We gave a dinner party at Claridge's last night. I urged on Goodman, as I did a few days ago on Murdoch, the vital importance of closing down one of the newspapers—at least the "Sketch".' (June 1970.)



**Lord Kearton. Chairman of Courtaulds:**

'I had some talk with Frank Kearton who seemed to me, as usual, a very woolly-minded man. He says the squeeze is taking great effect, and that Courtaulds have difficulty in getting their bills paid even by their biggest customers.' (December 1969.)



**Sir Oswald Mosley. Ex-British fascist leader:**

'I had lunch with Oswald Mosley. He thinks the drift towards the revolution that he tried to take charge of during the 1930s has resumed. I think he sees himself in charge at last. This seems to me quite fantastic, but there is so little leadership of any kind these days that even the Enoch Powells and the Oswald Mosleys are not entirely incredible.' (March 1969.)

**Robin Day. BBC commentator:**

'At the BBC yesterday, a discussion with Robin Day. He had seen something of the Tories lately and these are his opinions: (1) Ted cannot get over his inferiority complex; (2) Maudling is bone-lazy and quite useless after lunch.' (October 1969.)



**Lord Pilkington. Chairman of Pilkington Bros:**

'Harry Pilkington has taken the strikes that have closed 14 of his 17 factories very hard. He had no idea that his chaps would behave like other people's chaps. He is one of the nicest men I have ever met, but simple and naive.' (April 1970.)

**Willy Brandt. West German Chancellor:**

'In the course of conversation Ted [Heath] said foreigners thought us mad to put up with such a Prime Minister as Wilson: Willy Brandt had virtually said so to Ted when he was in Bonn a few days ago.' (May 1970.)



**Iain Macleod (deceased). Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer:**

'Macleod agrees with me that our parliamentary institutions are threatened and that we are heading for a right-wing dictatorship. He thinks a coalition quite a possibility but only after a crash.' (April 1968.)



**Roy Jenkins. Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer:**

'Hugh [Cudlipp] dined with Roy on the day of his appointment as chancellor and pointed out that he was now the most important man in the government. He told Hugh that this gave him a shock at the time. He went home and thought about it, and realized Hugh was right.' (February 1968.)

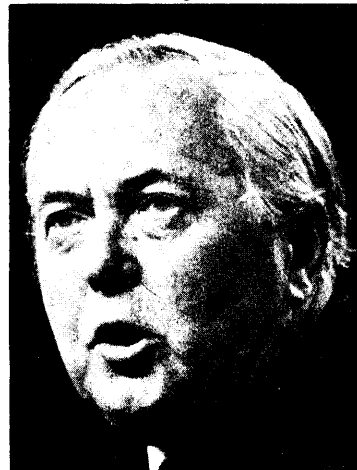


**Hugh Scanlon. President AUEW:**

'He [Heath] recently dined with trades union chiefs: Woodcock was incoherent and negative; Cannon and Scanlon were both ready to accept the enforceability of labour contracts, but only if they were effectively operated in the cases of all unions.' (February 1969.)

**Henry Kissinger. Nixon's foreign relations envoy:**

'He [Dutch editor] had been in the US and had some talk with Kissinger who was then supporting Rockefeller as the Republican candidate. This Dutchman asked why. Kissinger said because it would be a disaster if Nixon became president.' (February 1969.)



**Harold Wilson. Labour Prime Minister:**

'Wilson seems to me to have no administrative ability and his political ability is limited mostly to the parliamentary scene, and then to very short-term tactics. No problems get solved.' (March 1966.)



# WRITINGS OF LEON TROTSKY

## A review by Tom Kemp. The years 1937-1938 continued

The volumes of Trotsky's writings so far published for the period after 1935 differ in several respects from the two already reviewed. The selections are grouped under headings according to country or subject rather than being in chronological order. This makes it possible to follow through Trotsky's thought on a particular topic, such as the Moscow Trials. On the other hand, the notes do little more than indicate the source of the articles, thus leaving the reader to find out for himself about the many persons, organizations and events which are referred to. In addition, there is no index. Apart from the faults of editorship, these volumes are still to be highly recommended because they bring together writings which are otherwise virtually inaccessible or, in certain cases, have never been available in English before.

Stalin prepared a still more fantastic and grandiose trial than the previous frame-ups. It opened in Moscow in February 1938 with Bukharin, Rykov, Rakovsky and Krestinsky as the chief defendants.

As Trotsky noted, the accused included no less than seven former Central Committee members, including three former members of the Political Bureau, the highest power in the Soviet government:

'Of the nine people who were members of the Political Bureau during Lenin's lifetime . . . there remained only one unaccused, Stalin. All the others have been declared agents of foreign states and, in addition, the accusations revert back to 1918.'

The new 'Trial of the Twenty-One' brought together representatives of the Right Opposition, such as Bukharin and Rykov, a number who had been for a time members of the Left Opposition and others who had always been loyal supporters of Stalin or non-political specialists. It was a typical Stalinist amalgam. Four Kremlin doctors among the accused were said to have poisoned the People's Commissar of Heavy Industry, Kuibyshev, the head of the OGPU, Menzhivski, and the author Maxim Gorky.

Trotsky mercilessly dissected the charges against the accused and denounced the methods of the new Inquisition used by the OGPU on behalf of the bureaucracy. He saw the trial as a reply to the Dewey Commission, which had found him completely innocent, to 'bolster with more impressive arguments the shaken world confidence in Stalin's "justice".'

While the trial was conducted in public, the purge went on:

'Dozens and hundreds of relatives, friends, collaborators and colleagues of the defendants were arrested. With these arrests the GPU aimed to enclose every one of the accused within a ring of false depositions made by people closest to him.'

Particularly disgraceful was the treatment of the 64-year-old Christian Rakovsky who had been under arrest for over a year when the trial began. Rakovsky, who had been prominent in the Marxist movement in the Balkans before 1914, became chairman of the Ukrainian Soviet after the Revolution and later served as an ambassador in Paris and London.

Joining the Left Opposition in its early stages, he was deported to Siberia in 1928 and capitulated to Stalin in 1934. After his arrest he was questioned for hours on end, at one time for 90 hours with only short interruptions.

Other accused were subject to similar interrogation under the glare of special spotlights. Those who refused to confess were summarily shot; those whose wills were broken agreed to false depositions incriminating themselves and others.

Facts of this kind reached Trotsky from several sources. One of them was the former OGPU agent Ignace Reiss who broke with the bureaucracy after giving it many years of service and proclaimed his support for the Fourth International.

Reiss was tracked down and murdered near Lausanne in Switzerland by a GPU gang which included a number of White Russian émigrés.

Trotsky examines in detail the case of Reiss and criticizes the action of the Dutch socialist, Sneevliet, then a supporter of the Fourth International, with whom Reiss had made contact. The policy of concealment pursued by Sneevliet had, Trotsky maintained, put Reiss's life in danger. Only the widest publicity, and if necessary his arrest by the French or Swiss police, could have saved his life.

Trotsky's position at all times was that there should be the maximum exposure of the crimes of the GPU and its agents backed by the Comintern.

'Remissness in the struggle against this enemy is tantamount to betrayal . . . It is urgent to create special commissions which would follow the manoeuvres, intrigues and crimes of the Stalinists, warn the labour organizations of danger in store and elaborate the best methods of parrying and resisting the Moscow gangsters,' he wrote.

In March 1938 Trotsky wrote to the Juridical Section of the Secretariat of the League of Nations offering to appear before the tribunal against terrorists which Litvinov, on behalf of the Soviet Union, had proposed that this body should set up.

He cited a series of terrorist acts perpetrated by Stalin's agents. They included the murder of Ignace Reiss and a GPU attempt to kill his son Leon Sedov at Mulhausen in January 1937 which the Swiss police inquiry into this event had revealed.

Among other crimes which he cited were those committed by the GPU in Spain against his former secretary



Christian Rakovsky, a defendant in the 1938 frame-up trial, pictured with Trotsky in the early 1920s.

Erwin Wolf, the POUM leader Andres Nin and the Austrian socialist Kurt Landau.

As Trotsky put it: 'With the help of documents, testimony of witnesses and irrefutable political considerations I take it upon myself to prove what public opinion has been in no doubt of for some time; that is that the head of this criminal band is Joseph Stalin, general secretary of the All-Union Communist Party of the USSR.'

Trotsky's writings during this year are indispensable for understanding the background to the Moscow Trials and Stalin's motives for staging them.

## Executors

'In these trials,' he says, 'everything is turned on its head. The enemies of the October Revolution array themselves as its executors; careerists beat their chests like champions of ideals; specialists in frame-up stalk in the guise of examining magistrates, prosecutors and judges.'

In a wonderland of grotesque lies none was more fantastic than the charge that Henry Yagoda, head of the GPU and organizer of the Zinoviev-Kamenev trial, together with the ex-Menshevik Vishinsky, had all along been a conspirator in the imaginary 'Trotskyist-Bukharinist centre'.

Yagoda 'confessed' that he had participated in the assassination of Kirov 'on instruc-

tions from Trotsky'. Even the bureaucracy itself no longer today repeats this lie, but has had to admit that this assassination, which set the stage for the series of Moscow Trials, had been organized by none other than Stalin.

While the full story of the Kirov assassination in 1934 has still to be told, Trotsky long ago suspected that it was 'nothing more than a by-product of a police amalgam concocted by Stalin and Yagoda in order to accuse the oppositional leaders of terrorism'.

It was part of Stalin's campaign to liquidate the Bolshevik party by murdering the Old Guard, having first humiliated them and found them 'guilty' of the worst possible crimes.

In the previous trials and purges Yagoda could not have acted without the authority of Stalin. To cover his tracks and conceal his responsibility for the death of Kirov, the time came when Stalin had to disown the once-dreaded boss of the GPU. The exterminator of Trotskyists was rightly accused of wild living and embezzlement, put on trial and shot as an agent of Trotsky.

'Cain-Djugashvili Goes the Whole Way' was the title of an article which Trotsky wrote in April, 1938, in a bitter attack on Stalin's crimes:

'Fascism wins victory after victory, and its chief ally on all the world's roads is Stalinism. Terrible military dangers knock at all the gates of the

Soviet Union. But Stalin is destroying the army and is trampling on the country.'

Trotsky remained completely confident that the working class would destroy Stalinism, however bleak the prospect must then have looked. He concluded:

'The human tongue will not find words at the hour of the last judgement which could do service to the most sinister of Cain's stories. The monuments he built to himself will be destroyed or put in museums of totalitarian gangsterism. But the victorious working class will look through all the trials, public and secret, and erect on the squares of the liberated Soviet Union monuments to the unfortunate victims of the Stalin system of baseness and dishonour.'

The bureaucracy itself no longer dares to speak, except in hushed tones and covert ways, of the tyrant which it made and who at the same time tyrannized over it.

The statues have gone in an effort to avert the anger of the masses. Only when the working class is victorious in the Soviet Union will all the archives of the Stalin era be flung open and the full truth about the crimes which the bureaucracy perpetrated become known.

From his contacts and his analysis of the known record, Trotsky was able to piece together a good deal of the truth long before the Khrushchev revelations lifted part of the veil in 1956.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## CAMPS

Mugging, as you all know, is always in the news. Aspiring young crime reporters scour the court lists for any criminal incident that could possibly carry this dramatic new label designed to send the middle class into a frenzy of apprehension. Even better if the perpetrators of the act are black.

Well finally someone has come up with a punishment to fit this 'new' crime.

Dr Clifford Allen has suggested 'Russian style labour camps' for those found guilty. They had a magic effect (often believed to be death) on the gangs of young men who wandered around in the Soviet Union after the last war, he says.

'If only we had such camps, they might be very useful for those considered unlikely to benefit from Borstal,' adds Allen.

How splendid. And perhaps later, when the camps got underway, we could introduce some 'showers' like they did in Nazi Germany? The fascists found them a very effective way of dealing with their own problems.

## REASONS

No one could argue that the vast majority of Labour councillors have put up any sort of fight against the Tories' Housing Finance Act. Quite the reverse is true, as millions of council tenants faced with double rents by the Tories will tell you.

Talk about opposing the Tory Bill was one thing, action against the Act was another. When the time comes, over 90 per cent of Labour-controlled councils found 'reasons' for implementing.

But even more incredible tales of courage can still be told about some Labour councillors sitting in places where the policy is still non-implementation.

Somehow the story got around that abstainers on implementation could be in as much danger of being surcharged for missing rent revenue as those who definitely voted against.

Whether the possibility is true or not doesn't really matter. The very rumour was enough to scare the pants off some dedicated class-collaborators.

For recently a number of

abstainers have failed to show up at meetings where the council was likely to vote for non-implementation.

Many went down with sudden illnesses while others were called away from town. It is little wonder there was derisory laughter from many public galleries when the apologies for absence were read out by the town clerk.

## T&GWU HORSE

You could be forgiven for thinking you'd picked up 'Country Life' or some such magazine on receiving the latest issue of the General and Municipal Workers' Union journal.

David Basnett had just been elected the union's new general secretary to replace Lord Cooper. Had the editorial staff planned for such an event? Well, seemingly not because on the front cover was a picture of this beautiful horse staring straight at the camera!

So you overlook that blunder. But what was the horse doing on the front cover in any case? Was it in stables at the G&MWU's palatial Ruxley Towers HQ in Surrey?

Perhaps the union had gone in for horse-racing. Or was the animal was waiting to carry off some official besieged by the rank-and-file demanding some fight from the leadership?

No, we were wrong, although not completely. The horse, appropriately named 'Masquerade', belongs to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.

The story doesn't end there, however. On the inside cover you had a picture of one of the union's members grooming a horse at an RAVC camp.

She was one of 194,000 government industrial workers who have just seen their fight for a substantial increase 'settled' at around the Tories' ceiling.

The union side agreed to a binding arbitration award, determined as they were to avoid any struggle with the Tory government who directly pay the industrial workers.

Inevitably the final £2.40 award was received with open arms by the union leaders. On second thoughts, perhaps they should buy a horse down at the G&MWU. It could come in handy.



Ellsberg—at present on trial for leaking the secret 'Pentagon Papers' to the Press.

# STATE SNOOPS ON ELLSBERG'S LAWYER

The US Supreme Court in Washington has allowed the government to proceed with the 'Pentagon Papers' trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo—without revealing to them who in the defence team was overheard in a 'foreign-intelligence' phone-tap.

Ellsberg and Russo are charged with espionage, conspiracy and misuse of government property in the publication of the once-secret study

of the origins of the Vietnam war.

Their trial in Los Angeles has been delayed since July 29 because of the controversy over the tapping.

In Los Angeles, Russo said that he was not surprised by the decision, 'knowing the character of the Supreme Court today'.

And he added: 'If we are able to testify freely, it's going to be very embarrassing for the government.'

Shortly after the trial had begun, the US government submitted to Judge Byrne a surveillance log on one of the 16 defence lawyers and consultants. Afterwards the gov-

ernment said the tap was for purposes of 'foreign intelligence' and was authorized by the Attorney-General without the supervision of a judge.

Ellsberg and Russo maintained that the defence should be allowed to see the log to find out if the government had gained evidence through an illegal tap. They also contended that there should be a hearing in the federal district court on the phone-tap issue.

Judge Byrne, who examined the log, decided that the surveillance was irrelevant to the case. He, along with the then US Circuit Court in San Francisco, decided the defence had no right to see the log.

## SUPREME COURT HEARING... PERHAPS

Sweeping changes are being proposed which would effectively curtail every American's right to petition the Supreme Court for relief.

A panel appointed by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger is advocating a new 'national court of appeals' which would screen out appeals considered less important.

The excuse is being put forward that the Supreme Court is badly overworked and needs some help.

Nevertheless, it would essentially open up the possibilities of removing undesired petitions.

A new, seven-member court would screen all review petitions before they reached the Supreme Court. Only those considered most important would be sent on to the higher court.

In other words, certain petitions would simply be denied by the new court.

If approved by Congress, such a new court would sub-



Chief Justice Burger.

stantially change the Supreme Court's position at the pinnacle of the legal system.

No longer would every person have the absolute right to petition the Supreme Court and no longer would the judges be certain they were being exposed to all the justifiable complaints raised in America's lower courts.

With the re-election of President Nixon there can be little doubt such moves would at least find approval in the direction of the White House.

## 1984 A LITTLE NEARER

Lie detectors are now being used officially in California where moves are also being made to restore the death penalty.

This latest move to 1984 has been sanctioned by Superior Court Judge Allen Miller in the case of a man charged with the possession of marijuana.

The appeal court had decided that findings of a polygraph lie test were not sufficiently certain by scientific standards to be admitted in evidence.

Most US courts, local and federal, will not accept lie detector tests as proof that a person is or is not telling the truth.

Judge Allen Miller, however, was of a different opinion. The courts, he said, were in great need of some way to determine when defendants and witnesses are telling the truth.

On that basis the lie detector should and could be used, the honorable judge ruled.

## BOOKS



LEON TROTSKY:  
Germany 1931/1932  
Paperback £1.25—cloth £1.87  
Where Is Britain Going?  
Paperback 37p  
Revolution Betrayed  
Paperback 62p—cloth £1.05  
Problems of the Chinese Revolution  
Paperback £1.12—cloth £1.87  
Permanent Revolution:  
Results and Prospects  
Paperback 75p  
In Defence of Marxism  
Paperback 75p  
Lessons of October  
Paperback 60p

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



# Fighting the Tories' rent Act

## Rebels' last stand collapses in the

**THE CAPITULATION to the Tory Housing Finance Act by the Eccles Labour group, near Manchester, was only made possible by the defection of those who had previously stood for non-implementation.**

When the Labour group met on Wednesday night to consider the default order made against them by the Tory government, the non-implementation policy was reversed by nine votes to seven. It was the last stand in the north-west by a rebel council.

At the meeting there was a stampede to become respectable and law-abiding led by group leader Cllr Ken Edwards.

Most craven excuses were put forward for implementing. The worst was the one claiming that it would be better to implement, avoiding the surcharge and consequent disqualification from the council.

A number of councillors who had not attended regularly had turned out for the kill and seized this pathetic argument with relish. Four non-implementers suddenly switched positions and voted with them to make up the nine votes.

In doing so they decided to abandon any leadership of Eccles tenants, 6,000 of whom will now be asked to pay the £1 increase from January.

## north-west

BY PHILIP WADE

The Eccles retreat came at a moment when councillors had been given more support than ever by the tenants.

On Tuesday Manchester radio had run a programme where people could phone in their support to the council. A flood of

calls inundated the programme and it had to be run over to Wednesday night.

David Lancaster, chairman of the housing committee, a consistent non-implementer, was bitterly disappointed and angry at the result when he spoke to Workers Press yesterday.

'They said in view of the fact we were only going to be surcharged and no housing commissioner would come in it surely would be better to stay on the council.'

'But that's no excuse to me and they have backed down completely from what we've said and stood for all along.'

'What I emphasized was that even if we did implement from January it had been made quite clear to us by the government that we could still be surcharged

for the rent which should have been collected from October 1 to January 1.

'I took the view that we might as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb. They were under the impression the Minister wouldn't surcharge them if they implemented. But they could be wrong and still be disqualified from the council,' said Cllr Lancaster.

He said he felt 'astonished' and shattered at such a 'body blow' to the fight many councillors had put up against the Tories.

'Now the seven intend to take the fight into the tenants' associations not to pay the increase when it is put on in January.'

The full council met last night, but there seemed no hope that it would do anything but decide finally to implement the Tory law.

# Why filmworkers are threatening

## to sit-in

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**THE FILMWORKERS' decision at a mass meeting to occupy Shepperton studios is a flat rejection of all the manoeuvrings of millionaire John Bentley and the National Film Finance Corporation.**

Since Bentley first bought British Lion in May—the assets included the advertising concern Pearl and Dean, valuable property in the centre of London and above all the Middlesex studios with its 68-acre lot in the heart of the stockbroker belt—he has been looking for a way to dispose of these rich assets.

The old board of British Lion was no obstacle. Out of Bentley's initial offer of £5m the Boulting twins made a personal killing of £455,000 apiece, Lord Goodman and Sir Max Rayne £240,000.

The National Film Finance Corporation presented greater problems. It was in possession of a controlling preference share of British Lion and was bound by a pledge given by Edward Heath, the then Secretary for Industry in 1964.

It stated: 'These provisions, which will be permanently effective, should ensure that no purchaser of British Lion can strip it of its assets or do anything but continue to oper-

ate it as a going concern.' Bentley made it clear that if he didn't get his way he would close the studios immediately. The bankers on the NFFC board have agreed to his proposals without too much persuasion.

These are: development of 40 acres of the studio lot as a housing estate for the rich; demolition of the silent stage, the largest studio of its kind in Europe, and of five smaller stages; development of the five-acre front of the studio as an office block; and 180 redundancies.

Currently Bentley is offering shares of a new company now known as Lion International, which comprises the old British Lion and Bentley's advertising company of Mills and Allen and Leonard Ripley.

This merger was carried out in the following way: British Lion bought Mills and Allen and Leo-



nard Ripley from Barclay Securities—another of Bentley's enterprises—for a total of £9.66m, a paper transaction in shares which gives Barclay Securities an additional 3,537,500 ordinary shares.

Barclay Securities already hold 2,380,818 shares in British Lion. Thus their total holdings in Lion International is 5.9 million shares which, at 160p a share, is valued at £9.44m.

Add £4m in £1 preference shares and the total value of Barclay's holdings is £13.44m. Deduct the cost of buying shares initially in British Lion and deduct the value of Mills and Allen and Leonard Ripley, and Bentley has made a net profit of £6.48m.

All this is paper profit and can only be converted into cash by selling the shares on the market. This is what Bentley is currently doing.

By offering about a mil-

lion shares, he hopes to raise £1.6m in cash and hold 5 million shares in the new company of Lion International.

This profiteering and speculation goes on while the studios are destroyed and 180 workers are thrown onto the dole.

Any guarantee that film production will continue in the reconstructed Shepperton is sales talk. The proposals will reduce the capability of the studios completely. It will no longer be a major international studio and eventually must close.

It is to this that the workers of Shepperton are saying no and are determined to fight.

But the fight for the right to work can only be a political one. Nationalization of the studios under workers' control without compensation is the only guarantee for the future of film production.

Such a fight can only be

won for all industries suffering in this crisis by a fight of the trade union movement as a whole to bring down the Tory government and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

There is no other way. All the issues of the bankruptcy of capitalism, the rampant speculation at the expense of the livelihoods of skilled men and women, are contained in the Shepperton issue.

The question before the working class is jobs not profit, socialism and an end to capitalism once and for all.

● A mass meeting of the Federation of Film Unions is planned during the next fortnight to pledge full support for the Shepperton workers. The main union involved, the ACTT, is also taking steps to ensure co-ordination of action to fight the closure.

Some of the best sound stages in Europe at Shepperton in Middlesex—Scene of some of the biggest UK and US film productions during the 1960s—now doomed under the Bentley asset-stripping plan for the studios.

## ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

**BIRKENHEAD:** Sunday November 19, 7.30 p.m. Pier Hotel, Woodside.

**CORBY:** Sunday November 19, 7.30 p.m. Nag's Head, Old Village.

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

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

**WEALDSTONE:** Tuesday, November 21, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Station Road.

Fight Rising Prices  
Force the Tories to Resign

**CROYDON:** Monday November 20, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road, South Croydon.

**WANDSWORTH:** Tuesday November 21, 8 p.m. Balham Baths, Elmfield Road.

**BARKING:** Tuesday November 21, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, corner of Fanshawe Avenue/Longbridge Road.

**DEPTFORD:** Thursday November 23, 8 p.m. Engineers' Club, New Cross Road.

**ACTON:** Monday November 27, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, High Road.

**WEST LONDON:** Tuesday November 28, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, King's Cross.

## No inquiry into Lewisham force-Carr

**ROBERT CARR, the new Home Secretary, has rejected a request by the London borough of Lewisham to set up an independent inquiry into relations between the police and coloured immigrants.**

The council called for an inquiry 'to restore the confidence of black and white residents to diminish racial tensions and to restore police morale.'

Lewisham police have been accused of victimizing immigrants, particularly teenagers. There have been a number of claims alleging police brutality.

In a recent report the council's community relations officer, Asquith Gibbes, said that 'underlying psychological fears created by the police' were compounding immigrants' problems. He quoted the case of a Nigerian who

claimed he was assaulted by police but was afraid to complain because police threatened to 'do him up'.

The Home Office has told the council:

'A special inquiry set up by the Home Secretary on the problems of a particular area would be justified only if there appeared to be major defects of police organization which were causing grave and widespread public concern and which had not been clearly identified by ordinary methods of investigation.'

'The Home Secretary has no evidence which leads him to believe that such defects exist in Lewisham.'

## Fear for health service

**HEALTH WORKERS feel that the government's proposals to reorganize the National Health Service will effectively block its expansion and encourage the growth of private practice.**

A meeting organized by Camden Trades Council and the Socialist Medical Association this week was told that the government's projected Bill—likely to become law by Easter—would place local administration of the Service in the hands of business managers.

Bernard Dix of the National Union of Public Employees said the government's plan was to have a series of appointed committees which would have no health workers on them.

A basic prerequisite for expanding the Health Service, said Mr Dix, was to remove the private option altogether.

## BRIEFLY

**RANK XEROX workers, on strike for 11 days at Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, met yesterday to consider their next move after management threats to lay them off if they stay out much longer. They are backing 45 warehousemen who want to be upgraded and receive £3 a week more.**

**LORD BOYLE, vice-chancellor of Leeds University, said yesterday that present student maintenance grants were neither fair to the students nor helpful to good university management. Lord Boyle, former Tory Education Minister, was presenting his annual statement to a meeting of the university court.**

The bed and board element in the students grant which had gone up by only 3.5 per cent in the last year was 'a pale reflection of the rise in the cost of living since September 1971, and it is our view that the amount was too low even at that time'.

