

WORKERS PRESS

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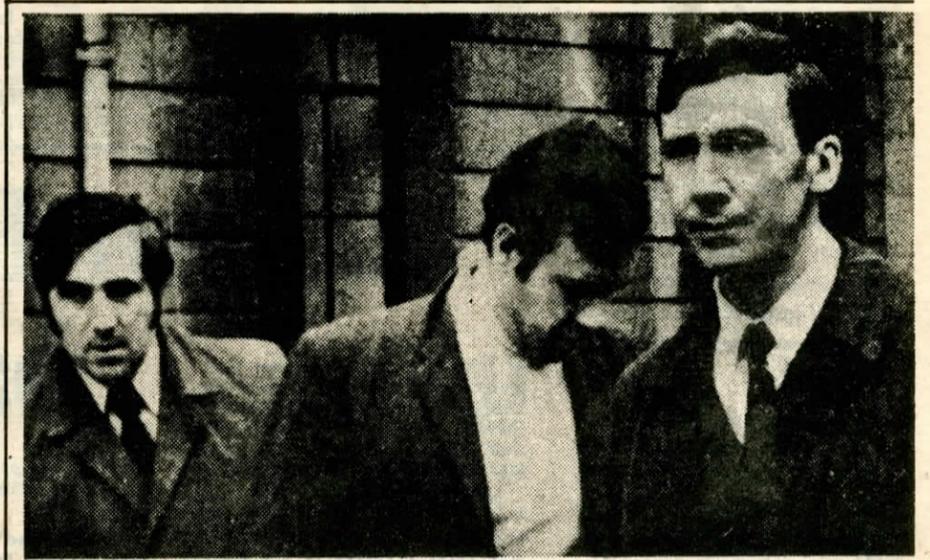
DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

CRISIS-HIT GOVT HAS WITCH-HUNT READY

TORIES PLAN

'RED SCARE'

ELECTION



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Irish bomb squad caught

MI5 man

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE TORY Party has a contingency plan to witch-hunt left-wing groups if it is forced to an early General Election.

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You've done it!
— see p.12

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But the provocation will also serve another purpose: it will create the conditions under which the Tories can introduce violently repressive legislation.

The real purpose of the legislation will be to smash all those sections of the labour and trade union movement who oppose the Tories' policies. This means that legal intimidation will be used against all those who want to fight soaring prices, increasing rents, the attacks on the unions, unemployment and closures in industry.

Workers Press has been told some of the details of this Tory strategy. We have decided to publish the information already learned as a warning to all movements on the left—the Communist Party, International Marxist Group and International Socialists.

The information emanates from the highest quarter of the Tory Party. In a private discussion the Tory said there would be no immediate acts of repression against the left.

But he went on: 'It's our last card in the pack. If we are forced to go to the country, we have everything we need for a scare



Heath... corporatist legislation

on the left.' He specifically mentioned the Socialist Labour League as one of the targets.

The Tories have developed this sinister strategy because they know they have outrun any mandate to rule. This is an illegal government which has broken every pledge made at the 1970 General Election.

● Prices have risen by more than 23 per cent despite a promise to housewives that they would be cut 'at a stroke'.

● Britain has been railroaded into a reactionary conspiracy of monopolies called the Common Market against the wishes of the vast majority of the population.

● Remember 'Fair Deal at Work'? That was the Tories' election pledge to 'reform' the unions. It became the Industrial Relations Act and the NIRC. Since then five trade unionists have been jailed and their unions are getting massive fines.

● Remember the 'Fair Rents' policy? This became the Housing Finance Act which has put up council rents by £1 and eventually intends to double them. Was this mentioned during the Tories' electioneering?

● They have deliberately pursued a 'shake-out' in industry which has raised the number of jobless to post-war record figures. Yet in the election they promised to cut the number of unemployed.

Driven by the depth of the economic crisis the Tories must lash out with even more reactionary plans. If any worker thinks the first two and a half years of Heath rule has been savage, he had better steel himself for the next period.

Already the Tories have drafted Phase Two of the state pay plan which is an attempt to impose state 'norms' on wage levels. If workers or their unions defy these 'norms' the Tories will use the power of the criminal courts and unlimited fines to break them.

The arithmetic of this situation is brutally simple: real wages are slashed by the rising cost of living. The working class, the mass of the population and the producers of wealth, have their standard of living forfeited so that the speculators and bankers can hang onto their bankrupt system.

And while wages are being held down by Heath's corporatist legislation, prices will be allowed to soar uncontrollably. Entry into the Common Market in a few

Turn to page 2

By OUR OWN REPORTER
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The rate has gone up twice already this month. Latest rise was of 1 per cent.

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Defiant Hanoi broadcast US bombs will not bend us

NORTH VIETNAM's Defence Minister Vo Nguyen Giap said yesterday US bombs may raze Hanoi and Haiphong but they will not bend the will of the Vietnamese people.

Giap was speaking on the anniversary of the founding of the North Vietnamese Army as the country weathered unprecedented bombing attacks from US warplanes.

He accused the United States of starting the Vietnam war, 'the largest and bloodiest of its kind as well as the largest popular struggle since World War II'.

General Giap, who led the Viet Minh to victory against the French at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 told his listeners: 'The US hopes to bend the will of the Vietnamese people by mass bombings of North Vietnam.'

says Gen. Giap

'This will prove to be an illusion. Hanoi, Haiphong and other cities may be bombed and even razed, but the will of the Vietnamese people will never give.'

As a mark of their defiance the North Vietnamese gunners have already shot down 15 B52 heavy bombers, each valued at \$8m.

Several of the US Air Force's swing-wing F-111 fighters have also been lost and the number of American prisoners in North Vietnamese hands is mounting.

Giap's defiant statement is in marked contrast to the muted criticism of the

US uttered in Moscow by Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev.

Brezhnev made the usual ritual denunciation of the US role in the war, but went out of his way to indicate the Kremlin's 'active support' for promoting a 'just peace settlement'.

They go along with the fraudulent talk of the United States President and his minions that peace is attainable in Indo-China. Yet the North Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front have just broken off all talks with the Americans and the White House has declared that the bombing will continue at its present level.

There can be no peace in Indo-China until the last American soldier is driven out and the puppet dictators propped up by the imperialists are overthrown.



Giap... led victorious Viet Minh.

Krivine verdict: January 10

BY OUR OWN
CORRESPONDENT

ALAIN KRIVINE, leader of the revisionist 'Ligue Communiste', appeared in a Paris court this week charged under the 'loi anti-casseur' intended to deal with demonstrators.

The charge arose out of a demonstration outside the US embassy in October to protest against the war in Vietnam, during which a number of windows were broken. Besides attacking the law, Krivine called in his defence two prominent Paris doctors who had visited North Vietnam.

They described how they had seen hospitals which had been destroyed despite bearing large red crosses, and examined victims of napalm and anti-personnel bombs.

The prosecutor launched an attack on Krivine and his co-defendant, Michel Recanti, describing their arguments as jesuitical. He demanded suspended prison sentences. Judgement will be pronounced on January, 10.

DESPITE the renewed terror bombing by the Americans in Vietnam the Soviet bureaucracy intends to stick to its peaceful co-existence course of seeking a world-wide deal with imperialism.

This was made clear in the policy speech made by Leonid Brezhnev, Soviet Communist Party secretary, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

He paid particular tribute to the efforts made by General de Gaulle and President Pompidou

of France, as well as West Germany's Willy Brandt. He extended his praise to the United States 'which has shown readiness to depart from many dogmas dating from the cold war'.

In the light of the news from Vietnam, Brezhnev's diplomatic phrases must have had a hollow ring even to many of his audience. He emphasized the Soviet Union's desire to see a European Security Pact to confirm the existing *status quo* and said

... but Brezhnev bends backwards

that the Soviet Union was ready for co-operation with the Common Market.

Despite the customary reference to the continuing struggle between the 'two systems' in the spheres of economics, politics and ideology, the predominating emphasis in his speech was on

speeding up the detente with the imperialist world.

Brezhnev had some words for the Chinese which led the Peking ambassador to walk out of the gathering. He accused them of making absurd claims to Soviet territory, slandering the Soviet Union and obstruct-

ing its efforts to end the arms race.

True to the bureaucracy's technique of blaming your enemies for what you are trying to do yourself, he accused Peking of siding with British Tories, revenge-seeking West Germans and the Portuguese and South African racials.

He missed out the Greek and Spanish fascists with whom the east European countries have been conspicuously successful in establishing contacts.

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TORIES PLAN 'RED SCARE' ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

days' time will intensify the dramatic rise in the cost of living.

The emerging political situation has been vividly described by Brigadier Frank Kitson, head of the Infantry Training School at Warminster. In his most recent book, Kitson says:

'If a genuine and serious grievance arose such as might result from a significant drop in the standard of living, all those who now dissipate their protest over a wide variety of causes might concentrate their efforts and produce a situation which was beyond the power of the police to handle. Should this happen, the army would be required to restore the position rapidly.'

Kitson is the army's 'expert' on counter-subversion. He first put to practical use the idea of 'counter-gangs'—the infiltration of anti-imperialist groups by agents provocateur.

In Kenya these agents adopted the uniforms, slogans and hide-out of the Mau-Mau. While they pretended to be on the side of the Mau-Mau, they pursued a policy of assassinating its leaders and handing them over to the British imperialists.

It was Kitson's pet subject, 'subversion', which received an airing in the House of Commons on Monday this week.

The debate, called 'Industry (Trade Unions' Role)', was initiated by Sir Edward Brown, Tory MP for Bath, a former Tory Party chairman.

He led a lengthy tirade against communist infiltration of the unions, relying for much of his information on the discredited series of articles in the 'News of the World' called 'The Strife Makers'.

Brown was joined by another extreme right-winger, Sir Frederick Bennett, MP for Torquay. He read a list of names of

trade unionists whom he claimed were members of the Communist Party's national executive.

The final reply to the debate came from Mr Robin Chichester-Clark, junior Employment Minister, and brother of Captain James Chichester-Clark, ex-Stormont premier.

It was a carefully-prepared speech written with the help of his political advisers at the department.

Chichester-Clark, an Ulster Unionist, put forward the view that when trade union militancy 'threatens the safety of the nation or to undermine parliamentary democracy by industrial or violent means, it becomes subversion'.

This 'theory' needs considerable study. What the minister is saying is that trade unionists can be militant. He doesn't seem to mind that. But if their militancy extends to industrial action it becomes 'subversion'.

These statements were made on the day that more than 100,000 engineers in London, Oxford, Dagenham and Portsmouth came out on strike, thus halting large sections of the car industry and the national Press.

The implication was clear enough—the engineers and the trade unionists who supported them were committing 'subversion' and the government was preparing to combat it. This is precisely the conclusion which was drawn in the next day's capitalist newspapers.

Chichester-Clark then went on to talk about the 'small minorities who hold the country to ransom'. He drew an essential demarcation between the policies of the Communist Party and the other left-wing groups.

'The Communist Party wants to take over at least the outward structure of the system,' he said. 'We probably all accept that. That is where it differs from

the Trotskyists and Maoists to its left.'

Winding up the minister said: 'The majority of trade unionists recoil at the thought of threats to the fabric of our society. However, whether such threats come from over-stretched militancy or whether they come from subversion, if a threat is made to our democratic institutions, to our electoral processes, or, indeed, to the will of the electorate, it must be met, for no government can afford to be left simply with the trappings of office, as some have been, when real power lies elsewhere.'

And this, of course, is the central dilemma facing the Tory government. It is trying to uphold a bankrupt and parasitic system in the face of a world-wide economic crisis.

Yet breathing down its neck is a determined and united working class which will not surrender its rights and its standard of living.

The 'Strife Makers', the 'small group of men holding the country to ransom' are the Tories. This despised clique shows complete contempt for parliament and the wishes of the majority of people who make up the labour and trade union movement.

Their plans to stage provocations and witch-hunts can only be beaten by calling their bluff. Instead of going to new talks with Heath on January 4 the TUC leaders should be calling for an all-out industrial mobilization to force this government out of office.

Each day longer the Tories remain in office they are able better to prepare their offensive against the working class.

● Force the Tories out.
● Elect a Labour government pledged to the nationalization of basic industry and the repeal of all anti-working class legislation.

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Fighting the Tories' rent Act

BY PHILIP WADE Our housing correspondent

Glasgow led into a trap

THE SURRENDER to the Tory government over the 'fair rents' Act by Glasgow Labourites represents a gross betrayal of the city's 150,000 tenants.

For weeks tenants have in effect been led into a trap by the Labour-controlled corporation.

But, for a whole group of councillors, the politics of class-collaboration eventually proved stronger than the principle of fighting on behalf of the working class.

What really scared the 33 Labourites was the prospect of being jailed or fined following the court order made against them on Monday.

As soon as that became the situation, council leader Richard Dynes became converted to the 'rule of law'. Turning his back on the working class he said: 'We always knew we were fighting the law and could not defend ourselves. There was no point in trying to fight the court action.'

Crossed over

So on Thursday afternoon Dynes recommended to his council that the Act be implemented. Although 41 Labour councillors still voted for non-implementation, another 33 crossed over, voting with the Tories to swing the day for the government.

Cllr Dynes proved beyond all doubt the bankruptcy of reformism when he declared that if the law was not obeyed, the Labour Party would be destroyed in Glasgow.

Faced with a direct challenge from the Tories—which poses the question of the government's resignation—the leadership at Glasgow simply caved in to become respectable once more.

The city's 150,000 tenants now face rent increases after Christmas. Undoubtedly they will also draw some conclusions about the rottenness of their leadership at the town hall.

£8m threat

MEANWHILE, the Tories are using their powers under the Housing Finance Act to threaten Camden council in north London with the loss of £8m housing subsidies.

Environment Minister Geoffrey Rippon seems determined not to provoke the issue directly in Camden by sending in a Housing Commissioner or ordering an extraordinary audit of the accounts.

Instead he has written to Camden and said if they do not implement the Housing Finance Act within three weeks, the council is liable to lose the £4m subsidy due to be paid after Christmas.

In addition, Camden could lose the subsidy for the 1973-1974 financial year.

Rate rise

At a council meeting on Thursday night, Peter Best, deputy council leader, said if the subsidy was lost, rates would have to rise 25p in the £.

Camden will make a decision in January on whether to continue resisting the Tory government.

THE 100-per-cent Labour council at Hoyland, near Barnsley, has accumulated a rent deficit of £7,000 because tenants have been refusing to pay increases for nine weeks.

President of Hoyland and District Tenants' Association, lorry driver Les Levitt, told Workers Press that the Labour councillors now claim they would not have implemented the Tory Act 'if they had known they had the people behind them'.

The council decided to implement by five votes to three.

Rent strike tenants blast implementers

The five who favoured implementation—councillors Smith, McKay, Foster, Froggatt and Wildsmith—were recently invited to meet the tenants. All attended except Mrs Wildsmith.

They were asked why they had not sought to find out what the feeling of the voters was, and told that if they regretted implementing the Act they should immediately reverse their decision.

The councillors claimed this would take six months.

Hoyland tenants reject this completely. Les Levitt points out that when the nearby Dodsworth Labour council reversed a decision not to evict tenants who refuse to pay the increase it only required one meeting.

The refusal to pay the increases, the tenants' president said will continue. Of the three Labour councillors who voted against implementation—councillors Eaden, Loy and Ashmore—the first two are among tenants refusing to pay.

The tenants have issued the councillors with a three-point programme.

● No action must be taken against any tenants.

● Should they reverse their implementation decision they will have 100-per-cent support from every tenant.

● No further increases must be imposed.

A special meeting of the council is to be held shortly which will be attended by the tenants' committee.

Builders' picket may face prosecution

EVEN BEFORE the Tories' new special police anti-picket squad gets off the ground, the fruits of stepped-up police harassment of strikers are beginning to emerge.

The building trades employers have already co-operated to the hilt with police inquiries into incidents

alleged to have taken place during the builders' strike.

Now Shropshire police say that inquiries which have ranged into North Wales and the north-west are complete.

Assistant Chief Constable of West Mercia, Alexander Rennie, said: 'A file has been

passed to the Director of Public Prosecutions concerning incidents in Shrewsbury and Telford on September 6 during the building strike.'

It is being claimed that thousands of pounds worth of damage was done when builders' pickets arrived at various sites in a fleet of cars.

New jobs threat looms at BSA

WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

FRESH FACTS released this week indicate that the plight of the Birmingham Small Arms Co may be worse than anyone has so far suspected.

BSA-Triumph have announced that from January 1 prices will be reduced on sections of its world famous motor-cycle range to make them more competitive.

The cuts range from £65 to £84 and will restore near-comparability between the prices of BSA and Japanese bikes.

The company has been in trouble since 1968, when foreign competition at home and in export markets like America wiped about £2½m off profits.

Over the past four years the company's plight went from bad to worse with losses at one time standing at £8.2m.

In a prolonged effort to push down costs thousands of men have been sacked, productivity jacked up and wage-rises kept to a minimum.

Coming on the back of these changes, the cuts represent a last desperate bid by BSA to wrest back the motor-cycle market from the Japanese.

In the past few years bikes made by Honda, Suzuki, Yamaha and Kawasaki have swept the British market at prices up to £100 cheaper than those of BSA.

In addition the Japanese companies' 'super bikes' have come to be recognized by trade and customers alike as superior to their British counterparts in both performance and finish.

Market experts say the point has now been reached where

British bikes have almost no chance of fending off Japanese competition.

In addition to the price cuts the company has also been forced to ask the Tory government for a £6m handout. No decision has yet been made. BSA have overdrafts totalling £6.3m.

The company's liquidity crisis is so severe that BSA have been compelled to sell off 21 acres of ground to Birmingham Corporation to raise just under £1m.

Significantly workers' sports facilities were part of the parcel. Perhaps BSA sense they may not need them at all in the very near future.



Part of the BSA plant in Birmingham.

Dues 'check off' deal with G&MWU

THE General and Municipal Workers' Union has agreed with management at the CAV, Acton, west London, factory a scheme for deducting union contributions out of members' pay packets.

This is despite the fact that the joint shop stewards' committee passed a resolution over two years ago turning down management's offer to operate the so-called 'check-off system'.

Now the G&MWU's factory collectors have been called together and told the system will operate as far as they are concerned.

For the union bureaucracy the system means less contact with the rank and file and no subscription arrears. Management will automatically be handed details of who and where the G&MWU's members are in the plant, and of the union's numerical strength.

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' north London district committee remains opposed to the system.

'Illegal' New Year

IF MERTHYR TYDFIL borough council agrees a recommendation from its finance and general purposes committee, manual workers and craftsmen employed by the authority will be given New Year's Day off.

But the decision will be a breach of the Tory government's standstill on wages, hours and holidays.

Alderman Gerry Donovan commented: 'I believe we are

justified in granting this extra day to all our workers even if it does infringe the government's freeze.'

He added: 'There is always a terrific amount of absenteeism on New Year's Day and I think we have to face up to reality by making it a holiday.'

Tory Secretary of State for Employment, Maurice Macmillan, is empowered to issue an order to prevent Merthyr council from granting its workers the extra day's holiday and to impose penalties for any breach.

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PANIC STRIFE AND SCANDAL ROCK THE RULING CLASS

By ALEX MITCHELL

During the period of 'economic boom' up to the mid-1960s, the British ruling class stood shoulder-to-shoulder exuding smugness and piety.

Fortunes in paper money were made based on the roaring supremacy of the dollar. The agreement at Bretton Woods had set in motion an inflationary programme to restore capitalism in western Europe and to buy off the resurgent militancy of the working class following the war.

As a direct consequence of the economic climate a new generation of speculators and financial whizz-kids came on the scene. By the end of the 1960s they had elbowed out the more sober aristocrats of industry who had built their empires on the cast-iron law that real value came out of the backs of workers.

The new boys had no stomach for class warfare when their fortunes could simply be made by a 'rip off' on the Stock Exchange or in a property transaction.

But like their fathers and grandfathers they adopted the attitude that their system was inviolate, that their position was unchallengeable.

Some embarrassments and

disagreements did arise. The collapse of one or two big companies—Rolls Razor, for example—and the unfortunate scenes involving Mr John Profumo and Miss Christine Keeler were sent to try them. There were some trivial arguments about 'Macmillanism', the dreaded theory that old Harold was some kind of creeping lefty.

But these 'minor' issues were weathered with reasonable equanimity. The Tory Press, the City of London, the Tories at Westminster, the Confederation of British Industry, stood like a self-approving edifice in which never a cross word was spoken.

The economic crisis has changed all that. Scarcely a day goes by when there is not some open recrimination between one section of the ruling class and another. Michael Clapham, the CBI president, was recently caught sniping at the government's economic forecasts; the chairmanship of the 1922 committee, the influential backbench committee of the Tory Party, has been captured by a well-known critic of the Heath leadership, Edward du Cann, head of merchant bankers, Keyser Ullman; when Robert Carr presented new immigration regulations to the House of Commons last month he was resoundingly defeated by a big abstention from among his own supporters; during the two recent

by-elections local Tories openly backed more extreme right-wing candidates; sections of the Tory Press have started to criticize Heath's style of government and call for much tougher action against the working class.

The depth of the economic crisis and the resistance of the working class is driving a double-edged blade into the ribs of the ruling class.

The predominant mood in these circles is, inevitably, a big shift to the right. In their blindly desperate attempt to hold on to profits, the leaders of big business want the government to unleash an all-out attack on the working class.

They have the deepest misgivings about the way Heath settled the miners' strike and they feel the release of the five dockers from Pentonville was also a 'capitulation'.

A BLOODY NOSE

It would have suited the ruling class to have inflicted a major defeat on the working class prior to entry into the Common Market.

But whenever they attempted a confrontation this year—the miners, the railwaymen, the dockers and now the engineers—the working class gave Heath a bloody nose. He was forced, therefore, to seek what amounted to 'bureau-



cratic' means temporarily to rescue the economic situation. In July the pound was floated, which effectively meant a steady devaluation.

But instead of alleviating the economic and political crisis, Heath only intensified it.

He will proceed into the Common Market in just over a week's time with a sick currency and an undefeated and militant working class.

It is against this national background and the continuing world inflationary crisis that the ranking in the ruling class must be viewed. Workers Press has compiled a series of viewpoints which are beginning to emerge in these circles.

These people aren't pussy-footing anymore. They want a showdown with the trade unions and the use of the police and the army is freely mentioned.

'The Director', the monthly magazine of the Institute of Directors, has just published the results of a survey carried out among 3,000 directors.

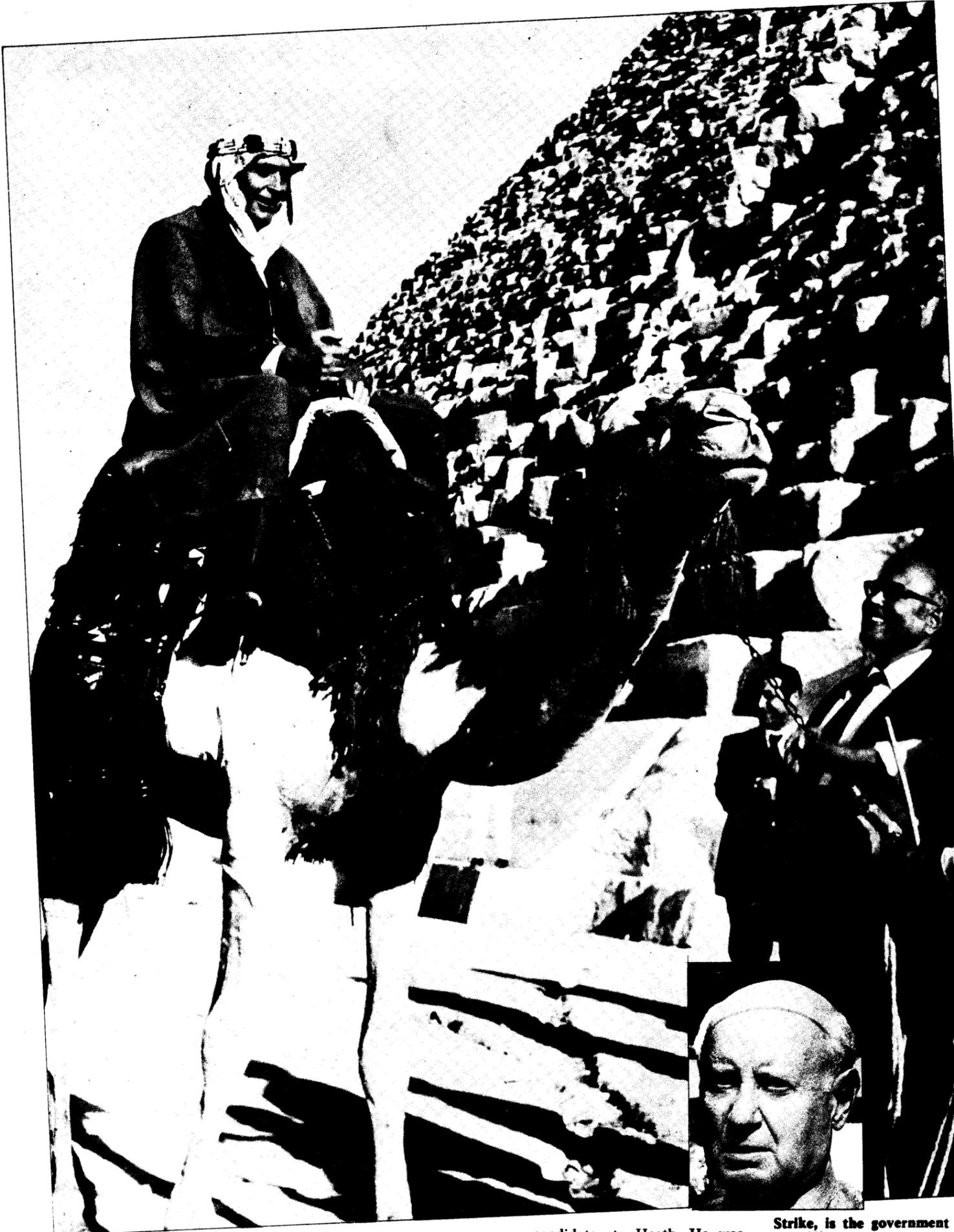
The answers reflect the growing disenchantment with Heath's policies. Asked if the government had abandoned its

original economic objectives, 70 per cent of them replied 'Yes'.

Nigel Broackes, head of Trafalgar Investments and a close collaborator with the financial wing of the party, had no hesitation in saying: 'One criticizes the new policies, the over-late acceptance of their necessity, and the consequent haste with which they were introduced—particularly the indiscriminate subsidies to British shipyards, which seemed ridiculous in their form.'

Mr J. Martin Ritchie, head of the Bowater group, the largest newsprint company in the world (which, incidentally Broackes was recently trying to take over) said: 'The present government have abandoned the principles under which they were elected with the result that we are now in a period of roaring inflation and the present initiative is unlikely to succeed as long as it is on a voluntary basis.'

Other respondents to 'The Director's' questionnaire preferred to remain anonymous. The chief executive of a leisure group said he particularly wanted to attack the govern-



But let us see what else Mr Harrington sees in the crystal ball of the bourgeoisie.

Harrington points out that the ruling class put in eight years of patient planning to defeat the 1926 General Strike. He goes on:

'Defeating a General Strike consists, essentially, in keeping the community going somehow or other without the work done by the men on strike, and being able to do so indefinitely. In 1926 there was a vast reservoir of volunteer middle class labour, particularly students, on which the government could draw? Would this help be forthcoming in 1973? On the face of it, it seems a bit unlikely, particularly so far as the students are concerned.

'Which means that the government would have to rely on the instruments of public force: the police and the army. The crunch could occur when the government, faced with a strike in an essential public service, in support of a wage demand above the "norm", decided to use troops to keep the service going, and ordered the police to take very vigorous action to deal with obstructive picketing.

'Even if the TUC avoided a General Strike call, enough unions would probably come out in sympathy to confront the government with something indistinguishable from it. Apart from anything else, there would be a serious risk of public violence on a large scale. It is most unlikely that police and strikers would play football matches with each other.'

Where do the revisionists and Stalinists stand in relation



Strike, is the government prepared?

He opened by stating: 'Since the defeat of the General Strike in 1926 it has been almost an axiom of trade union leadership that an open trial of strength with the government was to be avoided at almost any cost. This did not preclude, of course, strikes in the public sector with the government as employer.

'It meant that the government's ultimate authority should not be challenged by the unions. In present circumstances, however, this can be no longer taken for granted.'

Harrington goes on to forecast that 'the present situation contains all the essential ingredients of a period of bitter industrial strife'.

These prognostications may come as a chilling surprise to readers of the 'Daily Telegraph'. But not to ours. Basing our perspective on the world crisis of the capitalist system and the strength of the working class we have consistently warned that a showdown must sooner or later come about.

The 'Morning Star' has entirely ignored any such analysis and the revisionists in 'Socialist Worker' and the 'Red Mole' scoffed at our warnings and said we were being 'alarmist' and 'catastropheminded'.

ment's 'shilly shally to the left'.

Mr J. O. Blair-Cunynghame, chairman of the National and Commercial Banking group, urged state control over wages: 'I would wholly agree with the philosophy recently expounded by Mr Maudling in an article in "The Times" which emphasizes the nature of the profound social revolution which has been taking place during the last decade and is likely to continue into the foreseeable future.'

'The Director' added: 'And in general terms the feeling of many directors was summed up by a chairman of a fuel group as follows: "I criticize the fact that the government has retreated from its declared objectives. Politically its abandonment of objectives may make sense, but it makes for weak government which is in no one's interest."'

Another question put by 'The Director' concerned political contributions: 'Do you believe it is right for companies to give financial support to a particular political party—and would you say why or why not?'

Again, Mr J. Martin Ritchie of Bowaters comes up with an incisive comment: 'We subscribe to the Conservative

Party because we are led to believe that it is a party which supports free enterprise. In the main I think that this is still true...'

But what an astonishing equivocation! He says they were 'led to believe' that the Tories would look after their interests. Now they're not so sure. Perhaps Bowaters may be inclined to put money into some other political formation which could possibly deliver the goods—that is the only conclusion to draw from his remarks.

This same sentiment is expressed more concisely by Mr W. M. Vernon, chairman of Spillers, the giant flour and bread firm: 'My own company supports the Conservative Party,' he says, 'in the belief that it is absolutely crucial to stop the Labour Party in the long-term interests of all businesses. We would confess that our doubts as to the wisdom of continuing to support the Conservative Party grows daily.'

The Tory-owned 'Daily Telegraph' has never been particularly at home with Edward Heath.

When the battle for the leadership was in progress in the mid-1960s the 'Telegraph' fancied almost all the other

candidates to Heath. He was not an aristocrat, he wasn't even a major figure in the financial or industrial establishment. He was a bachelor organ-player from Broadstairs—which doesn't count much with the Berry family.

It was inevitable, however, that once he was elected the 'Telegraph' would give the leader unbridled support. This has been forthcoming until the past few weeks—since, in fact, the results of the Sutton and Cheam by-election.

JOKE CANDIDATE

As we pointed out at the time, the hidebound Tory voters in this locality gave Heath a conscious rebuff. They moved *en masse* away from their traditional Tory allegiances and voted for the joke candidate from the Liberal Party.

The following Tuesday, December 12, the 'Telegraph' began publishing a series of major feature articles pointing the way forward for the Heath government. In the most astonishing of these pieces a certain 'Michael Harrington' asked and answered the question: 'If a wages confrontation leads to some kind of General

to this scenario which is roughly what the Workers Press has been saying since this crisis-ridden government took office?

The 'Red Mole' is buried deep in its hole of confusion while the 'Morning Star' attempts might and main to pursue its policy of 'pressure on the government' to gain some kind of mythical reforms.

There are no possible reforms: there are no possible compromises. By suggesting that there is a way out the Stalinists, who are tailended politically by International Socialists (IS) and International Marxist Group (IMG) disarm the working class as to the nature of the impending clash.

The crisis running through British capitalism is deep. And the government trying to resolve the situation at the expense of the working class is weak. This does not mean that the Tories will go down without a fight. But their offensive will be against a powerful and undefeated working class.

Only one political demand meets the contingencies of today's situation: the Tories must be forced out of office before they have a chance of implementing any of their vicious plans.

CHRISTMAS THE GREAT PRICE HIKE

Between the time markets closed last weekend and reopened on Monday morning the prices of some foods doubled. As working-class housewives staggered home with their bulging bags of Christmas shopping their verdict on this year's holiday prices was: 'It's horrible.' Housewives moved among the stalls at London's Brixton market last week checking and cross-checking prices to find the cheapest buy and counting and recounting the notes and cash in their purses. Many complained that the prices of essentials like bacon, milk, sugar and bread had risen higher than ever, but the really savage increases were in the things families needed specially for Christmas. Oranges had leapt by 40p to 50p a case pushing the price up to over 12p a pound. Grapes had soared from £1.60 to £1.90 for a 10lb bag, pushing the price up to by 10p a pound to shoppers. Tomatoes rose by 33 per cent since Saturday, going up from 70p to £1.05 a case—a price hike on the counters of about 7p a pound. Stallholders claimed the price of all vegetables would skyrocket by the end of this week, particularly Brussels sprouts, parsnips, and greens. And they warned that this year wholesalers will try to stabilize prices at the new inflated Christmas levels. Three miles away in London's West End the fur-coated and bowler-hatted chauffeur-driven rich strolling in and out of the millionaires' row shops of Bond Street and Piccadilly seemed oblivious of the price hike. Whatever the charge they paid it. Everything from champagne to diamonds found its way into their bags providing London's top shops with what they claim as a record Christmas boom. This year's prices in Britain are bad enough. In Ireland, where the cost of living is now said to be the highest in Europe, housewives unable to shop without a purseful of fivers might as well stay at home. Prices across the Irish Sea are a foretaste of what is to come in Britain and IAN YEATS went to Dublin to look in detail at the charges workers are being asked to pay this Christmas.



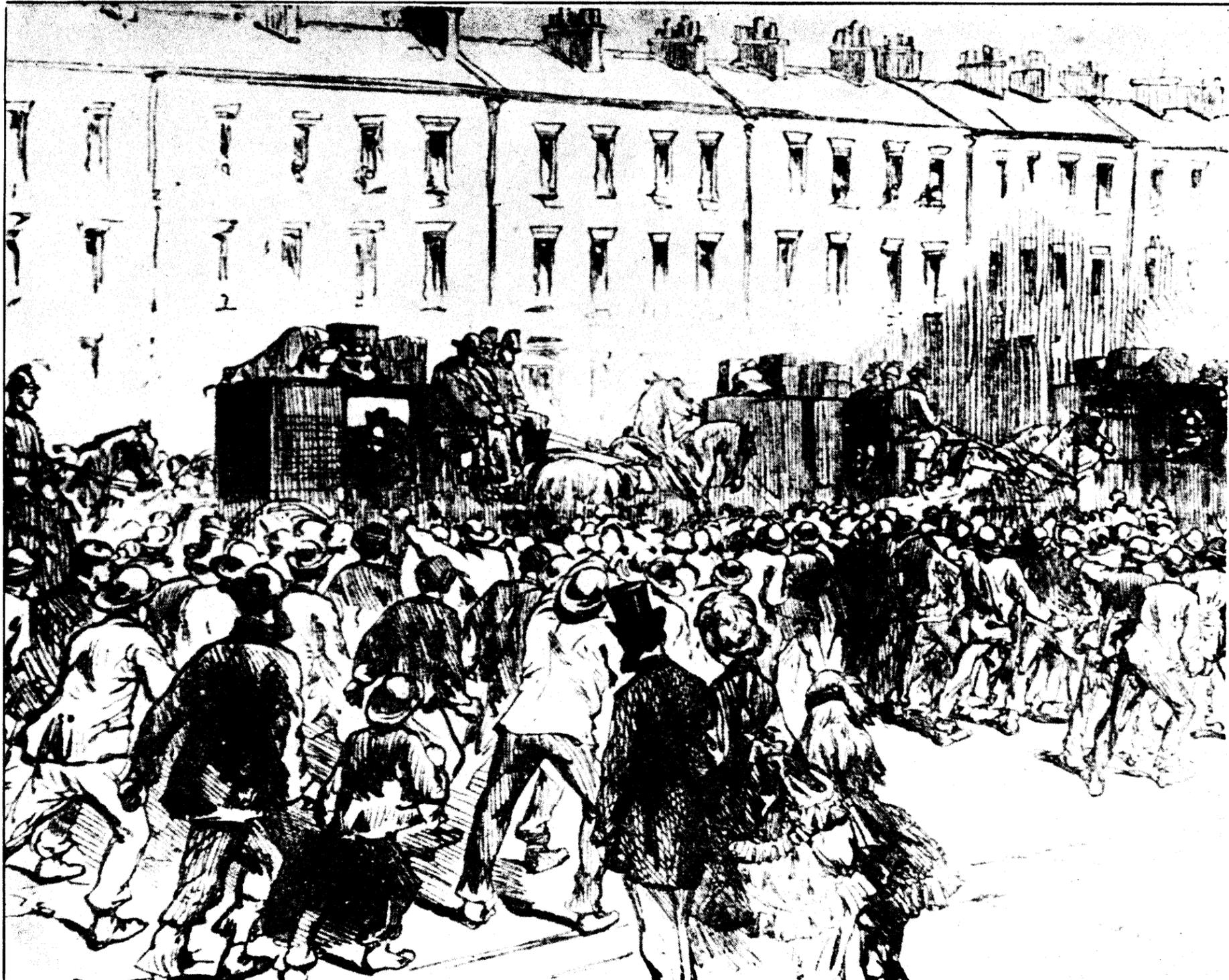
IRELAND: THE WORST IN EUROPE

Mrs Margaret Murphy frowned as she picked over packets of pre-packed frozen meat in a Dublin supermarket. She moved slowly along the length of the giant brimful refrigerator, her hand turning over packet after packet and letting it fall back again after she had looked at the price. A small boy tugged impatiently at her arm baffled by the still empty shopping trolley. 'Will we get a balloon?' he asked and Mrs Murphy told him to be quiet. She had good reason to be irritable and he had good reason to be puzzled. The fridges and shelves at Williams' Henry Street supermarket were piled high with all kinds of tins and packets. Yet Mrs Murphy's trolley remained empty. The boy clearly wondered why his mother did not simply take what she needed from the crowded shelves and be done with it so that he could get outside quickly and buy a balloon from the street sellers. If his mother hesitated, it was because the beef joints she was looking at had risen 31.93 per cent in price in the last year compared to the average 9 per cent increase in her husband's pay. Since last August, beef prices rose on average by 30 per cent, mutton 25 per cent, pork and bacon 20 per cent and fish 30 per cent. Lowest price rises were in poultry, at only 6 per cent. A beef joint could have cost Mrs Murphy £2.50 in Dublin shops and, taken together with only one item—rent at about £6 a week—it would have accounted for a third of her husband's average weekly earnings. Mrs Murphy said: 'The prices are scandalous. You cannot afford meat any more if you've got children to keep. Everything's gone up, but particularly the essentials which we cannot do without. You need two wages in a week to keep up with it.'

The dramatic rise in beef prices has been directly triggered by entry into the Common Market. A Kilkenny rancher farming 400 acres told me that his selling prices had doubled in the past year because of EEC demand for Ireland's large cattle. While the big ranchers drive around in expensive, imported German Mercedes, workers' wives like Mrs Murphy can hardly afford to buy meat at all. In the first three months of 1972 alone the value of all animals exported rose by £3m, of which cattle accounted for over two-thirds. Last week a £25m deal for frozen meat was signed by Irish farmers with the EEC. Often from necessity potatoes have for decades formed part of the staple diet of Irish workers. Garnished with slices of pork or ham they are still the main meal in many homes. In the past 12 months the price has risen by 36.75 per cent. Yet in Britain last year it cost taxpayers £33m to dispose of 14 million tons of SURPLUS potatoes. This year the surplus still stands at 500,000 tons. In Ireland other essentials like bread have skyrocketed by 20.12 per cent for a plain, white, sliced loaf; milk by 19.66 per cent; eggs by 16.72 per cent; margarine by 22.22 per cent; sugar by 16.70 per cent and even sweets and ice cream by an average of nearly 20 per cent. The overcoat Mrs Murphy's son wore had jumped 12 per cent in price since last summer and her small daughter's cotton dress by 27.46 per cent. Shoes for all ages had risen by 25 per cent. Fares on the buses Mrs Murphy uses to go in and out of central Dublin have gone up by 38.31 per cent. Thousands of Dublin council tenants are on rent strike with increases for all rented accommodation reaching 22.94 per cent in the year. Anybody using coal to heat their homes 'face charges up by 25 per cent. Envelopes for a letter to a relative working in Britain have gone up by 21.85 per cent and writing paper by 19.97 per cent and the cost of postage by a huge 50 per cent.

If she goes into hospital, Mrs Murphy faces a mere 23-per-cent rise in fees. But for the services of a doctor, a dentist or an optician she must pay 29.94 per cent more. Dublin is one of Ireland's most expensive cities, but prices elsewhere in the Republic do not lag very far behind and in some cases are actually ahead. Butter costs 29p a pound in the capital compared with 28½p in other major towns like Cork, Castlebar, Galway, Kilkenny, Limerick, Naas and Tralee. Sugar is 11p for 2 lb in Dublin and generally 10½p elsewhere; a 5lb bag of potatoes is 19p in Dublin but 16p elsewhere; ½lb bacon costs 25p in Dublin but 22½p elsewhere and eggs cost 17p for six in the capital but 15½p in other towns. Round beef-steak prices are more expensive outside Dublin—in Drogheda and Waterford, for instance, a full 2½p dearer. Cheese, coffee, washing-up liquid, detergents and toilet paper all cost up to 5p more outside Dublin. Although there are substan-

tial individual variations applying to skilled and mainly minority groups, latest figures show that average wages for Irish workers are around £22 for a 42-hour week. Since 1971 a voluntary wages agreement hammered out by employers, unions and government has operated in the Republic. This has held pay rises down to about 7 per cent over the 18 months each agreement has been and is in force. Another important effect has been to keep pay rises for relatively highly-paid workers down to a minimum, concentrating improvements on lower paid workers in textiles, agriculture and distribution. These national agreements are hailed by the Green Tory government for their success in stemming the wave of industrial unrest which characterized 1970. In that year 1,007,700 days were 'lost' because of strikes compared with 273,800 in 1971. But Fianna Fail's jubilation is unlikely to last much longer. The fact that wages have levelled out over the past year means that majority of workers are now in the same boat, facing pay rises less than a third of the increases in prices. Frank Houlihan is a railwayman. He gets £2.70 a week more on his basic pay after Christmas with a further 4 per cent rise 12 months later. His average pay is about £24, but most railwaymen take home only £20 a week. Commenting on the rise, he told me: 'There is no value in it at all. You need £10 a week just for pocket money these days. Even the middle class are beginning to be affected by the prices.' Significantly it was railwaymen, albeit mobilized by Provisional Sinn Fein, who marched to the Dail to protest against the Lynch government's new laws allegedly for use against the IRA. Relations between the Irish working class and the government are potentially explosive. While Common Market entry involves massive price hikes—despite the largely token efforts of the government's Prices Commission—the national wage agreements are clamped down like a lid on the cauldron of working-class desperation and unrest.



The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is today in the forefront of the struggle against the Tory government's Industrial Relations Act. Here a special correspondent highlights important and significant episodes in the history of the engineers' fight to build their union against the employers, their governments and their courts.

HOW THE ENGINEERS BUILT THEIR UNION

Part three: The ASE fights the attack on picketing in the 1860s and 1870s and engineers campaign for the nine-hour day.

In the 1860s the entire trade union movement found itself in a crisis when a number of judgments in the courts threatened to make the unions illegal.

The occurrence of the Sheffield 'outrages' when violence was committed against non-union men in the cutlery trades, led to a public outcry and the appointment of a Royal Commission of Investigation into the principles and aims of trade unions in general.

Further, in 1867 the important decision by Lord Chief Justice Cockburn in the case of *Hornby v Close*, when it was declared that unions were a conspiracy 'in restraint of trade' and therefore outside the protection of the law re-

garding security of their assets, stimulated a powerful reaction, especially from the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (ASE).

They now found that their assets of upwards of £130,000 were in jeopardy, no longer protected by the Friendly Societies Act of 1855, which was practically annulled by the 1867 judgement.

Labour newspapers of the late 1860s, most notably the 'Miners' and Workmen's Advocate', the 'Beehive' and the 'Commonwealth' feared the extinction of trade unionism, crippled into impotence by hostile legislation, and urged the organized working class to defend the status of trade unionism with political action against a parliament of employers and their representatives.

The turn to political action was made with great reluctance. 'No politics' rules had long been written into the constitutions of the national unions of skilled workers like the ASE, the Stonemasons and the Carpenters.

It was the attack on the unions on the legal front from the mid-1860s which pushed the leading craft unions into political action. The aims of the Chartist movement of 1834-1848 were revived in the agitation for the vote in 1866-1867 when the mass action of the working class in all the main cities was of crucial importance in winning the Second Reform Act of 1867, which extended the vote to most skilled workers in the towns.

Of course, the unions as a body, and particularly the ASE, did not declare their adherence to political action to secure trade union rights, but were spurred on by politically-conscious leaders like William Allan of the Engineers who played a prominent part in the National Reform League, the working-class, basic organization which from 1865-1867 agitated for universal suffrage.

In order to change the laws and prevent the introduction of even harsher legislation against working-class organizations, many workers recognized the need to secure political representation for the working class as an indispensable means of safeguarding basic rights, including those of the trade unions.

Although the executive council refused to identify the ASE with the National Reform League, reiterating the view that 'the society should not allow either political or religious matters to be introduced or discussed at the meetings', it was abandoned as a formality when the very existence of trade unionism itself was at stake.

Among the national amalga-

mated societies the ASE was represented in the Conference of Amalgamated Trades called in defence of trade unions as an immediate reaction to the *Hornby v Close* decision.

The legal attack on the unions and the findings of the Royal Commission report dominated the proceedings of the Conference, which resolved to fight for 'repeal of the Combination Laws' and complete protection of funds.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill of 1871, whereby trade unionists were liable to criminal prosecution for undefined acts as 'molesting', 'obstructing', 'threatening', as under the 1825 Act, caused a widespread outburst of indignation among trade unionists.

As a consequence, the third Trades Union Congress, and the first really national one, was summoned in London. All the important unions were represented, including the engineers, alongside those from other metal and steel trades, ironworkers, ironfounders, boilermakers and iron ship-builders.

After the passing of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, the ASE made a fighting statement in the annual report. The Act was intended to operate in the interests of capital and to prevent, if possible, workmen from maintaining their rights and privileges, it said.

It pledged the union to 'never rest satisfied until this disgraceful Act is totally repealed'. Under its new general secretary, John Burnett, the ASE participated in the campaign to remove from the Statute Book an Act which was responsible for a stream of convictions against pickets in the years after 1871, until the 1876 Trade Union Act restored the right of peaceful picketing, but only after a sustained and vigorous trade union campaign.

Besides the legal front, rank-

When workers in Newcastle struck in 1871 for the nine-hour day, the employers tried to break the strike by bringing in foreign workers (above). But the ASE in collaboration with the International Workingmen's Association proceeded to organize amongst them with the result that 120 German workers 'mutinied'

and-file engineers began to fight systematically for shorter hours. Other trades, particularly building, had in many regional cases won a nine-hour day. John Burnett, before he became general secretary, was a leading spirit as chairman of the Newcastle Nine Hours League.

The north-east engineers of Newcastle and Sunderland led the way with industrial action for a nine-hour day in 1871. The employers tried to destroy the strike movement with the double weapons of imported foreign labour and the Criminal Law Amendment Act against the trade unionists who attempted to repel the 'scabs'.

Such was the pressure exerted by the League that even the imported labour force in Armstrong's factory began to express their interest in the nine-hour day and were persuaded to leave.

The successful struggle of the north-east engineers stimulated similar Nine Hours Leagues elsewhere, so that by early 1872 all the districts had achieved a nine-hour day, amid the complaints of the executive council that strike action had constantly been taken without their prior sanction.

The defence of the nine-hour day throughout the 1870s placed the ASE in the forefront of the trade union fight for better conditions, until, by the end of the 1880s, it was eclipsed by the dramatic movement into general unions of the unskilled workmen, pioneered by dockers, gasworkers and matchgirls.

CONTINUED TOMORROW.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

COME BACK

Priests who found that life in the ministry was a little too much to stomach have received a rude shock. Many holy men in France decided to get out of the church and make their way in the wide outdoors. The bishops were sceptical of the move and they have been proved right.

After a year outside the church the bishops have been flooded with requests from priests who want to return to the flock.

'After a year in the world,' commented one Catholic paper, 'many have once again returned to their priestly duties enriched by the break and with a deepened understanding of their ministerial role.'

WOMEN'S LIB

Women's Lib in Chile from the beginning has been very much in favour of the paper reforms instigated by President Salvador Allende.

Like 'Comrades' Fidel Castro and Juan Velasco of Peru, Allende has always recognized the importance of women, especially of his wife, Hortensia.



It is believed Hortensia was behind a recent Bill which passed through the Chilean parliament creating compulsory service for women.

Havana notified all Cubans of this revolutionary step.

For the first time in history, the Chilean government has instructed grass-roots organizations of women to debate a Bill involving their active participation. Compulsory service for women was discussed in all mothers' centres and supported by 70 per cent of women.

No doubt, the local clergy were there to give a nudge to this dialogue with the women of Chile.

SILENCE IS GOLDEN

By PHILIP WADE

TORY PRESS



If one thing brings out all the class venom of the employers, it is a political strike by print workers.

At one moment, the newspaper bosses are happily turning off millions of copies, which universally picture trade unionists as a band of cut-throat thieves.

Nothing would seem capable of disturbing the mechanism. The propaganda machine which spits out bourgeois maxims each day looks well oiled.

Yet this week—when the engineers walked out—saw the sixth political strike by printworkers in London since the Tory government came to power in June 1970.

On all these occasions hundreds of thousands—sometimes millions—of workers have staged strikes against the Industrial Relations Act, for the freeing of the Pentonville Five, or in defence of the engineers' union.

Each time the newspaper bosses, the few families who control the industry, have been unable to print a single word against the strikers. Their mouths have been silenced.

It is a measure of the maturity of the political situation that printworkers have broken through the myth of the 'freedom of the Press' so beloved of Tory ideologies. It has been rightly seen as the freedom to pillory the working class when the occasion demanded.

Only one week before the 1970 General Election, the printers gave the Tories a taste of what was to come when they staged a national strike in support of a pay claim.

Leaders of all the major

political parties condemned the strikers for interfering in the 'normal democratic processes'.

When the Tories were elected, they lost no time in setting their plans to 'change the course of history', as Heath put it. The Industrial Relations Bill was quickly published.

Just as rapidly the first strikes against the Tory government were launched. On December 8, 1970, well over 500,000 workers struck in protest against the Bill.

'Go-anywhere men whip up strikes,' screamed the 'Sunday Express' just before the stoppages. The High Court awarded the employers an injunction against SOGAT (Division A).

Well, the printworkers weren't 'go-anywhere' men. In fact, they never went into work at all and Fleet Street presses fell silent on December 8.

Of course, the Beaverbrook-owned London 'Evening Standard' was hit twice. During the powermen's work-to-rule the same month, that notorious anti-trade union cartoonist, Jak, chose to depict the powermen as heartless murderers.

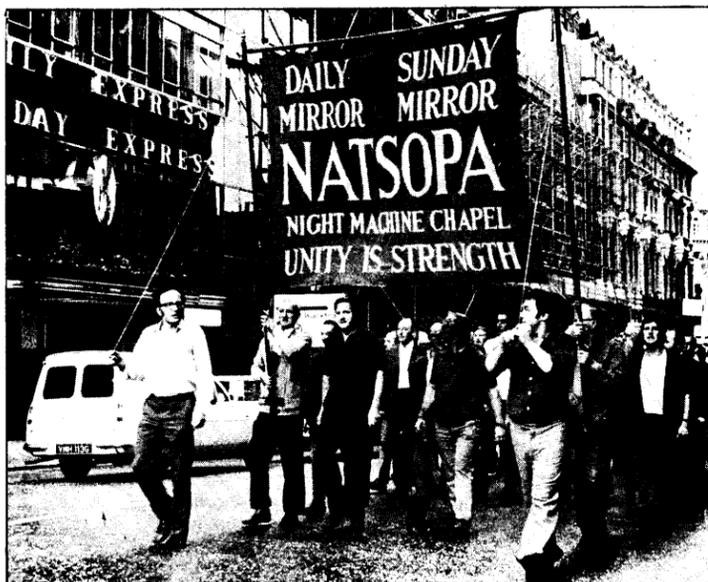
Printworkers immediately held up production of this provocatively reactionary cartoon. And only when they were allowed to print a statement alongside, explaining their objections to Jak's effort, did the presses roll.

The 'Observer' found the whole thing 'ominous' and wrote: 'The freedom of the Press consists in the freedom to publish despite anybody's objections.' Well, they were quite free, but just unable to carry their concepts into practice.

The introduction of Robert 'Securicor' Carr's Industrial Relations Bill into the House of Commons was met with a further unofficial one-day strike on January 12, 1971. Many editions of the Tory Press were lost as printers staged walkouts and meetings all over the country.

In under two months the newspapers were hit by another wave of political strikes. This time the engineers organized their two one-day, official strikes against the anti-union Bill on March 1 and March 18.

They were the biggest political strikes—embracing on



Printworkers on Fleet Street.

the second occasion well over 2 million workers—since the 1926 General Strike. On March 1, 1,000 Fleet Street engineers stopped.

And on March 18, the Newspaper Publishers' Association's attempts to get dispensation from the strike was turned down by the executive council of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

By this time the newspaper magnates were losing their cool a little and threatening sackings all round if political stoppages continued to hit the papers.

'To be bullied or cajoled into destructive, wildcat and often sterile protest is the prerogative of mindless sheep,' Hugh Cudlipp, chairman of International Publishing Corporation, told a conference of circulation executives.

Over a year passed before the longest stoppage to date took place. Only hours after the dockers were jailed by the National Industrial Relations Court on July 21, printworkers throughout Fleet Street were locked in chapel meetings.

On the Saturday, outside Pentonville, there were many rumours that the presses were to stop the same evening. But no one was quite sure. Then the 'Sunday Mirror' printers suddenly arrived at the prison gate, led by the Natsopa banner. The newspapers had indeed stopped.

The nationals did not publish in the main until Friday morning, despite the fact that the dockers were released on the Wednesday evening. There was much talk about lock-outs, but the employers once more lost their nerve when the crunch came.

Then this week the engineers in Fleet Street struck again in response to the call from their executive council to defend their union against the Industrial Relations Act and against the fines imposed by Sir John Donaldson's court.

'The Times', that bastion of British capitalism, upholder of all that is right and proper in our society, felt it had to devote its second editorial to the engineers' strike.

The Press owners have reason to be concerned. The strikes by Fleet Street workers reflect the crisis of the British capitalist system. With the Tory government deciding to rule by word of mouth and by letter, taking away basic rights at a stroke, the working class has been pushed forward into a political fight.

Never before have there been in such a concentrated period so many stoppages of the Tory propaganda machine. In fact, to see the last such period the lie apparatus was put out of action, you have to return to the last major political strike... 1926.

On May 2, 1926, while Tory Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin was negotiating with the TUC on the question of the miners' pay, Rothermere's 'Daily Mail' was preparing a scurrilous editorial on the unions.

It was to have been an attack accusing the unions of threatening a General Strike in support of the miners.

It accused the TUC of organizing a 'revolutionary movement' not to be 'tolerated by any civilized government'. It called on all 'law-abiding men and women to hold themselves at the service of King and country'.

When the machine operators, members of Natsopa, read the text they decided to 'hold themselves at the service' of the trade union movement and went on strike, refusing to print the editorial.

Some on the 'Mail' staff telephoned the Cabinet and the talks with the TUC were broken off immediately on the pretext of the 'Daily Mail' stoppage. Hours later the General Strike began.

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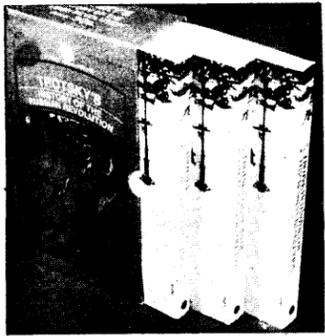
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Your viewing

SATURDAY

CHRISTMAS EVE

BBC 1

10.00 Mr. Benn. 10.10 The night the animals talked. 10.35 Crazy world of Laurel and Hardy. 11.55 Harlem globetrotters. 12.15 Barrier reef. 12.40 Grandstand special. 12.45 Football preview. 1.00 Olympic review. 2.20 International show jumping. 3.20 Quiz ball. 3.45 What the Dickens. Basil Brush. 4.15 We want to sing. 4.45 Final score. 5.05 The gang show. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 **CHAPLIN REVUE.** Charlie Chaplin in 'Shoulder Arms', and 'The Pilgrim'.

7.25 **THE HARRY SECOMBE SHOW.** Guests Ann Howard, Harry Friedauer, The King's Singers.

8.10 **FILM: 'THE WAR WAGON'.** John Wayne, Kirk Douglas. Taw Jackson sets out to get revenge on the man who put him in prison.

9.45 **NEWS.** Weather.

10.00 **MATCH OF THE DAY.**

11.00 **PARKINSON.** Michael Parkinson with guest Bing Crosby.

12.15 **Weather.**

ITV

9.00 Time off. 9.30 Getting your money's worth. 9.55 Return to Peyton Place. 10.20 Sesame street. 11.20 Merrie melodies. 11.30 The Osmonds. 11.50 Junior police five. 12.00 Partridge family. 12.30 News. 12.35 World of sport. 12.40 On the ball. 1.15, 1.35, 1.55, 2.15, 2.35, 2.55 Greyhound racing. 1.25 International sports special. 2.05 World cup skiing. 2.25, 2.45 Action 72. 3.05 International sports special. 4.00 Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.10 News. 5.15 A proper pantomime.

6.00 **SALE OF THE CENTURY.**

6.30 **THE REG VARNEY REVUE.** Guests The Osmonds, Kenneth McKellar, Dorothy Squires.

7.30 **FILM: 'PARIS WHEN IT SIZZLES'.** William Holden, Audrey Hepburn, Gregoire Aslan. Comedy about a film scriptwriter.

9.30 **THE JULIE ANDREWS HOUR.** Guests The Young Americans, Donald O'Connor, Alice Ghostley.

10.30 **NEWS.**

10.40 **JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS.** Alfred Burke, Gwen Watford.

11.40 **IT MATTERS TO ME.**

11.45 **RUSSELL HARTY.**

BBC 2

3.00 Film: 'I'd Rather Be Rich'. Sandra Dee, Robert Goulet, Andy Williams, Maurice Chevalier, Hermoine Gingold. A business tycoon wants his daughter to marry the right man. 4.35 Play away. 5.00 Choir practice.

6.00 **BRISTOL ENTERTAINMENT.** A thousand years of a great city.

7.10 **HOME.** The earth does not belong to man but man to earth. The words of Chief Seattle of the Duwamish Indians.

7.40 **WESTMINSTER.**

8.00 **NEWS, SPORT.** Weather.

8.10 **WAR AND PEACE.** Borodino.

8.55 **FULL HOUSE.** Introduced by Joe Melia. Some Bright Stars, In trouble, Zenon, Poetry. 9.50 Christmas greetings. The Box in the Corner.

11.00 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

11.05 **FILM: 'THE COLLECTOR'.** Terence Stamp, Samantha Eggar. A young bank clerk who collects butterflies adds a human specimen to his collection.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.10 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Puffin. 11.40 Bonanza. 12.30 London. 12.40 All our yesterdays. 1.10 Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 10.45 Woobinda. 11.35 Gus Honeybun. 12.10 Christmas in the holy land. 12.35 Faith for life. 12.40 Weather.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Let them live. 10.35 Stingray. 11.05 Cowboy in Africa. 12.00 Merrie melodies. 12.27 Weather. 12.30 London. 6.00 Reg Varney. 7.05 Film: 'The Greatest Show on Earth'. 9.30 London. 11.40 News. 11.45 Spyforce. 12.35 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.00 London. 9.50 Bugs Bunny. 10.00 Tomfoolery. 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 University challenge. 12.00 Best of both worlds. 12.30 London. 6.00 Reg Varney. 7.00 Film: 'Peyton Place'. 9.30 London. 11.40 The earth dies screaming. 12.45 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 5.15-6.00 Sion a sian. **ANGLIA:** 9.00 London. 10.00 Enchanted house. 10.10 Cartoon. 10.20 Film: 'Ferry Cross the Mersey'. 12.00 Christmas carol. 12.30 London. 6.00 Reg Varney. 7.00 Film: 'Hotel'. 9.15 Sylvester. 9.30 London. 11.40 Film: 'Traitor's Gate'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Place in the country. 10.35 Survival. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.05 Tomfoolery show. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 Elephant boy. 12.30 London. 6.00 Reg Varney. 7.00 Film: 'The Greatest

Show on Earth. 9.30 London. 11.40 Film: 'Fathom'. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 Thunderbirds. 12.00 Woobinda. 12.30 London. 6.00 Sport. 6.30 London. 7.30 Film: 'Remember Mama'. 9.30 London. 11.40 Theatre of stars.

YORKSHIRE: 9.15 Fever of the deep. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Thunder in the valley. 12.30 London. 6.00 Doctor at large. 6.30 London. 7.30 Film: 'The Quiller Memorandum'. 9.30 London. 11.40 Mod squad. 12.35 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 Sesame street. 10.30 Batman. 12.30 London. 6.00 Reg Varney. 7.00 Film: 'The Sons of Katie Elder'. 9.20 Pete Smith—curious contests. 9.30 London. 11.40 Mid-night mystery.

TYNE TEES: 9.15 Wild life theatre. 9.40 Rodeo. 10.10 Osmonds. 11.35 Thunder in the valley. 12.30 London. 5.15 A proper pantomime. 6.00 Chicago teddy bears. 6.30 London. 7.30 Film: 'How to Steal a Million'. 9.30 London. 11.40 Edgar Wallace. 12.35 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen'.

BORDER: 10.35 Film: 'Batman'. 12.30 London. 5.15 London. 6.00 Reg Varney. 7.00 Film: 'Sons of Katie Elder'. 9.30 London. 11.40 Jimmy Stewart.

SCOTTISH: 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Tomfoolery. 10.35 Joe 90. 11.05 Dave Cash. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 And mother makes three. 12.30 London. 5.15 Christmas cavalcade. 6.00 Hogan's heroes. 6.30 Bonanza. 7.25 Film: 'Genghis Khan'. 9.30 London. 10.40. A season for miracles. 11.40 Late call. 11.45 Reg Varney.

GRAMPIAN: 11.15 Tomfoolery. 11.45 Christmas rumbie jumble. 12.30 London. 6.00 Reg Varney. 7.05 Film: 'Solomon and Sheba'. 9.30 London. 11.40 Hogan's heroes.



Victor Borge fools around the keyboard on Independent's 'The LP Show' with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 11.45 London. 12.30 Film: 'Climb An Angry Mountain'. 2.15 London. 12.45 Epilogue. Weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.30 London. 10.30 Let them live. 10.55 Gus Honeybun. 11.00 London.

SOUTHERN: 9.15 Talking hands. 9.30 London. 10.30 Cartoon. 10.35 Odd couple. 11.00 London. 12.30 Film: 'Mozambique'. 2.15 London. 12.50 Weather.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 10.30 Pippi longstocking. 11.00 London. 12.30 Film: 'Five Weeks in a Balloon'. 2.15 London. 7.25 Film: 'Fate is the Hunter'. 9.15 Mr. and Mrs. 9.45 London. 12.45 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 42 as above except: 10.30-11.00 Miri mawr y nadofig. 6.15 Lusern. 6.40-7.25 Serch hudol.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.30 Film: 'Seven Hills of Rome'. 2.25 Big match. 3.15 London.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 10.30 Captain Scarlet. 11.00 London. 12.30 Film: 'Ivanhoe'. 2.15 London. 7.25 Film: 'Gigi'. 9.45 London.

ULSTER: 9.30 London. 10.30 Christmas in the Holy Land. 11.00 London. 12.30 Film: '1001 Arabian Nights'. 1.45 Barry John talks to George Best. 2.15 London.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 10.30 Flintstones. 11.00 London. 12.30 Film: 'Climb An Angry Mountain'. 2.15 London. 12.50 Weather.

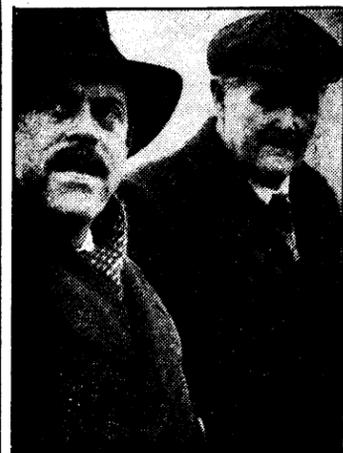
GRANADA: 9.30 London. 10.30 A Christmas story. 10.50 Captain's Christmas. 11.00 London. 12.30 Film: 'The Canterville Ghost'. 2.15 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 10.30 Forest rangers. 11.00 London. 12.30 Film: 'Climb An Angry Mountain'. 2.15 Shoot. 3.15 London.

BORDER: 9.30 London. 10.30 Christmas in the Holy land. 11.00 London. 12.30 Film: 'The Canterville Ghost'. 2.15 London.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 10.30 A Christmas story. 10.50 Captain's Christmas. 11.00 London. 12.55 Randall and Hopkirk. 1.50 Sport. 3.15 London. 6.15 A better way? 7.00 London. 11.00 Christmas in the Holy land. 11.30 Epilogue.

GRAMPIAN: 11.00 London. 12.30 In search of Tutankhamun. 1.30 Christmas at moose factory. 1.50 Sport. 3.15 London.



Peter Vaughan (r) and Clive Swift are in BBC 1's ghost story 'A Warning to the Curious'.

BBC 2

4.30 Money at work. 5.30 Horizon.

6.15 **NEWS REVIEW.**
6.50 **NEWS SUMMARY.**
6.55 **CHRISTMAS. WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?**

7.25 **AMERICA.** A Firebell in the Night. Alistair Cooke considers the causes of the Civil War.

8.15 **FACE THE MUSIC.**
8.45 **PLAY 'FOR LOVING'.** By John King. With Angela Scoular, Alfred Lynch.

9.30 **MILLIGAN IN WINTER.** Spike Milligan.

10.00 **A DAY OUT.** Film written by Alan Bennett about a group of cyclists who go to the country for the day.

10.50 **UP SUNDAY.**

11.00 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather.

11.05 **FILM: 'THE QUIET MAN'.** John Ford's film about an Irish immigrant to America who makes good. With John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara.



Omnibus on BBC 1 looks at some 'impressions of Garland'. Judy is seen with her daughter Liza Minnelli.

BBC 1

10.00 In mercy and love unite. 11.05 Christmas Carol. 11.30 Jerusalem International. 12.20 Vienna boys choir. 1.00 The golden age of comedy. 2.15 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 2.30 Film: 'Davy Crockett'. Fess Parker, Buddy Ebsen. American frontiersman. 4.00 Around the world in 80 minutes. With Joyce Grenfell, Kenneth Allsop, David Attenborough and Tony Soper. 5.20 Disney time.

6.05 **NEWS.** Weather.

6.35 **THE NEW BEGINNING.**

6.45 **CAROLS WITH KING'S COLLEGE CHOIR.**

7.25 **FILM: 'WEST SIDE STORY'.** Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Russ Tamblyn, Rita Moreno, George Chakiris. Two young lovers in the midst of New York gang warfare.

9.50 **NEWS.** Weather.

10.00 **OMNIBUS.** Impressions of Garland. Profile of Judy Garland.

11.05 **A GHOST STORY FOR CHRISTMAS.** A Warning to the Curious. With Peter Vaughan, Clive Swift.

11.55 **NATIVITY.**

ITV

9.30 Service of carols and lessons. 10.30 The King's breakfast. 11.00 Christmas lift off. 11.45 Stars at Christmas with songs of Christmas. 12.30 Film: 'The Treasure of Silver Lake'. Lex Barker. Western. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Christmas company. 4.15 Golden shot. 5.05 Sleeping Beauty on ice.

6.05 **NEWS.**

6.15 **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT.**

7.00 **CAROLS FOR CHILDREN.**

7.25 **FILM: 'KHARTOUM'.** Charlton Heston, Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson, Richard Johnson. British imperialism in the Sudan, 1883.

9.45 **NEWS.**

10.00 **THE L.P. SHOW WITH VICTOR BORGE.**

11.00 **AQUARIUS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL.** A Play in a Manger.

11.55 **MIDNIGHT MASS.**

over Christmas

CHRISTMAS DAY

BBC 1

9.30 This is Christmas morning. 10.00 Mr. Benn. 10.15 News. 10.20 Born in the city. 11.25 Christmas appeal. 11.30 A stocking full of stars. 1.30 Black and white minstrel show. 2.10 Top of the pops. Review of the year's best sellers. 3.00 The Queen. 3.15 Billy Smart's circus. 4.10 Dick Whittington. With Dick Emery, Peter Noone, Stratford Johns, Michael Aspel. 5.45 News. Weather. 5.55 Bruce Forsyth and the generation game. 6.55 **CHRISTMAS NIGHT WITH THE STARS.** Introduced by Ronnie Corbett and Ronnie Barker. With Cilla Black, The Young Generation, Lulu, 'Dad's Army', Mike Yarwood, 'The Liver Birds', 'The Goodies'. 8.15 **MORECAMBE AND WISE CHRISTMAS SHOW.** Guests Glenda Jackson, Jack Jones, Vera Lynn, Pete Murray. 9.15 **FILM: 'BAREFOOT IN THE PARK'.** Robert Redford, Jane Fonda. Comedy about newly weds in New York. 11.00 **THE GOOD OLD DAYS.** Special Christmas edition. 11.50 **A STORY FOR CHRISTMAS.** Told by John Slater. 12.00 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00 Play school. 11.25 The Point. Cartoon with music. 12.40 Documentary: 'The Vanishing Hedgerows'. 1.30 Look, Stranger. 1.55 News. 2.00 Golf story 72. 3.00 The Queen. 3.05 Film: 'Henry V'. Laurence Olivier, Robert Newton, Leslie Banks, Renee Asherson, Esmond Knight in the film version of Shakespeare's play. 5.15 Call my bluff. 5.45 The childhood of Christ. 7.25 **THE STALLION.** A black stallion runs wild on Dartmoor.

ITV

8.30 A concert for Christmas. 9.15 The enchanted house. 9.30 A merry morning. 10.00 Clapperboard's Christmas cracker. 10.45 Christmas morning service. 12.00 Gulliver's Travels. 1.15 The big top. 2.00 The flight of the snow geese. 3.00 The Queen. 3.10 Film: 'That Riviera Touch'. Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise. 4.50 Opportunity knocks. 5.35 News. 5.45 All star carnival. Introduced by Jimmy Tarbuck. 7.30 **CORONATION STREET.** 8.00 **THE COMEDIANS.** 8.30 **FILM: 'THE WAY WEST'.** Kirk Douglas, Robert Mitchum, Richard Widmark. A party of emigrants head west in 1843. 10.00 **NEWS.** 10.15 **FILM continued.** 11.00 **DOCUMENTARY: 'THE LOVE GODDESSES'.** Every femme who was ever fatale. 12.30 **RECONCILIATION.**



Eric and Ernie are World War I fighter pilots in this sequence from the 'Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show' on BBC 1.

8.15 **LA SYLPHIDE.** French television film of the romantic ballet. 8.25 **PLAY: 'THE STONE TAPE'.** By Nigel Kneale. With Michael Bryant, Jane Asher. 10.55 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather. 11.00 **AMERICA.** A Fireball in the Night. 11.50 **FRED ASTAIRE.** Talking to Dick Cavett about his career.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 10.45 London. 12.30 Weather. **WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 8.30 London. 9.15 Gus Honeybun. 12.30 Faith for life. 12.33 Weather. **SOUTHERN:** 8.30 London. 12.30 Weather. Guideline. **HARLECH:** 8.30 London. 12.30 Weather. **HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 2.00-3.00 Hogiau'r wyddfa.** **ANGLIA:** 8.30 London. 8.15 p.m. Away in a manger. 9.30 London. **ATV MIDLANDS:** 8.30 London. 8.30 p.m. Film: 'Khartoum'. 10.00 London. **ULSTER:** 8.30 London. 3.10 Film: 'Second Chance'. 4.30 Through the eyes of a child. 4.50 London. 12.30 Christmas night. **YORKSHIRE:** 8.30 London. 9.15 Felix the cat. 9.30 London. 12.30 Weather. **GRANADA** 8.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'Tom Jones', 10.00 London. 10.15 Film contd. 11.00 London. **TYNE TEES:** 8.30 London. 12.30 Christmas message. **BORDER:** 8.30 London. 8.30 Film: 'Tom Jones', 10.00 London. 10.15 Film contd. 11.00 London. **SCOTTISH:** 8.20 Moderator's Christmas message. 8.30 London. 3.10 Film: 'Caprice'. 4.50 London. 12.30 Late call. **GRAMPIAN:** 9.20 Moderator's Christmas message. 9.30 London. 12.30 Christmas meditation.

BOXING DAY

BBC 1

9.10 Camberwick green. 9.25 Winter quarters. 10.00 Film: 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth'. James Mason, Pat Boone, Arlene Dahl, Diane Baker. Science fiction. 12.00 Holiday grandstand. 12.20 Rugby league. Leeds v Wakefield Trinity. 1.05, 1.40, 2.10 Racing from Kempton. 1.25, 1.55 Motor racing. 2.35 It's a Christmas knockout! 3.30 Film: 'Help!' The Beatles. 5.00 News summary. Weather. 5.15 Holiday on ice. 6.05 **THE SOUND OF PETULA.** Petula Clark with Anthony Newley. 6.50 **FILM: 'CARRY ON CLEO'.** Kenneth Williams, Sidney James, Kenneth Connor, Charles Hawtrey, Joan Sims, Jim Dale, Amanda Barrie. 8.20 **THE LAST GOON SHOW OF ALL.** Peter Sellers, Harry Secombe, Spike Milligan. 9.00 **NEWS.** Weather. 9.10 **TILL DEATH US DO PART.** 9.55 **SHIRLEY BASSEY.** 10.40 **MASTERMIND.** 11.00 **MR WODEHOUSE SPEAKING.** William Mervyn presents the comic and idyllic world of P. G. Wodehouse. 12.10 Weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 1.25 Film: 'The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp'. Anton Walbrook, Deborah Kerr, Roger Livesey. The life and loves of Clive Candy from the Boer War to World War II. 3.30 Star Pieces. 4.10 The living Arctic. 4.40 Orville and Wilbur. Stacy Keach and James Keach as the first aviators.

ITV

9.00 Cliff's kids. 9.15 Mountain rescue. 9.35 Bugs Bunny. 10.00 Professional wrestling. 10.55 Film: 'Tarzan and the Slave Girl'. Lex Barker. 12.20 Boxing Day racing. 12.30, 1.00, 1.30, 2.00 Racing from Wetherby. 12.45, 1.15, 1.45 Racing from Wincanton. 2.10 The Lorax. 2.40 Play: 'Dear Octopus'. Peter Barkworth, Lally Bowers, Hannah Gordon, Cyril Luckham, Anna Massey, Nora Swinburne. 4.10 Junior show-time pantomime. 5.00 News and sports results. 5.15 All the jokers —full house.



Val Doonican's guests on independent channels include Georgie Fame and Alan Price.

6.05 **MCCRINDELL'S TOYS.** 6.50 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather. 6.50 **OPERA: 'FALSTAFF'.** Verdi's comic opera with Geraint Evans, Regina Resnik, Norman Bailey, April Cantelo. 8.55 **SKIS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.** A party of British ski-mountaineers traverse the entire length of the Alps. 9.55 **THE EDWARDIANS.** The Reluctant Juggler. Georgia Brown as Marie Lloyd, music hall singer. 11.10 **NEWS ON 2.** Weather. 11.15 **THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST.** Highlights of the series.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 2.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'The Return of the Seven'. 8.00 London. 10.45 Film: 'The Wild Ones'. 12.15 Weather. **WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 9.00 London. 9.35 Gus Honeybun. 10.00 London. 12.15 Faith for life. 12.20 Weather. **SOUTHERN:** 9.00 London. 9.35 Primus. 10.00 London. 10.55 Film: 'Clarence the Cross-Eyed Lion'. 12.17 Weather. 12.20 London. 10.45 News. 10.50 Film: 'Hot Enough For June'. 12.30 Weather. Guideline. **HARLECH:** 9.00 London. 9.35 Merrie melodies. 10.00 London. 10.55 Gasbags. 12.20 London. 4.18 News. 5.00 London. 6.15 Film: 'Carry On—Follow That Camel'. 8.00 London. 10.45 Film: 'Lolita'. 1.20 Weather. **HTV Cymru/Wales 7 and 41 as above except: 9.35 Miri mawr. 9.45-10.00 Cantamil.** **ANGLIA:** 9.00 London. 9.15 Magpie. 9.35 Romper room. 10.00 London. 10.55 Film: 'Laurel and Hardy in Toyland'. 12.20 London. 6.15 Film: 'Fantastic Voyage'. 8.00 London. 10.45 Film: 'The Spy With a Cold Nose'. **ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.00 London. 9.35 Cartoons. 10.00 London. 6.15 Film: 'The Return of the Seven'. 8.00 London. 10.45 Film 'Lolita'. **ULSTER:** 9.00 London. 9.35 Romper room. 10.00 London. 10.50 Film: 'It's Only Money'. 12.20 London. 6.15 News. 6.20 Film: 'Beau Geste'. 8.00 London. 10.45 Film: 'The Horror of it All'. **YORKSHIRE:** 9.00 London. 9.35 Cartoon. 10.00 London. 10.45 Film: 'The Unforgiven'. 12.45 Weather. **GRANADA:** 9.00 London. 9.25 Jackson five. 10.00 London. 10.45 Film: 'The Wild One'. **TYNE TEES:** 9.00 London. 9.35 Cartoon. 10.00 London. 10.55 Film: 'Thunderhead Son of Flicka'. 12.20 London. 10.45 Film: 'Demetrius and the Gladiators'. 12.35 Epilogue. **BORDER:** 9.00 London. 9.35 Cartoons. 10.00 London. 10.55 Film: 'Thunderhead Son of Flicka'. 12.20 London. 10.45 Film: 'The Wild One'. **SCOTTISH:** 9.00 London. 9.35 Merrie melodies. 10.00 London. 10.55 Film: 'The Seventh Voyage of Sinbad'. 12.20 London. 6.15 Today. 6.30 Film: 'Hell Below Zero'. 8.00 London. 10.45 Late call. 10.50 Film: 'The House on Greenapple Road'. **GRAMPIAN:** 9.00 London. 9.35 Merrie melodies. 10.00 London. 6.15 McMillan and wife. 8.00 London. 10.45 Film: 'Georgy Girl'. 12.25 Meditation.



Jack Douglas is 'The Reluctant Juggler' in BBC 2's 'The Edwardian' series.

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

YOU'VE DONE IT! FUND AT £1,920.32

IT REALLY is magnificent. We asked for £1,750 by next Monday. Not only have you raised it by today, but you have also collected nearly £170 over the top! No other paper could do it. Your warm support encourages us to press ahead with our plans to expand. As the struggle is building up against the Tories, it is clear that thousands of workers are now looking towards Workers Press for a lead. We promise we will never let

you down. We will continue to produce the only daily paper that speaks out firmly on behalf of the working class. We are determined to remain in the forefront of this great struggle to make the Tory government resign. We would like to thank you all for the magnificent support you have raised this month and that so consistently backs us up each month. We wish you all of you, dear

readers, the very best of the season's greetings.

And finally, as your response is so great, we are sure with still another week to go before the end of the month, we can push our final figure well over £2,000 mark. See what you can do. Post any more donations to:

Workers Press
December Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London. SW4 7UG.

Fine Tubes

This is the third Christmas that the Plymouth Fine Tubes strikers, their wives and their 53 children, have spent on strike with very little money.

These men have waged a bitter struggle for the most basic right a worker can possess—the right to belong to a trade union.

Strike committee members have travelled over 100,000 miles to sustain their fight

This Christmas is the hardest of all. It has imposed a great financial burden. Now the 37 strikers face the rest of the winter with a depleted strike fund. January is always a difficult month to raise money to further their fight.

Yet they are determined to fight on. This is a struggle the working class cannot afford to lose. That is why the Socialist Labour League and the Workers Press wishes to make a special appeal to all trade unionists to take collections in their factories and branches for the Fine Tubes men in order that their heroic and determined action can be carried forward. All money should be sent to:

Fine Tubes Treasurer
c/o 65 Bretonside
Plymouth, Devon.

Steel plan will slash jobs

THE NEW plans announced for British steel means that over 80,000 jobs will have been destroyed since the industry was nationalized by Labour in 1967.

With Common Market entry only a week away, the Tories and the capitalist class have decided to salvage what it can from the ailing industry.

Without an efficient and modern industry, the Tories cannot hope to compete on the world markets against the Japanese and others who—with their basic oxygen plants—can sell at lower prices in Europe than the Europeans.

Almost 50 per cent of British steel is still produced with the open-hearth process. This outdated method means that productivity per man in Britain at 110 tons is under half that of the Japanese.

But the plans announced for the industry can only be carried through on the basis of massive attacks on the working class.

Yesterday's 'Times' put it on the line:

'For several years now it has been painfully obvious that Britain's steel industry could not hope to survive, let alone prosper, without a drastic shake-out of men.'

Production will be savagely rationalized and concentrated in five main centres: Ravenscraig, Lackenby, Teesside, Scunthorpe, Port Talbot and the new £7m plant at Redcar on the south bank of the Tees.

Japan's 100 million ton plus industry is virtually all on basic oxygen lines. Britain—whose steel industry has been comparatively backward in technique—only produces 11 million tons with this method.

Scotland will be hard hit with up to 18,000 jobs going in ten years. Steel-making in North Wales will be finished with the closure of Shotton, and the loss of 6,500 jobs.

Tom Jones, Wales officer of

the Transport and General Workers' Union and chairman of the Shotton Steel Defence Committee, said workers at Shotton were extremely angry.

'They feel they have been thrown on the industrial scrap-heap as if they are of no consequence at all,' he said. 'They hold the British Steel Corporation and government responsible for this situation.'

'They will stand against any man being dismissed and are determined not to accept any redundancies.'

'The Times' made it clear

yesterday that Ebbw Vale was also on the closure list, bringing the total loss in Wales to 18,000 jobs. Other plants doomed are those at Corby and Consett.

Of the £3,000m to be spent on rationalizing Britain's backward steel industry, half is to be provided from within BSC. To raise that kind of money, BSC will undoubtedly have to launch vicious attacks on the conditions of those left working in the industry.

Common Market entry for British capitalism heralds an unparalleled attack on workers'

organizations and living standards. That is the meaning of the steel plans.

BLAST FURNACES at the British Steel Corporation's Scunthorpe factory were damped down yesterday morning in preparation for a Christmas strike of steelworkers.

About 6,000 members of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation were expected to walk out in support of their union's demand for the right to represent middle management at the Lincolnshire factory.

CAV blacking decision soon?

LIVERPOOL shop stewards will be meeting early in January to make a final decision over blacking support for the CAV occupation at Fazakerley.

At a Liverpool Trades Council meeting on Thursday the decision on this key issue was postponed yet again. The main issue is a request from the docks shop stewards for a guarantee that they will be backed by industrial action if they are forced into a strike over the blacking of CAV goods on the docks.

Meanwhile the Fazakerley men themselves are fighting a bitter battle to stop the combine from diverting supplies in the north-west.

Pickets have been out at the Lucas Victor works stopping lorries. But some vehicles are getting through. This is despite a decision by Lucas drivers in Birmingham not to handle supplies normally carried by the Fazakerley drivers who have been laid off because of the occupation.

The other challenge facing the occupation committee is the continuing pressure on workers at the adjoining Lucas Industrial Equipment factory to split the ranks and re-start production there.

Lucas are using the crude threat of closure to whip up feeling among LIE workers against the Fazakerley men but so far they have been unsuccessful.

The CAV struggle is now at a

decisive stage. Action throughout Merseyside is needed to support the occupation, entering its 13th week.

But such solidarity can only be built on the understanding that the labour movement must unite behind socialist policies against the Tory offensive on jobs—eagerly supported by firms like Lucas.

It is noticeable that people who rejected this political perspective in the early days of the CAV struggle are the most reluctant to take any concrete steps to back the determined fight for the right to work at Fazakerley.

CAV SIT IN
WISH ALL TRADE UNIONISTS
HAPPY XMAS

ASIAN workers from Mansfield Hosiery's Loughborough mills want a definite arrangement on the training as knitters and not the prospect of scrambling for 41 jobs offered by management. Negotiations will continue after Christmas.

CARWORKERS at British-Leyland's Cowley, Oxford, car-assembly factory have lodged a claim for pay increases of up to £7 a week. To be answered by the company in the New Year, the claim would give direct production workers rises of £5.80 a week and skilled craftsmen £6.40. This would establish a common rate of £50 a week.

Pits scare

THE NATIONAL Union of Mineworkers said yesterday that despite government warnings they were not expecting a wave of pit closures.

Earlier Tory Industry Minister Mr Tom Boardman told the Commons:

'A number of pits must be so grossly uneconomic that closure is inevitable. And there must be other pits which will have to improve their performance enormously if they are to remain open. There will undoubtedly be some contraction and redundancies.'

Yesterday the NCB revealed that four pits employing about 2,000 men have been added to the jeopardy list.

They are Auchincruive, Scotland; Whitworth Park in the north-west; Salway in South Durham and Tower-Fern Hill in South Wales.

The NUM spokesman said: 'Pits have always closed. I certainly don't expect a daffy of closures. What Boardman said springs from the new joint NCB-union consultative committee which is reviewing these things. I wish these fellows would keep their mouths shut.'

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EVERY single capitalist newspaper yesterday systematically played down the £69,250 seized from the engineering union by the National Industrial Relations Court. Yet this was the biggest attack on a trade union in this country since the Taff Vale case of 1903.

And hundreds of thousands of workers had on Wednesday proved the same Press to be totally wrong in its unanimous forecasts of a poor response to the call for strikes against the fines.

Only one capitalist newspaper carried a report of the fine on its front page. And that one—'The Times'—gave the story only four short paragraphs.

The rest buried the story on the inside pages, usually with very short reports. The 'Sun' carried a tiny piece on page 2, the 'Mirror' an equally short item on page 4, while the 'Daily Mail' gave it six paragraphs on page 9 and 'The Guardian' and 'Daily Telegraph' both relegated it to page 5.

Several papers sought to overshadow the fines story by placing it alongside 'good' news (or news which they tried to make look good).

In the 'Telegraph' it was placed

Silence in Fleet Street

next to a bigger headlined story 'Biggest fall in December jobless since 1940', while the 'Mail' had a large headline 'Unemployment is down' nearby.

Both these newspapers ignored the fact that 750,000 workers are fully unemployed—and that's according to official figures which were recently proved by the census reports to systematically underplay real unemployment.

The 'Mirror's' short item was placed in the shadow of a story headed 'A Huge Cash Boost for British Steel'—although this 'boost' involves the loss of at least 50,000 jobs.

Workers Press was the only national newspaper to headline the fact that the nominal value of the union's assets seized was not £50,000 but £69,250.

Those capitalist papers which mentioned this at all, buried it in the text—while 'The Guardian', 'Telegraph' and 'Mail' carried the figure £50,000 in their headlines.

The ruling class is nervous at the fighting response shown by the working class this week—a

response that was not confined to AUEW members.

Though forced to seek to resolve its crisis by attacking the workers, this class is far from confident. It views the strength of the working class and its trade unions with real fear—despite the cringing subservience of the TUC leaders.

The Tories know very well that if the determination of the working class to defend its rights is matched with revolutionary leadership, the days of capitalism are numbered.

That is why it is significant that the Stalinist 'Morning Star' also gave very little coverage to the story.

An upsurge in working-class struggle against the Tory government creates the conditions for the development of revolutionary consciousness—which the Stalinists fear as much as the Tories.

Only Workers Press gave the story the prominence it merits—because only the Socialist Labour League is fighting to develop revolutionary consciousness and to build the revolutionary party in Britain.

MAN OF GOAD



'... and God, please God, please send me £30,000 ...'