

# TUC LEADS THE UNIONS INTO A TORY TRAP

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After the last marathon 'talk-in' with union leaders, the Tories banned wage increases by law. Workers who live on frozen wages while prices rise are only starting to pay the heavy price for this bit of TUC treachery.

On the agenda this time is a permanent system to control wages by state decree.

The Tories know they will have to face a major showdown with the working class before such a system can work.

The 1972 miners' strike, building workers' dispute and the massive protests over the Industrial Relations Act proved this.

But the TUC is always at hand to talk and create a diversion while senior Ministers secretly prepare their offensive to strip trade unionists of their basic rights.

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'She didn't say yes, and she didn't say no, and you can't therefore assume you are going to bed with her. If you make that assumption, you could end up in court.'

This meandering nonsense implies the Tories are going to shift and offer something to the

unions. But this is out of the question.

Three things were clear from Thursday's meeting:

● Heath's edict to Lord Cooper banning all negotiations between unions and employers over pay still stands.

● The Tories put it right on the record that processed food prices could not be controlled.

● The government is ready to back up its phase two proposals for controlling wages by law.

These plans rest on the Tories' economic conspiracy with the governments and monopolies of Europe who want to break up industries like steel and create tens of thousands of redundancies.

The Tories have already legally deprived the working class of its basic democratic rights. But these laws have yet to be made to



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BY  
STEPHEN  
JOHNS

work. This is the task the Tories are preparing while Feather trips back and forth from Downing Street and swaps his homilies with the capitalist Press.

It would be fatal if any worker was deceived by the TUC antics once more.

The truth is that a mass movement on wages is building up within industry. Gasworkers, electricity supply workers, civil servants, actors and carworkers are, or soon will be, caught up in the freeze.

Why should these workers fight alone? They face exactly the same enemy—the Tory government.

Even more important, why should they hold their militancy back?

The increases they demand will not be allowed in full under phase two of the Tory offensive. Every day wasted in this fight strengthens the government.

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## Guerrilla gas strikes planned

FROM DAVID MAUDE

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Transport and General Workers' Union gas delegates yesterday declared their 'total opposition' to the ban, which they described as 'a vicious attack on workers in the gas industry'.

They urged their leaders to call joint action with the General and Municipal Workers' Union not later than January 17.

Calls for all-out strike action were rejected by the 26 T&GWU delegates, who represent 5,000 of the industry's workers.

Such action would be entirely warranted in view of the government's attitude, said a statement from the meeting. But it would cause unprecedented hazards to the public.

So a majority of delegates came down in favour of selective guerrilla strikes, overtime bans and withdrawal of co-operation.

This policy will be urged on G&MWU leaders in advance of their delegate conference on Monday. The G&MWU, which organizes 42,000 gasworkers, is already under strong pressure for some form of national action.

Tom Crispin, national secretary of the T&GWU's power and

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## KEEP LEFT



YOUNG  
SOCIALISTS  
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PAPER

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

and National Speaking Contest

BUILD THE WEEKLY KEEP LEFT  
BUILD THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS  
STOP RISING PRICES  
FORCE THE TORIES TO RESIGN  
TODAY AT 2.30 P.M.

East India Hall, East India Dock Road, London E14

SPEAKERS:  
GARY GURMEET (Editor Keep Left)  
GERRY HEALY (SLL national secretary)  
BRIAN PRANGLE (YS Student Society)

Dance 8 p.m.-11 p.m. to the Average  
White Band and Ram John Holder



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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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A familiar doorstep to TUC secretary Victor Feather — 10 Downing Street. He was making another trip there on Thursday.

The Ford workers have a particular responsibility. If one strong and militant section of the working class gave a lead, others would fall in behind almost immediately. Such an action would destroy the abysmal compromise by the TUC.

It would also expose this government for what it is—a weak administration relying on the servile trade union leaders and its own bombastic statements.

Workers should reject this latest round of class-collaboration by uniting and pressing ahead with action on their wage claims.

No section should delay negotiations to wait for the phase two proposals.

Workers must force the TUC to break off all contact with this government and recall a special congress to prepare for the offensive which lies ahead—the industrial and political conditions to force the government to resign must be created.

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## Fighting the Tories' rent Act

# Don't let Clay Cross fight alone

BY PHILIP WADE

CLAY CROSS Labour councillors who refuse unanimously to implement the hated 'fair rents' Act are now within two weeks of an open confrontation with the Tory government and its agents.

The shadow-boxing is over—ending with the final visit of the district auditor on Thursday—and the fight will shortly be out in the open.

It is almost certain that the district auditor will order the 11 Labour councillors to pay the £7,985 he calculates is missing from the rent revenue account as a result of their failure to implement the Housing Finance Act.

If that happens, all the councillors would not only face bankruptcy, but automatic disqualification from office for five years—thus depriving Clay Cross workers of their elected representatives.

But such provocative action by the auditor—who is only carrying out orders from the Tory government—would almost certainly lead to industrial action by many of Derbyshire's 14,000 miners who have already promised support.

It would place the small mining town in the forefront of the struggle against the Tory government.

Council leader Arthur Wellon has already made it clear that the 11 do not intend to pursue the matter any further through official channels.

'If they get rid of us it will be a blow against democratic rights,' he told me. 'But we've no intentions of taking this fight

out of the political arena. We cannot expect any justice from the present legal system,' he added, explaining it would be a waste of time to appeal against any decision by the auditor.

'There'll be another 11 non-implementers to take our place,' said Cllr Wellon defiantly. 'In no circumstances will the Act ever be accepted in Clay Cross.'

Cllr Wellon said it was 'a sad day' when the Labour Party

national executive could not support such a fight. But tenants and the trade union movement had to be alerted as to what was happening in Clay Cross.

'Nothing can be solved while the Tories stay in. But on the other hand we have no alternative leadership to take us forward,' he added.

Clay Cross's 1,300 tenants are fully behind their council and express bitter hatred of the Tory

government for what they are doing.

'I don't think we should have to pay when my husband who is a miner is only bringing home £19.60 and we have six children,' said Mrs Violet Broomhall. 'The children have to make do with one hot meal a day.'

'We're going to fight it all the way because it's an attack on the working class. That's what Heath's all about,' she said vehemently.

## Mobilize miners and whole working class to defend rebel councillors



Tom Swain, Labour MP for north-east Derbyshire, (seated left), representing the 11 local councillors, listens to district auditor Charles Lacey (seated right) at Thursday's hearing.

'The sooner we get him out the better and other unions must come out to support the councillors.'

Her husband, Herbert, a surface worker at a nearby colliery, told me:

'They will not stop our pay claim after this. We're in for £7 and we're going to get it. All the overtime's been stopped now and my wages have gone down from £23 to £19.60.'

'We should have another election and get the Tories out. They're destroying everything we've got in this country. The miners will definitely be out in support of the councillors and we should bring them all out all over the country,' he said.

Former miner Bill Frost, like so many Clay Cross workers, condemned the lack of Labour Party leadership on rents and all other questions.

'It's not so much lack of leadership as no leadership at all. I'm all for a clearing-out at the top. Nothing will come from the Parliamentary Labour Party—it has got to come from the people themselves like our councillors.'

From Charlie Bunting, one of two councillors still victimized after a bitter strike for union recognition at a local factory, came this terse comment: 'What happened at the NEC when they refused to back us was disappointing but not unexpected. They have shown contempt for the Labour Party conference. You have a conference and lay policy down and then the NEC do exactly what they want.'

'I hear that councillors who won't fight up and down the country are getting bounced like the way we refused the nominations to those Chesterfield councillors who voted for the "fair rents" Act. If that happens all over, it won't be bad.'

With Camden in London, Conisborough in Yorkshire, and a handful of other defiant Labour councils, Clay Cross is directly in the firing line. They cannot be left alone and isolated by the rotten, right-wing Labour Party leadership.

The whole working class must be mobilized in their support to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government pledged by the mass movement to socialist policies, including the repeal of the Housing Finance Act.

## 'Thieu ready to murder prisoners'

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

TWO YOUNG Frenchmen who spent two and a half years in South Vietnam's jails have told of political prisoners being tortured and killed.

Jean-Pierre Debris and André Menras say they were released on December 29 before their four-year sentences were up because they would be embarrassing witnesses of the mass slaughter being prepared by the Thieu regime.

Debris and Menras were jailed after brandishing a National Liberation Front flag in the centre of Saigon.

They witnessed scenes of torture and also saw many victims of the infamous 'tiger cages' no longer able to walk.

They spoke also of 'buffalo cages', even smaller and more overcrowded, in which it is not possible either to lie down or to stand up.

Last January 27 a student Nguyen Viet Hung was killed by a South Vietnamese army lieutenant who drove 12 heavy nails into his head.

Prisoners can be fired on without warning and many secret executions take place.

The Thieu regime is now busy

transforming political prisoners into common law criminals in order that they can be detained after any cease fire.

On Boxing Day, say Debris and Menras, they saw 267 prisoners who had been tortured transferred from the prison on stretchers.

Hundreds of children are held in jail from the age of seven upwards. Some have been tortured by their captors.

'We cannot find words strong enough' they told a Paris Press conference 'to implore you to do everything to save them.'

The two Frenchmen went to South Vietnam under a co-oper-

ation agreement with the French government.

They have had their eyes opened to the real nature of the Saigon regime and have smuggled out notes giving names and details of the 'white terror' raging in the country.

The South Vietnamese prison system still gives employment to an American adviser and all the practices which are exposed by the released Frenchmen have been public knowledge for years.

The only difference is that the campaign of terror and massacre has been intensified as the Thieu regime faces the anger of the masses following the military defeat of the US ground forces.

## Ruhr metalworkers offered 8.5 p.c. wage rise

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of the West German metalworkers' union have reached agreement with the Ruhr iron and steel barons for an 8.5-per cent wage increase affecting 220,000 workers.

The deal was reached after 15 hours of talks behind closed doors, averting a strike which would have closed down the world's largest steel producing area from January 11.

The deal is way below the original 11 per cent demand put forward by IG Metall, West Germany's largest union, whose leaders privately admitted that the claim had been deliberately kept as low as possible.

The new deal barely keeps the steelworkers abreast of rising living costs.

The West German price index rose 6.7 per cent last year and the price of food went up by an average 7.4 per cent.

This year inflation is certain to take an even

larger slice out of the wage packet.

But the IG Metall bureaucrats are determined to restrain their members' wages in line with the guidelines laid down by the coalition government.

The new Economics Minister, Friderichs of the Free Democrats' an open spokesman for big business, has called for wages to be held down to 8 per cent. The IG Metall leaders are doing their best to carry out this directive.

Their collaboration with Willy Brandt's coalition against the working class reveals the leadership's great fear of the militancy growing among the German workers, particularly in this key industry.

Steel employers claimed they could not pay the increase because of a slump.

They threatened to

start sackings unless they got co-operation to cut costs. This frightened the union chiefs, but it did not frighten the rank and file.

The 97 per cent ballot to strike would have led to the biggest working-class action in the Ruhr since 1929.

On Thursday the entire

morning shift of 750 workers at the Friedrich Krupp steel plant at Hohenlimburg, near Hagen, staged a one-hour unofficial stoppage to back the union's pay demands.

They threatened similar stoppages if the negotiations failed to produce a settlement.

The Federal Bureau of Statistics yesterday said the West German steel industry produced 43.7 million tons of crude steel in 1972, 8.4 per cent more than in 1971.

## Angela Davis has Spanish New Year

ANGELA DAVIS welcomed in the New Year in a Madrid discotheque listening to Cuban musicians. She stopped by in fascist Spain en route to the New Year Festival in Cuba.

The Spanish Press paid particular interest to the movements of the 'popular black activist from the

United States'.

At a Press conference, at Barajas airport, Davis told fascist journalists of her 'struggle for hundreds of friends who are in prison for various crimes'.

But hundreds of students and workers in Franco's jails did not merit a single protest.

Socialist Labour League North West Rally

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ALAN STANLEY (Vauxhall Shop Stewards)  
BRIAN GEENEY (U.P.W.)  
WALLY FOUCHS (CAV Occupation Committee)

## Fighting the Tories' rent Act

# Witch-hunt of Hull's lone rebel

## 'I was only carrying out party policy'

HULL Labour councillor and docks shop steward Tony Fee has reaffirmed his determination to fight the Tories' Housing Finance Act—in spite of attempts by party officials to condemn his stand.

Mr Fee who resigned the Labour whip in protest at the Labour council's implementation of the so-called 'fair rents' Act, spoke to Workers Press after a committee meeting of the Hull central constituency party failed to carry a no-confidence vote in him.

The vote was asked for by Yorkshire regional organizer Harold Simms.

But the meeting rejected, by ten votes to seven, a motion backing Mr Fee's stand. Instead they asked him to re-

apply for the Labour whip.

Mr Fee says he doubts if this will satisfy the party leadership. 'The NEC, through Simms, was telling the party to expel me,' he told us.

Yorkshire officials are understood to have told constituency party officers that if they failed to expel him the NEC would hold an inquiry and might even close down the constituency party.

It was this argument, says Mr Fee, which was used at last Monday's meeting to prevent support for his position being carried.

Mr Fee complained at his opponents' lack of principle.

'I resigned the whip because I believe that party decisions should be carried out. As I understand it this applies

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

equally to Labour groups on councils.'

Hull City Labour Party voted for non-implementation of the Housing Finance Act though it reversed its decision after a Labour majority on the council voted for implementation.

Mr Fee's opponents argued, however, that his resignation of the whip must automatically mean his expulsion from the party.

He is very bitter against the council's right-wing leadership.

'I can't see how we can build a democratic socialist system when there have been such big changes in the Labour Party. When it began it was

a combination of affiliated societies; then individual membership was allowed.

'Individuals came into the party for purely personal career reasons — nobody controls their actions. This is to be taken even further with the local government reorganization when trade unions and Co-ops will not have direct representation on the new regional Labour Party bodies.'

He went on: 'The position in the Labour Party is very bad. There is great distrust of the leadership. There are doubts in many people's minds that the Party can achieve anything. This is a desperate need for a new leadership.'

'The present leadership is just keeping things going as before. A new leadership will have to be based on the prin-

ciple that party policy has to be carried out.'

Asked whether he agreed on the need for a revolutionary party to establish a new leadership, Mr Fee said:

'There is definitely a need for a body committed to this socialist programme within the Labour Party. At present the Labour Party is just an electoral machine — it is not initiating change.'

'The changes that are necessary can't be achieved by those who accept that the capitalist system will stay for ever, but I don't think that you have to overthrow the system immediately to get these changes.'

'We must nationalize the banks and major monopolies, but a certain amount of private enterprise could be allowed. Compensation to the nationalized firms is definitely not needed.'

## Councils' six-month start on fraud squad

WHEN Reginald Maudling resigned as Home Secretary on July 18, 1972, it was announced that Commander James Crane, head of the Scotland Yard fraud squad, was to probe the Poulson affair.

The authority for Crane's investigation came from the top—from the Prime Minister himself.

Maudling had to leave his job as chief 'law and order' spokesman for the Tories because it would be embarrassing for the fraud squad to be investigating companies which Maudling was associated with.

At the time of Crane's appointment the capitalist Press went in to lavish praise for him.

That was six months ago. Since then there have been further hearings of the Poulson case at the Wakefield Bankruptcy Court.

More evidence has emerged of leading figures receiving gifts from the Poulson empire.

Yet throughout this long period Crane and his squad remained resolutely quiet.

Suddenly, this week, things appear to have got moving. Crane and

some of his colleagues are to buy railway tickets and travel to the north-east to commence 'on the ground' inquiries.

They will set up headquarters at Morpeth and look into the activities of some 50 local authorities who placed contracts worth millions of pounds with Poulson.

It seems an odd way to conduct an inquiry.

First of all there is a delay of some six months in actually getting under way and now there is enormous publicity to announce the arrival of the law.

If there are any irre-



Commander James Crane

gularities in the books of these councils, they certainly have had adequate warning to get things straightened out.

## Engineers' fine protest spreads to Wales

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRODUCTION was disrupted at dozens of factories in Wales yesterday as engineers went on strike in protest against the £55,000 fines imposed on their union by the National Industrial Relations Court.

Union leaders said that most of the 13,500 engineering workers in west Wales and Swansea supported the strike call.

The Pressed Steel Fisher car components factory at Felin-foel, Llanelli, which employs

2,000 workers, was closed down.

The adjoining British-Leyland factory said that 400 workers had stayed away.

Production was also hit at the British Steel Corporation works at Trostre, Llanelli, and Velindre, Swansea.

The management at the Ford plant at Swansea said that the engineers' stoppage had caused 'minimal' disruption.

On Monday the engineering union leaders at Glamorgan will hold a day-long stoppage while the big industrial estate at Bridgend is likely to be affected.

On the same day 30,000 Tyne-side engineers will hold a one-day strike against the fines.

They will be joined by about 18,000 engineering workers on Wearside.

The strike will close down shipyards, the local Tory Press and big industrial factories like Vickers', Reyrolle's and C. A. Parson's.

Since the fines on the AUEW, local strikes have occurred throughout the country hitting industry in the Midlands, Manchester, Merseyside, and closing down big factories like British-Leyland, the Ford Motor Company and the Fleet Street Press.

Chrysler yesterday avoided a repetition of last Friday's spontaneous walk-out at its Ryton-on-Dunsmore car assembly plant, in defence of the closed shop.

Non-unionist Joseph Langston, whose fervent campaign against the closed shop now has legal backing, did not visit the factory to pick up his £44.70 pay.

The company has made 'other arrangements' to pay him while he remains suspended because no one will work with him.

## White workers wear Powell buttons in Loughborough mill: Asians complain in letter

ASIAN workers at Mansfield Hosiery, Loughborough have sent a letter to management protesting about a new outbreak of racist activity in the factory.

The 500 Indian and Pakistani workers returned to work last Tuesday after a strike for higher wages and a public inquiry into racial discrimination in the factory.



Ken Sanders (49), one of the active right-wingers in the Leicester-Loughborough area. A one-time shop floor committee man and a hosiery union member, he stood as a National Front candidate in local council elections.

Since then a small minority of the white workers in the plant have been wearing Enoch Powell buttons at work and leaflets of the extreme right-wing National Front have been distributed in the factory.

'It is only a very small minority of workers involved in this. There would be no trouble if these men were prevented from causing splits,' said one of the Asians' spokesmen.

They are also concerned over possible discrimination over training.

One Indian, Babu Patel, has been told that no one is prepared to train him as a knitter in the plant and management have had to bring in an outside training officer.

A test case will come next week when 50 Asian workers with over five years' experience in the trade apply for 49 vacancies for trainee knitters.

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

● Loughborough and Leicester are areas where the extreme right is active.

Ken Saunders stood as a National Front candidate in the Leicester City Council elections. He is a redundant hosiery worker who used to distribute the union's journal in Leicester. In September the union gave over a whole page to an article by Saunders titled 'Put Britain First'.


This talked about the 'customary poverty and squalor' of foreign workers and asked the Tories to put British businessmen and British workers first.



A lorry driver who broke the Asian workers' picket line during their recent strike wore a Powell button.

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# The Thalidomide Story Part 2

## THE 'SEDATIVE' AND ITS 'SIDE EFFECTS'

### BOOK REVIEW



'Thalidomide and the Power of the Drug Companies' by Henning Sjöström and Robert Nilsson. A Penguin Special. 40p.

By a guest reviewer

By late in the 1950s the first reports were surfacing about the dangerous side effects of thalidomide. But Chemie Grünenthal, the German company which first manufactured the drug, paid little attention.

In reply to those doctors who urged that the drug should be restricted and made available only on prescription, Dr Heinrich Muckter, Chemie Grünenthal's director of science, laid down company policy:

*... everything must be done to avoid prescription enforcement, since already a substantial amount of our turnover comes from over-the-counter sales.*

In fact, by the middle of 1960, sales of thalidomide accounted for 46 per cent of the company's total turnover.

To counter the growing body of adverse publicity the company stepped up its sales promotion campaign and 250,000 leaflets were issued in the first four months of 1960 alone.

Special efforts were made to secure favourable medical reports for publication. Grünenthal representatives personally visited over 19,000 doctors in that period.

In November 1960 the superintendent of the Drug Commission of the German Medical Association became interested. Grünenthal representatives now took to visiting officials of the various ministries concerned, who soon showed that they were unwilling to take action against the company.

Scientific 'trials' were set up to counter the adverse reports. Most of these were carried out in county asylums on mentally handicapped patients who were, in any case, quite unable to give any coherent description of how they were feeling.

Not surprisingly, positive results were usually obtained from these establishments. With supreme cynicism, the manager of Grünenthal's sales department reported to head office:

*In psychiatric departments with a heavy 271 (Contergan) consumption, no side-effects at all are reported (perhaps the patients are enjoying themselves when it's itching!)*

*I declared our standpoint on the problem of polyneuritis (damage to the central nervous system) and Contergan, and sought above all to cause confusion.*

This was reported by a Grünenthal salesman after his visit to the neurological university clinic in Cologne—a pretty fair summary of the whole company's position.

By the end of May 1961, 1,300 cases of polyneuritis had been reported to Grünenthal. It was a reasonable assumption that many more unreported cases existed.

The company became extremely worried about the possibility of legal action being taken against them. They decided that the best defence was attack.

A private detective was hired to spy on the personal lives of doctors known to be hostile to Contergan, and of patients who might try to sue for damages. His report on one doctor stated that, 'The father of Dr B is an ex-communist and nowadays a member of SED.'

In another case a woman visited a doctor's surgery claiming to be suffering from Contergan polyneuritis. In spite of her best efforts, however, she was unable to report any improper behaviour on the doctor's part. Two company doctors were sent to Hanover to keep a special watch on doctors in a health resort since 'a health resort could be a horrible spreading place for the whole Federal Republic'.

### Loss of turnover

By May 1961, hostile reports were so widespread that the company decided on a change of policy. They were now for prescription control. A leading company official wrote:

*I realize that prescription control will involve a considerable decrease in turnover for Grünenthal. However, I must assume that such a loss will occur in any event... In the present development stage of our firm I consider it an exceedingly heavy set-back if we appear to be more concerned with our turnover than with our responsibility as producers of pharmaceuticals... We should immediately request prescription control from our side as any delay from us could mean a greater loss than we can imagine at the moment.*

They tried to get the prescription application backdated to February so that it would not look as if they had waited to be pressured into it because of bad publicity.

By September 1961, 2,400 polyneuritis cases had been reported and the company began paying compensation in a desperate attempt to prevent the inevitable bad publicity which would occur if cases were brought to court. It has, in fact, been estimated that there are perhaps around 40,000 people in West Germany alone who have suffered various degrees of permanent damage as a result of taking thalidomide.

But worse was still to come. In 1960 the first deformed babies were born.

It was some time before doctors began making the connection between the limbless children and the sedative which their mothers had taken during pregnancy. One of the first to do so was Dr Widukind Lenz from Hamburg. After careful investigation he came to the conclusion that there

were strong grounds for suspecting Contergan. He voiced his suspicions at a scientific meeting, and when that had no effect on Chemie Grünenthal, wrote to them begging them to withdraw the drug until its harmfulness or otherwise could be definitely proved. Within a few days Dr Lenz received a visit from three company representatives who threatened to take legal action against him if he did not keep quiet.

It was not until November 1961, when the newspaper 'Welt am Sonntag' published an article outlining what was then known and demanding that thalidomide be withdrawn, that Chemie Grünenthal decided they had lost the battle and announced that the manufacture of the drug would be stopped.

Nevertheless, they still tried to protect the drug and their own reputation. Articles and statements were issued branding those who had attacked thalidomide as 'trouble-makers' and 'fanatics'. Dr Lenz, they said, was the son of a Nazi geneticist who believed in the validity of the 'master race' concept. They put out the story that he had never had any proof that Contergan was dangerous, but claimed he had had a vision indicating it had caused the deformities.

The withdrawal of thalidomide from the German market, however, did not by any means result in its immediate withdrawal elsewhere. The Astra Company in Sweden, for instance, did not even insert a warning in its publicity material until November 1961, by which time sales had already been stopped in Germany. It was not, in fact, actually stopped in Sweden until December 1961, and Astra's subsidiary company in Argentina went on supplying the drug until March 1962.

In Britain, Distillers issued a new advertisement in October 1961, just one month before Grünenthal was forced to withdraw the drug, claiming that 'Distaval (the British trade name) can be given with complete safety to pregnant women and nursing mothers, without adverse affect on mother or child'.

When the Food and Drug Directorate of Canada was finally forced to order the withdrawal of the drug, the Director wrote apologetically to the licensees:

*In view of increasing demands from Canadian physicians, as well as certain other pressure, we have decided to ask you to withdraw your product from the Canadian market until such time as we can be certain of its possible association or lack of association with congenital deformities in newborn children. I regret very much having to take this course of action and can only hope for an early resolution of the problem.*

Thalidomide was not finally withdrawn world-wide until January 1963, over a year after its terrible effects were recognized, by which time thousands more deformed babies had been conceived.

The only countries to escape the consequences were the Soviet Union, China and the other countries in the eastern bloc, which did not import it, and the United States, due to the courageous stand of Dr



Sir Alexander McDonald, chairman of The Distillers Company Ltd, the British firm which marketed the drug.

Kelsey of the American Food and Drug Administration who, in spite of enormous pressure from the drug companies, refused to give clearance to thalidomide because she was not at all convinced that sufficient pre-clinical trials had been carried out.

When young people react with anger and violence against the system which creates unemployment, homelessness and police brutality and which denies them any stake in the future, they are dragged into court and rapidly disposed of. Or they are kept in jail for months on end awaiting trial. No such fate awaited the directors of Chemie Grünenthal.

### Obstacles to law-suits

The parents of the thalidomide-damaged children initiated law-suits against the company seven years before they were finally able to drag them into court. After over a year of hearings, during which every obstacle was put in their way by the defence lawyers, by the whole legal process itself, by other drug companies which closed ranks with Grünenthal and refused to divulge any information which might have been of help to the prosecution, and by the gutter-Press which pilloried prosecution witnesses, impugning the competence and integrity of scientists who gave evidence against thalidomide and calling the families 'compensation crazy', the parents finally gave up. They agreed to settle for a totally inadequate sum.

Even so, it was 12 years before the children received the first payments from the trust which was set up by the company jointly with the West German government.

One of the reasons given by the German court for accepting the settlement and agreeing to drop all charges against Chemie Grünenthal was the mental suffering of—the accused! It was also pointed out that they were only following normal commercial practice in putting financial interests

above all others. After all, if everybody's doing it, why not Grünenthal? And why should the courts be expected to uphold the law if big business won't?

The tragedy of thalidomide is indeed part of 'normal practice' under capitalism. So long as the drug companies compete for business on the open market, they will be busy searching for new 'wonder-drugs', anxious to get them on sale in the shortest possible time, regardless of whether they have been properly tested or not.

Capitalism takes all man's ingenuity and creativity and twists and distorts it into its opposite. Instead of enabling people to live longer, fuller lives, time and again the development of science and technology only results in unemployment, poverty, disease, death and destruction.

Not until the drug industry has been nationalized and put under the control of qualified doctors and scientists working, not for commercial profits, but to enable man to control his environment and defeat the ravages of disease, will it be able to realize its full potential and such tragedies be avoided.

But that means a struggle to build the revolutionary party to lead the working class to destroy the capitalist system and establish socialism.

Nilsson and Sjöström cannot draw that conclusion. They hope that if the drug laws are strengthened, things would be all right, even though the law has in fact enabled the companies to continue in profitable business for years, largely escaping their responsibility for the dreadful harm they have inflicted.

Nevertheless, in producing their book and bringing to light the workings of companies such as Chemie Grünenthal, they will increase the consciousness of those who read it of the ruthless and often deadly drive for profit. From that development will come the revolutionary determination to put an end to the capitalist system once and for all.





Papadopoulos, head of the military dictatorship in Greece with Archbishop Makarios, president of Cyprus, which has been divided into Greek and Turkish sectors since 1964.

# CYPRUS: THE BLACK SHADOW OF DICTATORSHIP

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT who witnessed the nationalist fighting in Cyprus returns and finds an island of crisis.

Since the Cypriot 'settlement' in 1964, the island, and particularly the capital city, Nicosia, has remained physically and socially divided.

Little has changed in the Turkish sector, which is held, like Turkey itself, under martial law. Living standards, education and health all degenerate in this claustrophobic and barricaded section of the old city, and the morale of the Turkish masses declines apace.

The army turns out a military parade for the tourist, but beneath the bravado a crisis is developing which will affect all of Cyprus and both the Greek and Turkish communities.

Young people on both sides who lived through the struggles of the last nine years are now disillusioned. There are no jobs and no future, save the army. Hopes and aspirations dribble away as Cyprus's new generation spend their time in cafés gambling or eking out a meagre existence with part-time work.

Unemployment in both sectors is running high, especially among graduates. The Turks who cannot find jobs they are trained and qualified for, often have to go to the Greek sector and take manual employment (every day 8,000 Turkish workers go to the Greek sector). Others drift off to the villages and take work on farms and still others sign up as waiters to cater for the tourist trade.

Greek Nicosia demonstrates its frantic desire to adopt European ways. The ugly office blocks sprout all over the sector and European capitalism has flooded this ready market with cars, cigarettes, plastics, etc.

But the shaky equilibrium that exists on the island becomes more unstable every day. The cost of living is rising rapidly and Britain's entry into Europe will accelerate the pace.

Turkish families feel the squeeze, especially as they cannot go on strike to defend their diminishing standards (unlike Greek workers).

Inflation on a world scale has pushed up the prices of the large number of commodities imported into the island. Prices have also risen in anticipation of the special relationship Cyprus is seeking with the EEC countries.

Cyprus cannot afford to be shut out of the British market (which receives the vast bulk of her exports) and the government is trying to preserve its trade with a special agreement with the Six.

## REGIMES

This has raised the knotty problem of Cyprus's relationship with the Americans. The Mediterranean is a major strategic area for US Imperialism and is assiduously supported the extreme right-wing regimes in both Greece and Turkey as a bulwark against the Soviet Union. If Cyprus, Greece and Turkey are drawn more into the European sphere,

the US may develop its tentative links with the nationalist Arab leaders and seek new markets for 'aid' in north Africa.

Whatever the exact moves in this international game, Cyprus is sure to face a crisis and the working class in both sectors will come under more fierce attacks.

This raises the age-old political question of divide and rule, encouraged by the nationalist leaders to keep the powerful Cypriot working class apart.

They inherited this tactic from the British colonial administration. One of the most important tasks of the British, and the leaders of the Cypriot ruling class, was to break up the organization in which the Cypriot masses had found unity. Unions are now strictly divided on nationalist lines. But this was not always so.

Until the late 1950s, despite national tension, the working class fought together in the island's oldest union the Pan-Cypriot Federation of Labour (PEO).

It was only after the physical destruction of many Turkish and Greek labour leaders by the bourgeois nationalists that the communities split. Many trade union leaders were killed by the very right-wing leadership that leads the two communities today.

To achieve this division that whips up nationalist hatred on both sides, the bourgeois leaders shed the blood of thousands of labour leaders. Denktash, the leader of the Turkish community today, is

accused of being responsible for the killing of a series of militants, including an attempt on the life of Sadi, a leading PEO member.

The political situation today on the left is still one of betrayal and confusion. AKEL, the Greek-based Communist Party commands an astonishing 40 per cent of the Greek vote. It faces the Unified Party, which receives about 35 per cent of the vote from the bourgeoisie. Beyond that there are the right-wing nationalist groupings and terrorists who back unification with the Colonels' regime in Greece itself.

AKEL, in true Stalinist style, persistently subordinates itself to the bourgeoisie arguing that any bid for power would invite an invasion of the island from Greece and Turkey, backed by the US. This leadership, of course, militates against any independent action by the Greek working class, which would serve as a basis for unity with their Turkish brothers.

The situation facing the Turkish masses is even more oppressive. They live under military rule and under the Zurich agreement are controlled by an army trained by mainland officers. In Nicosia alone five separate police organizations root out 'subversion' in a tiny area.

The Turkish Cypriots are subject to a continual flood of reactionary nationalist propaganda. The only trade union that is allowed has accepted low wage rates under the guise of 'national interest'.

This, of course, benefits both Turkish and Greek employers who are very pleased with such a display of patriotism, since it supplies them with thousands of workers at a cheap price.

## CORRUPT

No clear development of class politics can be allowed to grow on the Turkish side—the existing regime is so corrupt. One new party, the CTP (Turkish Republican Party), has been in existence for a year. It attracts the young and a number of left wingers who find it the only possible means of working politically.

But the only future for the working class in Cyprus is to turn away from reactionary nationalism and the Stalinist betrayals of AKEL. The youth, facing ever more severe deprivations, are the most likely to make this break.

The situation really has close parallels with Northern Ireland, where opposition on a class basis meets the hostility from reactionary nationalists on both sides.

The struggle for revolutionary politics, which continues underground in the Turkish sector, of course, cannot be separated from the struggles of the working class and peasantry on the mainland against the twin dictatorships.

Without successful revolutions in the two mainland countries, the fate of Cyprus may well be a military dictatorship which has the approval of both the Greek and the Turkish ruling classes.





# CAMDEN: LONDON'S LAST HOPE

BY PHILIP WADE

**Labour controls 21 out of the 32 inner London boroughs. And today only one—Camden—still stands out against the Tory government's 'fair rents' Act.**

Betrayal has followed betrayal—assisted by the absence of leadership from the top of the Labour Party—to a point where in an area where support for the party is among the strongest, the fight is the weakest.

Now the Labour councillors at Camden, in north London, who represent over 22,000 tenants, are under enormous pressure to capitulate and join the ranks of those prepared to assist in the destruction of municipal housing.

Just before Christmas the council—already defaulted by the Tories—received a letter from Geoffrey Rippon, new Secretary of State for the Environment, threatening to withhold subsidies due to be paid to Camden.

The total loss could be as

high as £8m if Camden continues defying the instructions to implement the increases.

It would mean something like a 25p in the £ rates increase for all Camden householders—including council tenants—to make up for the loss in the revenue and enable the accounts to be balanced.

In this situation a number of councillors previously in favour of non-implementation are said to be wavering and could fall down the wrong side of the line at next week's meeting.

Camden tenants' groups have called a meeting and demonstration tomorrow to mobilize local tenants behind those defiant councillors and to stiffen those having 'second thoughts' about the matter.

Following its August decision not to implement the, the council began a long round of discussions with the government in an attempt to win a few concessions on the Act.

In the end, they were given a few crumbs of comfort, if that's what they can be called. Rent increases were reduced from 100p to an average of 85p and rent-rebate levels were increased from £10 to £12.

Of course the Ministers would not back down on the principles of the Act.

So valuable time was lost in discussions and the majority in favour of non-implementation subsequently fell to just four—with many Labourites voting with the Tories.

In the key policy and resources committee, the majority in favour of continuing defiance slipped to just one at the meeting on December 11 last year.

Rents in the borough are among some of the highest in the whole of Britain—£11 a week is not unusual. As a result, many tenants are finding it impossible to keep up the payments—especially as prices are rising so fast.

Rent arrears in the borough now amount to a staggering £426,000—or over 8 per cent of all potential revenue.

Although the government appears reluctant to provoke a direct confrontation by sending in a Housing Commissioner or using the weapon of the extraordinary audit, the noose is tightening around Camden councillors' necks.

If Camden—one of 20 non-implementing councils in Britain—is forced to put up

rates to match the loss in housing subsidies, some councillors suggest retaliation by refusing to pay over money due to the Greater London Council.

But this would only lead to a hopeless mess, with the Tory government—which directly controls through grants about 75 per cent of Camden's expenditure—cutting out more and more subsidies.

As far as the Tory government are concerned, the Act is central to its perspective of destroying basic democratic rights and driving down the living standards of the working class.

Its introduction flowed from the needs of the employing class which—in the midst of a deepening economic crisis—can only try and resolve its problems through direct attacks on the working class.

For the Tories the end of municipal housing is the way not only to impose wage-cuts on workers through a doubling of council rents, but also to raise money for investment in industry.

At the same time, of course, the introduction of the free market forces into council

housing for the first time, throws the whole field wide open to Tory property speculators and landlords.

Such an attack is completely in line with the Tories' record since taking power in 1970. Through the Industrial Relations Act, the state pay laws, massive unemployment and rapid inflation, they have tried to lay the basis for the destruction of the trade unions and the consequent enslavement of the working class.

Manoeuvres in council chambers or calls to 'crush the Act' will not move this Tory government or any of its legislation. Nor will rent strikes launched in a non-political, isolated way.

What is needed now—and urgently—is a campaign to make the Tory government resign through the mobilization of the entire working class.

In its place a Labour government must be returned pledged by the mass movement to carry out socialist policies of expropriation of the basic industries, the banks and the land under workers' control and without compensation and the repeal of all Tory legislation.





# CAMDEN: LONDON'S LAST HOPE

BY PHILIP WADE high as £8m if Camden con- Of course the Ministers rates to match the loss in housing for the first time reversed the decision at confere- ence to back the council's against the Act. 'And the Parliamentary Labor Party has given no direction either, dividing the issue on the barest diversions. The PLP has paid lip-service to the fight



O'CONNOR



BUDD





# LABOUR'S FIFTH COLUMN

Eight Labour councillors on Hammersmith Borough Council remain victimized by the Labour group for their opposition to the Tories' 'fair rents' Act.

What is their crime? On May 10 last year they moved a motion calling for the non-implementation of the Act and 11 of them voted for it. The Labour group met a week later and suspended them.

The councillors appealed to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the party for reinstatement. But the NEC, which has consistently refused to rally any opposition against the Act, decided to back up the right-wingers who dominate Hammersmith council.

Instead the NEC said the suspensions had been carried out 'contrary to rule', which opened the door for the Hammersmith group to vote to renew the suspension 'in accordance with rules'. That was on July 4. Since then the number of victimized councillors has dropped from 11 to eight.

Throughout the second half of last year these councillors remained suspended from the Labour group and unable to participate in any of the policy-making committees.

Their fight against the Act received a boost when the Blackpool Labour Party conference voted by an overwhelming majority to give full support to Labour councillors who refused to implement the Act.

On the basis of this decision the eight councillors again

applied to the NEC for reinstatement. They want unconditional removal of suspension in accordance with conference decision.

Their latest application is still before the NEC awaiting consideration.

Hammersmith right-wingers recently took heart from the NEC's backsliding. They issued an astonishing ultimatum to the eight demanding that they 'toe the line'. (Copy of letter reproduced.)

The author of this document, Cllr Leslie Hilliard, CBE, is Michael Stewart's agent in Fulham.

The people who should be suspended on Hammersmith council are not the Labourites who voted against implementation of the Tory Act. Those suspended should be councillors who defied the party's annual conference decision, the London Labour Party's decision and the democratically reached decisions of the North Hammersmith Labour Party.

By implementing the Act the Labour-dominated council has violated every decision reached by party bodies representing the opinions of the rank and file.

Just as the constituency party at Lincoln threw out pro-Market MP Dick Tavne, QC, so parties up and down the country must now weed out that fifth column of class-collaborators who are not prepared to fight for conference decisions and stand up to the Tory onslaughts on basic rights.

## O'CONNOR

'I've no doubt some are wavering, but it will be difficult for them to reverse their previous votes,' said Cllr Paddy O'Connor, one of the leading Camden non-implementers.

'The Tories don't want to send in a Housing Commissioner or an auditor because they remember the last rent strike in 1960. And that was very bitter. The Tories don't want to provoke us. What they will probably do now is go for our subsidies and then we will be faced with a 25p in the £ rates increase.

'If that happened I would personally be in favour of not paying the precepts to the GLC or the police rate,' said Cllr O'Connor.

But, he added, the Tories controlled about 75 per cent of all Camden's expenditure by grants from central government and they could stop any of them in retaliation.

'The Tories are tightening the noose around Camden and we'll have to keep on fighting. I'm certainly not in favour of implementation now or any time.

'But there is no doubt we should have taken the initiative a long time ago. The majority of the councillors have been prepared to soldier on without the backing of a mass movement.

'I don't think the council will implement but we ought to call on the tenants to come out and back us up,' he added.

## BUDD

'It's on a knife-edge now,' said Bill Budd, from the Ainsworth tenants' association, who is also a branch secretary in the Post Office Engineering Union.

'With the situation the council is faced with they could change the vote and implement the Act.

'I don't see the difference between not putting up the rents £1 and putting the rates up a similar amount. It's like robbing Peter to pay Paul,' he told me.

'The Housing Commissioner was never on from a political point of view. The Tories have only taken direct action in small areas like Clay Cross where the population is not so heavy.'

Many tenants, said Bill Budd, seemed reluctant to get involved at this stage, probably because the events of St Pancras in 1960 had 'left a nasty scar'.

'But the time to be committed is now. To wait and see would be too late and dangerous. Of course one of the difficulties has been that the councillors have never appealed to the wider movement for support.

'Instead of just appealing in the council chamber, they should be out among the wards, among the tenants asking for their support.'

Mr Budd laid much of the blame for that situation on the failure of the national Labour Party leadership.

'Look at the national executive. Only the other week they

reversed the decision at conference to back the councillors against the Act.

'And the Parliamentary Labour Party has given no direction either, dividing the issue on the barest diversions. The PLP has paid lip-service to the fight and the average person now feels let down. Nothing has come from the top and it has enabled many people to get off the hook.

'If they were to reverse, the councillors would lose a lot of support in elections from the tenants.

'The Housing Finance Act is typical Toryism as far as I'm concerned,' said Mr Budd. 'It's more than just rent rises and means that housing is no longer the social right it should be.

'Once a council tenant got a house because it was subsidized and needed it. But not now. I'm already paying £10 a week for a 22-year old flat and if the rents go up as planned under the Act it could soon be as much as £14 a week.

'It spells the end of council housing and all those "homes fit for heroes" everyone used to talk about. The Tories are hitting the working class with everything. With this you've also got the Industrial Relations Act and the Common Market.

'It's time we called bloody halt all round. This is it. Every issue is against the working class and it's time the capitalist class were stopped from getting away with it all.

'Every trade unionist must now take up the cudgels and start from a political outlook. And I hope with such support we won't have to tolerate this government for all that long.'



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### CONDITIONS TO BE MET BEFORE SUSPENSION MAY BE WITHDRAWN

1. Immediate resignation, if applicable, from any Action Group or groups working against decisions of the Majority Party Group on the Council.
2. A categorical assurance from each member that he or she will strictly abide by Group SO's in future both in the letter and in the spirit of such SO's.
3. Conduct whilst under suspension shall have been responsible.
4. Members involved shall refrain from press statements, releases, or other provocative activities.
5. That the mover and seconder of the motion shall agree not to seek or accept nomination for office within the Group or on the Council for one municipal year.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

The dates when suspension may be withdrawn are shown overleaf, together with those when the Chief Whip will be prepared to receive such a request.

The Chief Whip will wish to interview each member and to be satisfied that the assurances sought by the Majority Party Group are obtained.

None of the suspended members will be nominated to serve during the next municipal year on the Housing Committee or Area Housing Boards.

Application not later than the dates indicated will enable the request to be taken without delay to the appropriate Group meeting. The Chief Whip wishes it to be known that he expects to be on deferred leave from September 19 and asks that this be kept in mind.

LESLIE HILLIARD  
CHIEF WHIP



# LENIN ON EUROPEAN UNITY

The fight for a Socialist United States of Europe is basic to the revolutionary movement. From the earliest times the Bolsheviks and Lenin campaigned against any 'unity' of Europe on a capitalist basis and condemned any involvement in such a move by the socialist forces as class-collaboration.

Writing in 1915 Lenin described the idea of a United States of Europe under capitalism as 'impossible or reactionary'.

What he meant was that the antagonisms within the capitalist system—now at its highest stage, imperialism—prevented any planned, rational development of the economy of Europe as a whole.

Any 'unity' proposed by the capitalist governments would be a fraud, a desperate act by the weaker capitalist systems of Europe to protect themselves from the rigours of American competition and an alliance by the big monopolies against the working class.

Such a 'unity' came to pass with the Third Reich. Now the capitalist nations of Europe are embarked on yet another attempt to find a concorde.

The British Communist Party's opposition to this latest attempt has nothing whatever to do with the Leninist position.

The CP Stalinists are primarily concerned over the loss of what they call our sovereignty, heritage, etc. This is the foulest kind of petty-bourgeois nationalism, profoundly reactionary in character. Presumably if the Common Market did not challenge the institutions and ethics of British capitalism, the Stalinists would be pleased to join!

In this important article by Lenin published in August 1915, the Marxist approach is clearly outlined.

It begins from the contradiction within imperialism and proceeds to view any alliance of European states as essentially connected with the warlike trade relations that prevail under imperialism. The article can be found in Volume 18 of Lenin's 'Collected Works', Martin Lawrence 1930.

On Monday we publish Trotsky's own brilliant analysis of the development of Europe.

## Manifesto

Number 40 of the 'Sotsial-Demokrat' carried the information that the conference of the sections of our party situated abroad had decided to postpone the question of the 'United States of Europe' slogan pending a press discussion of the economic side of the question.

The debate on this question at our conference assumed a one-sided political character. This was partly due to the fact that the manifesto of the Central Committee directly formulated this slogan as a political one ('the nearest political slogan,' etc.). The document emphasized not only a republican United States of Europe, but it especially mentioned that 'without a revolutionary overthrow of the

German, Austrian, and Russian monarchies' this slogan is senseless and false.

To argue against such an approach to the question while remaining entirely in the field of political analysis, for instance, to argue that the slogan obstructs or weakens the slogan of a socialist revolution, is entirely erroneous. Political changes of a truly democratic nature, especially political revolutions, can in no case and under no circumstances either obstruct or weaken the slogan of a socialist revolution.

On the contrary, they always make it nearer, they widen the basis for it, they draw into the socialist struggle ever new strata of the petty bourgeoisie and the semi-proletarian masses. On the other hand, political revolutions are inevitable in the course of a socialist revolution, which must not be looked upon as one single act, but must be considered as an epoch, a number of stormy political and economic upheavals, a most sharpened class struggle, civil war, revolutions and counter-revolutions.

But if the United States of Europe slogan, conceived in connection with a revolutionary overthrow of the three most reactionary monarchies of Europe, headed by Russia, is entirely impregnable as a political slogan, there still remains the most important question of its economic content and meaning. From the point of view of the economic conditions of imperialism, i.e., capital export and division of the world between the 'progressive' and 'civilized' colonial powers, the United States of Europe under capitalism is either impossible or reactionary

## Monopolies

Capital has become international and monopolistic. The world has been divided among a handful of great powers, i.e., powers successful in great plunder and in oppression of nations. The four great powers of Europe, England, France, Russia, and Germany, with a population of 250 million to 300 million, with an area of about 7 million square kilometres, possess colonies numbering almost half a billion (494 million to 500 million inhabitants) with an area of 64.6 million square kilometres, i.e. almost half of the globe's surface (153 million square kilometres, barring the Polar region).

Add the three Asiatic states, China, Turkey, and Persia, which are now torn to pieces by the plunderers waging a war for 'freedom,' namely, Japan, Russia, England, and France. In those three Asiatic states, which may be called semi-colonial (in reality they are nine-tenths colonies), there are 360 million inhabitants, and their area is 14.5 million square kilometres (almost one and one-half times the area of the whole of Europe).

Further, England, France and Germany have invested abroad no less than 70,000m roubles. To receive a



'lawful' little profit from this pleasant sum, a profit exceeding 3,000m roubles annually, there are in existence the millionaires' national committees called governments, equipped with armies and navies, 'placing' in the colonies and semi-colonies the sons and brothers of 'Mr. Billion' in the capacity of viceroys, consuls, ambassadors, all kinds of officers, priests and other leeches.

This is how, in the epoch of the highest capitalist development, the plundering of almost a billion of the earth's population by a handful of great powers is organized. No other organization is possible under capitalism. To give up colonies, 'spheres of influence', export of capital? To think so is to come down to the level of a little minister who preaches to the rich every Sunday about the greatness of Christianity, advising them to give to the poor, if not several billions, at least several hundred roubles yearly.

A United States of Europe under capitalism means an agreement as to the division of colonies. Under capitalism, however, only force is possible as the basis, the principle of division. A billionaire cannot share the 'national income' of a capitalist country with any one otherwise than in proportion to the capital invested (with an extra bonus in addition, so that the largest capital may receive more than its due).

Capitalism is private property in the means of production, and anarchy of production. To preach a 'just' division of income on such a basis is Proudhonism, is thick-headed philistinism. One cannot divide the income otherwise than in proportion to power; and power changes in the course of economic development. Germany after 1871, grew in power three or four times faster than England and France; Japan, about ten times faster than Russia.

To test the real power of a capitalist state, there is, and there can be, no other way than war. War is no contradiction to the foundations of private property—on the contrary, it is a direct and inevitable development of those foundations. Under capitalism, equal economic progress of the individual concerns, or individual states, is impossible. Under capitalism, no other means for periodically re-establishing destroyed equilibrium are possible outside of crises in industry or of war in politics.

Of course, temporary agreements between capitalists and powers are possible. In this sense the United States of Europe as the result of an agreement between the European capitalists is possible but what kind of an agreement would that be? An agreement jointly to suppress socialism in Europe, jointly to guard colonial booty against Japan and America, which feel slighted by the present division of colonies, and which, for the last half century, have grown infinitely faster than backward monarchist Europe, beginning to rot with age.

In comparison with the United States of America, Europe as a whole signifies economic stagnation. On the present-day economic basis, i.e., under capitalism, the United States of Europe would mean an organization of reaction for thwarting the more rapid development of America. The days when the cause of democracy and socialism was associated with Europe alone have passed forever.

The United States of the World (not of Europe alone) is a state form of national unification and freedom which we connect with socialism; we think of it as becoming a reality only when the full victory of communism will have brought about the total disappearance of any state, including its democratic form. As a separate slogan, however,

the United States of the World would hardly be a correct one, first because it coincides with socialism, second, because it could be erroneously interpreted to mean that the victory of socialism in one country is impossible; it could also create misconceptions as to the relations of such a country to others.

Unequal economic and political development is an indispensable law of capitalism. It follows that the victory of socialism is, at the beginning, possible in a few capitalist countries, even in one, taken separately. The victorious proletariat of that country, having expropriated the capitalists and organized socialist production at home, would rise against the rest of the capitalist world, attracting the oppressed classes of other countries, raising among them revolts against the exploiting classes and their states.

## Victorious

The political form of a society in which the proletariat is victorious, in which it has overthrown the bourgeoisie, will be a democratic republic, centralizing ever more the forces of the proletariat of a given nation or nations in the struggle against the states that have not yet gone over to socialism. It is impossible to annihilate classes without a dictatorship of the oppressed class, the proletariat. It is impossible freely to unite the nations in socialism without a more or less prolonged and stubborn struggle of the socialist republics against the other states.

It is due to such considerations resulting from repeated debates at the conference of the sections of the Revolutionary Social-Democratic Labour Party situated abroad and after, that the editors of the Central Organ came to the conclusion that the United States of Europe slogan is incorrect.



# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## RESALE?

The local corporation at Lancaster has just completed purchasing a number of houses and other buildings in the Edward Street area of the city. They are due to be demolished to make way for an urban clearway through the district.

But one particular piece of property which the corporation has not acquired is the former St Anne's school building. It has been disclosed now that the disused school was bought last July by Yates and Jackson, a local brewery firm.

Why did the brewery company acquire this site? A reporter from the 'Lancaster Free Press' who put this question to managing director Dennis Jackson received the surprising reply that he 'did not know'. In fact, Mr Jackson said that he did not know whether the company had any plans to make use of the building, and could not say whether they intended to develop the site.

What is more, he told the reporter that he 'could not remember' how much the company had paid for the property, nor could he say whether it would be affected by the new road.

The auctioneers who handled the sale of the St Anne's school apparently had a better memory, however; and were able to disclose that the brewery company had paid over £18,000 for the site.

The Planning Office at the Town Hall has also been able to throw a little more light on the deal. It seems that the new road will just skirt the school building, but will take in the yard at the front.

The Planning Office spokesman said he could not understand why the corporation had not acquired the site, nor did he know why Yates and Jackson should want it, since they were unlikely to get planning permission to develop it.

However, the corporation would have to buy the school yard from Yates and Jackson.

It could well be that Yates and Jackson could make some profit on the resale of the land to the corporation.

Incidentally, the road plan has been in existence for some time. And up to the last municipal elections, Lancaster had a Tory council.

## BAD TRIP

The Tory leaders of the Greater London Council seem to be having a bad time on their trips abroad these past few weeks.

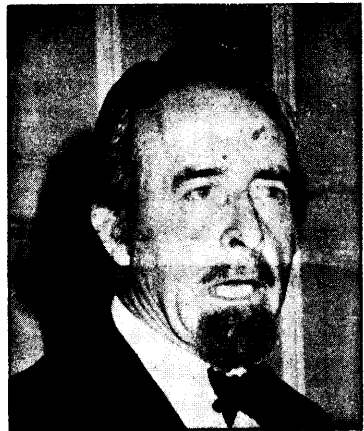
GLC leader Sir Desmond Plummer was at the centre of a recent row with Edward Heath, who phoned him in Tokyo to sound off about the traffic in Whitehall.

Now it's the turn of the deputy leader, Mr Horace Cutler, who recently arrived back in London from a two-week cruise on the P & O liner 'Orsova'.

The all first-class Christmas cruise cost £500 a head and took the 500 passengers to the sun away from the gloomy British scene.

But when it docked at Southampton there were scenes of violent confrontation and shades of the picket line.

According to the London 'Evening News', 'jostling,



Horace Cutler

shouting and pushing broke out... waving their arms and shouting some of the passengers demanded their money back... while others accused them of being "communist agitators" (sic) and "money-grabbers".

The protesting faction was led by Cutler who told Pressmen: 'It is time people rejected low standards. I will not stand for them. All the time we do the standard gets lower and lower—this cruise has been downright disgusting.'

When other passengers began praising the liner, Cutler boomed back: 'I suppose it is a lie I had a cockroach in my yoghurt and had to send it back?'

It seems to have been what you might call a bad trip...

# A JOLLY LOOK AT 1972

TV REVIEW BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

A quick jollied up diversion through the blind alleys of 1972 as cooked up for us by 'This Week' throughout the year, was presented by its jovial producer John Edwards.

Some remarkable and potent moments in the filming only served to highlight the calculated confusion and softening-up process which appeared to dominate the observations.

The most potent stuff, which not even the confusion of the programmes could obscure, included a piece on the miners' strike—the men arguing on the picket lines and the quality of absolute determination and strength which came across from the pickets preventing a truck delivery in straightforward decisive fashion.

Next, the view of the young couple looking for a home, rendered impotent by the exploitation of the property market, the little agents like a lot of vultures grabbing the pickings from the big-time developers and owners.

And then the group of largely working-class Tories in Billericay very clearly representing their bitter disillusionment with the party for which they were so busily canvassing.

Apart from these: Some slick perceptions by an American psychiatrist on hijacking (all hi-jackers are 'the same under their left and right wing ideologies' he says contemptuously: i.e. they're disturbed misfits but naturally bear no relation to any disturbances inside the world).

Some more propaganda for the British army in Belfast, where the programme takes a Hull bus driver to Ulster in order to extract from him the revelation that he's 'changed his mind about the British army—they must stay in Ireland'.

Although there was plenty of material and a few dislocated facts it all bore little relationship to the year which was the real experience: inflation, floating sterling, stepping up the aggression inside Ireland, huge movements by the working class on all fronts, industrial and otherwise.

It was as if the programme had done its best to keep all the realities at a distance as usual and resulted in the most flippant and obscene survey—obscene in its blatant concern to cover up the truth in all directions.

## EUROPE BALLYHOO

We had however, more than a passing glimpse of what the Common Market really holds for everyone and the workers of Europe in particular, when Robin Day appeared with the two new Commissioners—Christopher Soames and George Thomson—in 'Talk-In Europe' in front of an audience of 'trade unionists, businessmen, housewives, farmers and economists', as Day informed us.

There was a great deal of the flannelling about by Thomson and Soames on the question 'whether they regarded themselves as Europeans first or British' and what appeared to be the most calculated diversion by some planted political scientist in the audience who, when the exchanges became a little too close to the point, swung in with a reverent query on 'the long term... grand design



Sir Christopher Soames, European Commissioner, arrives at the Hampton Court banquet to mark Britain's entry into the Common Market.

which was so much more important than the short-term cost-of-living question!'

For in fact, despite the obviously right-wing nature of the leadership represented, some of the trade unionists did manifest important signs of all the crucial problems which are going to hit us all now we are into 'the European Club'.

Questions about how to reassure the thousands of workers who, in the midst of a wage freeze, were faced with skyrocketing living costs, went down none too well and received the blandest evasions in response.

'Are we going to be an outward looking Europe, against Pompidou's wishes?' 'Why haven't the housewives been given any clear information about what's to occur?' 'What about Wales and Scotland?' and 'What about the 5 million small shop-keepers and small businesses that will be threatened?' 'What about overproduction and too many commodities?'

All these questions swiftly pointed up the bankruptcy and outrage in the whole scheme, the potential for trade war, the way in which ordinary workers will suffer and unemployment will rise together with the enormous flights of capital into Europe which was nervously brought up only to be swept aside in smooth talk of 'more Bank holidays' and Soames' insistence on the coming prosperity which has apparently soared in other European countries and must therefore do the same for us.

This sort of empty diplomacy must soon be revealed for what it is—a cover-up for the reality which shows that

the Common Market is not only 'a scheme hatched up by politicians', as one member of the audience suggested, but by all those who are searching desperately for a regeneration of profits that are slipping fast.

## OLD TIME NOSTALGIA

Away from the nasty truths of the present and into another orgy of nostalgia and rendezvous with the favourite distortions of the past. 'The Pathfinders' is not only the epitome of this type of programme, it is also badly done and full of inane writing and characterization.

This week was no exception and managed to compress all the perfection of the British RAF—ever-vigilant, resourceful, decisive—into a tale about the Gestapo developing a new type of jet which, it was implied, if the British RAF had not been held back by a troublesome bureaucracy, they would have achieved first anyway.

All the officers and men were sheer caricature (all men working class, officers of 'good breeding') and even the chief character, who appears somewhat less than perfect, is dutifully revealed at the end to have been correct all along about everything.

Increasingly, nationalist soap operas are appearing more and more frequently in order to keep viewers' minds off the persisting pressures of current reality and turned to idealized nonsense about the past. But soon it will be a hard job for even the most flamboyant camouflage to take people's eyes off the crises that loom.

## BOOKS



Moscow Trials Anthology  
Paperback, 62½p  
MAX SHACHTMAN:  
Behind The Moscow Trials  
Paperback 75p  
ROBERT BLACK:  
Stalinism In Britain  
Paperback £1.12½—cloth £2  
LEON TROTSKY:  
Death Agony of Capitalism  
(The Transitional Programme)  
Pamphlet 5p  
Class Nature of the Soviet State  
Pamphlet 20p  
In Defence of the October  
Revolution Pamphlet 15p  
The Theory and Practice of  
Revisionism Pamphlet 15p  
Postage 10p per book, 3p per  
pamphlet. Order from:  
NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS  
186a Clapham High Street,  
London SW4 7UG.



## SATURDAY TV

### BBC 1

10.30 Crossi'r bont. 10.55 Weather. 11.00 The herbs. 11.15 Harlem globetrotters. 11.35 Yellow slippers. 12.00 Grandstand. 12.05 Football preview. 12.25, 12.50, 1.20, 1.50 Racing from Haydock. 1.10 Ski jumping. 2.10 International rugby union. 3.50 Lancer. 4.40 Final score. 5.05 Basil Brush show. 5.35 News, weather, sport. 5.50 Dr Who.

6.15 **WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY.** In Shape With Von Drake.  
7.00 **FILM: 'HIS MAJESTY O'KEEFE.'** Burt Lancaster. A captain sets out to make his fortune from copra.  
8.20 **CILLA.** Cilla Black with Leslie Crowther, Matt Monro.  
9.05 **A MAN CALLED IRONSIDE.** Joss Sticks and Wedding Bells.  
9.55 **NEWS.** Weather.  
10.10 **MATCH OF THE DAY.** 11.10 **PARKINSON.** 12.10 **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. 11.35 Osmonds. 12.00 Partridge family. 12.30 News. 12.35 World of sport. 12.40 On the ball. 1.05 International sports special. 1.20 ITV seven. 1.30, 2.00, 2.30, 3.00 Racing from Kempton. 1.45, 2.15, 2.45 Racing from Market Rasen. 3.10 International sports special. English closed table tennis championships. 3.50 Results, scores, News. 4.00 Fanfare for Europe. Wrestling. 4.50 Results service. 5.00 Black beauty. 5.40 Sale of the century.

6.10 **NEWS.** 6.15 **FILM: 'CHEYENNE AUTUMN.'** Richard Widmark, Carroll Baker, Karl Malden, Edward G. Robinson, Sal Mineo, Ricardo Montalban, James Stewart, Dolores Del Rio. John Ford's film about a thousand Cheyenne who are moved from their land to a poorly equipped reservation in Oklahoma.  
8.30 **NEW SCOTLAND YARD.** Hoax.  
9.30 **THE VAL DOONICAN SHOW.** Guests David Nixon, Olivia Newton-John, Dailey and Wayne, Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band.  
10.30 **NEWS.** 10.40 **RUSSELL HARTY PLUS.**  
11.40 **FUTURE OF THE FUTURE.** Richard Wakely and Lord Rothschild.  
11.55 **DEPARTMENT S.** Six Days.

### BBC 2

3.00 Film: 'Kismet'. Ronald Colman, Marlene Dietrich. A beggar's ingenuity gains him wealth and a prince to marry his daughter. 4.35 Play away. 5.00 Some very gallant gentlemen. The irony of fate: Captain Scott. 5.50 Man alive.  
6.40 **TELEVISION DOCTOR.**  
6.55 **BY APPOINTMENT TO GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.** Joan Bakewell talks to Valerie Pascall, widow of Gabriel Pascal, the only man granted permission by GBS to film his plays.  
7.20 **NEWS AND SPORT.** Weather. 7.35 **RUGBY SPECIAL.** England v New Zealand.  
8.20 **WAR AND PEACE.** Moscow!  
9.05 **FULL HOUSE.** Introduced by Joe Melia. Including Poems by Spike; After Magritte; The Clarke-Boland Septet; Italian Futurism 1909-1919; The Amadeus String Quartet.  
11.25 **FILM: 'LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA.'** Olivia de Havilland, Yvette Mimieux, George Hamilton, Rossano Brazzi. A mother is tempted to conceal her daughter's mental disability from the man who falls in love with her.

## SUNDAY TV

### BBC 1

9.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 9.30 Repondez s'il vous plait. 10.00-10.25 Aventura. 10.30-11.30 Sung Eucharist. 11.35 Cut and thrust. 12.00 Handling materials. 12.25 Let's get going. 12.50 Farming. 1.15 Made in Britain. 1.30 Parents and children. 1.55 News headlines. Weather. 2.00 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 2.15 Story theatre. 2.35 Ask Aspel. 2.25 Blue Peter special assignment. 3.35 Film: 'On the Riviera'. Danny Kaye. An American entertainer and a French singer are involved in marital misunderstandings. 5.05 Billy Smart's children's circus.

6.05 **NEWS.** Weather.  
6.15 **THE SUNDAY DEBATE.** Crime and Punishment. The case for sterner measures to curb the increase in violent crime. With Reginald Maudling, Lord Longford and Peter Brodie.  
6.50 **THE NEW BEGINNING.** 7.00 **THE CHOICE IS YOURS.**  
7.25 **SALUTE TO GERSHWIN.** Music from Broadway shows and memorable films.  
8.15 **PLAY OF THE MONTH: 'THE ADVENTURES OF DON QUIXOTE.'** With Rex Harrison, Frank Finlay, Rosemary Leach, Bernard Hepton, Ronald Lacey, Roger Delgado, Robert Eddison. 10.10 **NEWS.** Weather.  
10.20 **OMNIBUS FILE.** Events in modern music.  
11.10 **CROSSTALK.** Richard Crossman, MP invites A.J.P. Taylor historian to discuss with him. 11.50 **Weather.**

### ITV

9.30 UFO. 10.30 Fanfare into Europe. Service. 11.30 Weekend world. 1.00 Thunderbirds. 1.50 Brian Connell interviews. 2.15 Big match. 3.15 Persuaders. 4.15 Junior police five. 4.25 Golden shot. 5.15 Aquarius.  
6.05 **NEWS.** 6.15 **ADAM SMITH.** 6.45 **THE BIG QUESTION.**  
7.00 **APPEAL.** Kenneth More on behalf of the British Library of Tape Recordings for Hospital Patients. 7.05 **SONGS THAT MATTER.**  
7.25 **THE FENN STREET GANG.** Is That a Proposal Eric?  
7.55 **PLAY: 'THE DEATH OF ADOLF HITLER.'** With Frank Finlay as Hitler. 10.00 **NEWS.**  
10.15 **FILM: 'AN AMERICAN IN PARIS.'** Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron. Musical about an ex-GI who stayed on after the war.  
12.15 **FUTURE OF THE FUTURE.**

### BBC 2

4.30 Money at work. 5.35 Horizon.  
6.20 **NEWS REVIEW.** 6.55 **NEWS SUMMARY.** Weather.  
7.00 **DOUBTS AND CERTAINTIES.**  
7.25 **AMERICA.** Money on the Land.  
8.15 **JACK JONES.** With Susan George.  
9.00 **BUT SERIOUSLY—IT'S SHEILA HANCOCK.** With Kenneth Allsop.  
9.30 **THE VIEW FROM DANIEL PIKE.** Credit Where It's Due. 10.20 **UP SUNDAY.**  
10.45 **FILM: 'THE FUGITIVE.'** Henry Fonda, Dolores Del Rio, Pedro Armendariz. A priest in a Latin American country defies the anti-clerical decrees of the authorities. 12.25 **NEWS.** Weather.

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 11.40 Bonanza. 12.30 London. 5.10 Tarzan. 6.10 London. 6.15 Sale of the Century. 6.45 Film: 'Heller in Pink Tights'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Champions. 12.25 Weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 9.50 Jobs around the house. 10.20 Opportunist. 10.45 Woobinda. 11.10 Cartoon. 11.35 Gus Honeybun. 11.40 Bonanza. 12.25 Faith for life. 12.30 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Let them live. 10.35 Stingray. 11.05 Merrie melodies. 11.35 Cowboy in Africa. 12.27 Weather. 12.30 London. 5.10 Tarzan. 6.10 London. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'Carry On—Don't Lose Your Head'. 8.30 London. 10.40 News. 10.45 Film: 'Love With the Proper Stranger'. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.00 London. 9.50 Bugs Bunny. 10.00 Tomfoolery. 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 Joe 90. 12.00 Farming diary. 12.03 London. 5.10 UFO. 6.10 London. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'Promise Her Anything'. 8.30

Val Doonican. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Name of the game. 12.45 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 5.10 It's all in life. 5.40-6.10 Sion a sian.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.15 You and your golf. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 A place in the country. 10.35 Survival. 11.00 Cartoon. 11.05 Tomfoolery. 11.30 Osmonds. 12.00 Skippy. 12.30 London. 5.15 It takes a thief. 6.10 London. 6.15 Doctor at large. 6.45 Film: 'Return of the Gunfighter'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Gordon Bailey. 11.35 Film: 'So This is Paris'.

**ULSTER:** 10.30 Sesame street. 11.30 Thunderbirds. 12.30 London. 5.10 Sport. 5.40 Merrie melodies. 6.10 London. 6.15 Beverly hillbillies. 6.45 Film: 'Return of the Gunfighter'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 Upstairs, downstairs. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.25 Kreskin.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.15 Skilful rugby. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Pard-

ners. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'Diplomatic Courier'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 New Scotland Yard. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Place in the country. 12.00 To see ourselves. 12.30 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 11.00 Kick off. 11.30 Sesame street. 12.30 London. 5.10 Man from Uncle. 6.10 London. 6.15 Film: 'The Three Musketeers'. 8.25 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Boris Karioff presents.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.15 Wild life theatre. 9.40 Collecting on a shoestring. 10.10 Osmonds. 10.35 Follyfoot. 11.05 Abbot and Costello. 12.30 London. 5.10 Riptide. 6.10 London. 6.15 Comedians. 6.45 Film: 'Three Guns of Texas'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 New Scotland Yard. 10.30 London. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 Coronet blue. 12.25 Lectern.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.15 Jackson five. 11.45 Ron and friends. 12.30 London. 5.10 UFO. 6.10 London. 6.15 Turnbull's finest half hour. 6.45 Film: 'Rope of Sand'. 8.30 Val Doonican. 9.30 New Scotland Yard. 10.40 Aquarius. 11.30 O'Hara, US Treasury.

## REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 11.30-1.00 London. 2.13 Weather. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film: 'Dentist on the Job'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 10.15 Film: 'The Third Secret'. 12.00 Epilogue. Weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 9.30 All our yesterdays. 10.00 Tomfoolery. 10.30 London. 11.28 Gus Honeybun. 1.00 Talking hands. 1.15 Branded. 1.45 Farm and country news. 1.55 Acres for profit. 2.15 London. 12.00 Faith for life. 12.05 Weather.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.15 Talking hands. 9.30 Farm progress. 10.00 World War I. 10.27 Weather. 10.30 London. 1.00 Superman. 1.20 Primus. 1.50 Hogan's heroes. 2.05 London. 3.15 Dora. 3.45 Golden shot. 4.40 Aquarius. 5.20 News. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 10.05 Film: 'The Haunting'. 12.20 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.35 All our yesterdays. 10.00 A place in the country. 10.30 London. 1.00 Survival. 1.30 Art for all. 1.55 Bugs Bunny. 2.15 London. 3.15 Film 'The Spy Killer'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 10.15 Mr and Mrs. 10.45 Film: 'The Night Walker'. 12.15 Weather.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 All our yesterdays. 10.00 Citizens' rights. 10.30 London. 1.00 Champions. 2.00 Star soccer. 3.00 Film: 'The Secret of My Success'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.55 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 10.15 Film: 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?'.

**ULSTER:** 10.30 London. 1.00 Getting your money's worth. 1.30 Jobs around the house. 1.55 Pebbles and Bamm Bamm. 2.05 London. 3.15 Film: 'Don't Panic Chaps'. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 10.15 Film: 'The Trygon Factor'.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 Helicopter land. 10.30 London. 1.00 Farming. 1.25 Calendar. 1.55 Soccer. 2.50 Film: 'Coast of Skeletons'. 4.35 Cartoon. 4.45 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 10.15 Film: 'Under the Yum Yum Tree'. 12.15 Untamed world. 12.45 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 10.30 London. 12.55 Saint. 1.50 Jackson five. 2.20 Football. 3.20 Film: 'The Love War'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black beauty. 6.05 London. 10.15 Film: 'Promise Her Anything'.

**TYNE TEES:** 9.20 Chess masterpieces. 9.30 Helicopter holy land. 10.30 London. 1.00 Farming. 1.25 World War I. 1.50 Where the jobs are. 1.55 Shoot. 2.50 Film: 'The Mating Season'. 4.45 Golden shot. 6.05 London. 10.15 FBI. 11.15 Challenge. 12.05 Dr Simon Locke. 12.35 Lectern.

**GRAMPIAN:** 11.00 Farm progress. 11.30 London. 1.00 Getting your money's worth. 1.30 Jobs around the house. 2.00 Sport. 3.25 Film: 'Information Received'. 4.40 Golden shot. 5.35 Black Beauty. 6.05 London. 10.15 Film: 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'.



Rosemary Leach plays Dulcinea in BBC 1's Play of the Month on Sunday, Miguel Cervantes' 'The Adventures of Don Quixote'. Rex Harrison plays the title role of the Knight extraordinary from the plain of La Mancha.

# All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

Fight Rising Prices  
Force the Tories to Resign  
Support the Engineers

**BRADFORD:** Sunday January 7, 7.30 p.m. Talbot Hotel, Kirkgate.

**SWINDON:** Sunday January 7, 7.30 p.m. 'Locomotive Hotel'.

**COVENTRY:** Monday January 8, 7.30 p.m. 'Elastic Inn', Cox Street (opposite Theatre One).

**ACTION:** Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'The Rocket', Churchfield Rd, W3.

**WOOLWICH:** Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Arms', Burrage Road.

**BRACKNELL:** Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'The Red Lion', High Street. 'Build Councils of Action. Defend Democratic Rights.'

**SOUTHALL:** Tuesday January 9, 8.00 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. (Please note date change.)

**HARROW AND WEALDSTONE:** Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Railway Approach, Station Road, Harrow.

**ROCHESTER:** Tuesday January 9, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue.

**HULL:** Wednesday January 10, 8 p.m. White Hart Hotel, Alfred Gelder Street (near Drypool Bridge).

**SHEFFIELD:** Wednesday January 10, 7.30 p.m. 'The Grape Inn', Trippett Lane, Sheffield 1.

**HACKNEY:** Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. The Parlour, Hackney Central Hall (opp. Town Hall).

**TONBRIDGE:** Thursday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Foresters', Quarry Hill Road.

**KINGSTON:** Thursday January 11, 8 p.m. 'The Liverpool Arms', corner of Cambridge Road and London Road.

**SLOUGH:** Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. Community Centre, Class Room, Farnham Road.

**LEEDS:** Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. Peel Hotel, Boar Lane.

**EAST LONDON:** Tuesday January 11, 8 p.m. 'Festival Inn', Christ Street Market, E14. 'The crisis of leadership in the working class'.

**GLASGOW:** Thursday January 11, 7.30 p.m. Partick Burgh Hall. 'The Common Market and the wage freeze'.

**WATFORD:** Monday January 15, 8 p.m. Watford Trade Union Hall, Woodford Road, opposite Watford Junction station.

**HOLLOWAY:** Thursday January 18, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Rd (near Finsbury Park tube).



# Dockers' severance gains are frozen

DOCKERS leaving the industry voluntarily this month will find their severance pay short by three days' holiday money—but their union leaders aren't going to lift a finger.

The money they will lose covers the extra days' holiday agreed between the unions and the port employers last year.

Under the terms of the settlement, the holiday entitlement of registered dockers was to go up from three to four weeks in two stages.

Two of the days went on the entitlement last year. The other three were due from January 1, 1973.

The National Joint Council for

the Port Transport Industry has been told by the government that the three days due from January 1 come within the terms of its pay-control law.

So the men are to leave the industry with only three weeks and three days' holiday pay in their packets.

'This is a sticky problem', says

Tim O'Leary, Transport and General Workers' Union docks secretary. 'We have gone into it very thoroughly. The advice we have been given is that the additional three days' holiday comes within the terms of the "freeze".'

'We are seeking more information to confirm this, but it seems at the moment we must accept this position.'

## Hull dockers black lorry firm over jobs

HULL dockers have implemented a black against a Goole transport firm in defiance of official union policy.

They have turned away two lorries belonging to A. Williams which called at the King George dock for a consignment of Danish canned goods. The shop stewards' committee threatened the black some time ago and set a January 1 deadline.

The company has a depot near Goole which employs non-registered dock workers.

The dockers say that the goods go into the depot and

are broken down for distribution. This was work which dockers did a few years ago and they want registered men employed in the depot.

A T&GWU spokesman said yesterday the union had officially advised members to handle cargo for the firm.

Last year the stewards were taken to the National Industrial Relations Court for blacking another local firm, Panalpina.

Walter Cunningham, the chairman of the Hull stewards, was named in the complaint, but he refused to appear before Sir John Donaldson.

## 'Kangaroo court' sacked teachers claim

OF THE 127 teachers dismissed by the Teesside Education Committee for working-to-contract—120 didn't get a hearing. And more sackings are likely among 158 members of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers who have been suspended for working-to-contract since the end of October.

The dispute arose over assurances sought by the unions on job-security for teachers affected by the re-organization of schools along comprehensive lines.

The 120 were dismissed without a hearing because they were not present for a roll-call at the sessions of a special education sub-committee.

But the teachers claim they were expected to wait in the local town hall from 9 a.m. until midnight.

On Thursday, for example, when 30 teachers had been called before the sub-committee, only one case had been heard by 7 p.m. and the remaining 29 went home. They then received letters informing them of their dismissal.

NAS national executive member from Teesside, Phil West, described the sackings as 'jungle injustice'. Describing the sub-committee as a 'kangaroo court', Mr West continued: 'The reaction up here is one of anger and complete disgust.'

The NAS has advised the

sacked teachers not to reply to a letter from the committee which stated they could 'substantiate' their reasons for non-appearance by writing to it by January 8.

The National Union of Teachers has so far issued no statement of support for the sacked teachers nor given any indication of what its attitude will be when Teesside schools open on Monday after the Christmas holiday.

Instead the NUT has asked Education Minister Mrs Thatcher to hold a government inquiry into the situation.

SHELL oil refinery strikers near Stanford-le-Hope, Essex, are to meet again on Monday. The 950 members of the T&GWU came out on Thursday night after six workers had been suspended for refusing to change a flat tyre on a sampling van. They say the work should be done by a craftsman, but the management says that under a new productivity deal minor jobs can be done by other workers. A company spokesman claimed yesterday that productivity was being maintained by supervisory staff.

# Delay over Ford pay talks

BY DAVID MAUDE

NO FIRM date has been fixed for further talks on the Ford pay claim, it emerged after an 'exploratory' meeting between the company and the unions on Thursday.

Despite the union leaders' assurance that they will press the claim regardless of the Tory pay-control law, they are clearly anxious not to force a confrontation.

Both in 1969 and 1971 Ford's had replied to the unions' claims with an offer by mid-January. If this precedent is followed, the company's reply should be given at the next meeting of the national joint negotiating committee on January 26.

This would enable the company to take account of the government's phase two pay legislation, the shape of which is expected to be announced before or immediately after parliament reassembles on January 22.

By not insisting on a firm date

for a reply, the union leaders are obviously accepting that this is to be the case—and, incidentally, giving the Tories plenty of time to decide their policy.

Ford is relying on the Tories to give it an argument for pitching its offer low. It will certainly not be able to plead poverty, since after record car sales it is expected to convert last year's £30m loss into a £30m profit.

Final figures are due out in May.

ONE OF DISTILLERS two London distribution centres was at a standstill yesterday. Fifty men, mainly drivers and loaders were on strike at the Larkwood, Chingford, Essex, centre over a £7 pay rise halted by the government's wage-control legislation.

## SLL LECTURES TODMORDEN

Monday January 8  
**'The economic crisis'**

Monday January 22  
**'Stalinism'**

Monday February 5  
**'Trotskyism'**

**THE WEAVERS' INSTITUTE, Burnley Road, 7.30 p.m.**

## SHEFFIELD

Monday January 8  
**Marxism and the revolutionary party**

**YOUNG SOCIALIST PREMISES**

**Portobello, Sheffield 1 (near Jessop's hospital) 7.30 p.m.**

## HULL

Wednesday January 17  
**Stalinism and Trotskyism**

Wednesday January 24  
**Marxist theory and the revolutionary party**

**WHITE HART HOTEL Alfred Gelder Street (near Drypool Bridge) 8 p.m.**

## DONCASTER

Sunday January 21  
**What future for the labour movement.**

Sunday January 28  
**The crisis and the socialist answer.**

Sunday February 4  
**The revolutionary party in Britain.**

Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter.

**SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL Westlithgate 7.30 p.m.**

## An appeal on behalf of the Fine Tubes strikers of Plymouth

The Plymouth Fine Tubes Strikers, their wives and 53 children have just spent their third Christmas 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 has been 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 Work-

ers 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.**



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## JANUARY FUND NOW £75.50

THIS WEEKEND is the time for a special effort for our Fund. So far we have raised £75.50, which still leaves us some way from reaching our £1,750 target. Let's go into action immediately and raise as much as we can.

Never before has a Tory government faced such a situation within the working class. Each day, as workers see all their basic rights coming under attack, the cost of living soaring and laws used to try and destroy their trade unions, thousands of trade unionists are taking up this fight.

In spite of the continuous cowardice of the trade union leaders, nothing can halt this struggle coming to a head. Workers Press is needed more than ever, to provide a political lead to the whole of the labour movement for the battles in front.

Our Fund is decisive. Help us raise as much as possible to keep our paper out in front on every issue. Make a very special drive this weekend. See how much you can collect. Post all your donations immediately to:

Workers Press  
January Appeal Fund  
186a Clapham High Street  
London, SW4 7UG

## Halewood votes to return

CAR ASSEMBLY workers at Ford's Halewood, Liverpool, factory are to return to work on Monday to allow a union inquiry into work reallocation plans.

The company has started a four-phase rationalization of working arrangements in its paint, trim and assembly division at Halewood, and on Wednesday 1,700 night-shift workers walked out over phase one.

Particularly on the trim line, where the dispute started on Wednesday, workers fear that the rationalization is a threat to jobs. There was uproar several times during a mass meeting yesterday when some stewards tried to play down these fears.

The meeting condemned Ford's ruthless action in implementing changes in working methods without consultation, but a majority of those present went on to accept the stewards' return-to-work recommendation pending the result of the inquiry.

Some 2,000 workers failed to report for work to attend yesterday's meeting.

## Guerrilla gas strikes planned

FROM PAGE 1

engineering trade group, said yesterday that his members were 'quite inflamed' by the government's directive to the British Gas Corporation.

They wanted negotiations on their 'substantial' pay claim immediately reinstated, he said.

At Tuesday's meeting with Industry Minister Tom Boardman, who reiterated the directive, Crispin pointed out that during the 1961 pay pause the then Tory premier, Harold Macmillan, had declared it would be 'illegal' for the government to give such a directive.

Boardman's reply was that each particular case had to be considered on its merits.

● The basic rate for labourers in the gas industry is £19.10 for a 40-hour week, excluding earned bonus. Craftsmen are on a basic of £22.87. Earnings are, respectively, £4 and £6 lower than those of equivalent grades in electricity supply.

# Meat at Market prices

FOOD prices have jumped between 1 and 13 per cent during the month of the freeze, according to 'The Grocer' magazine.

The latest issue records huge price increases during the November-December period.

Fresh meat increased 5.9 per cent on average, vegetables 3.21 per cent, fish 8.03 per cent, eggs by 13.44 per cent, fruit by 13.04 per cent and processed meat by 1.13 per cent.

The food index is now up 8.4 per cent on where it stood

last year and 'The Grocer' warns:

'The outlook does not look so favourable . . . as the Ministry of Agriculture has received nearly 600 applications for food price increases since the onset of the freeze. These applications would appear to provide evidence that the costs of basic food ingredients to food manufacturers are continuing to rise.'

They say that some of these cost increases are due to import levies designed to bring British prices in line with

higher Common Market levels. The price of bread, says the magazine, must increase in the near future.

In its survey of the year 'The Grocer' finds that food prices were 7.5 per cent higher at the end of 1972 than 12 months previous.

There were 8,073 price increases recorded during 1972, compared with only 6,251 during 1971. The biggest rise came in the fresh food sector, which is exempt from the freeze, where prices went up 13.99 per cent in 1972.

Meat in December was an astonishing 34.95 per cent more expensive than in December 1971.

Butchers in Britain have demanded action by the government to stop meat prices going even higher because of the Common Market.

Leslie Fulton, president of the National Federation of Meat Traders said that livestock auction prices had already gained parity with EEC prices—a process that the government said would gradually take place up to 1978.

## Convenors firmly behind AUEW position

# Sunderland stewards to decide non-unionists' fate

BY A WORKERS PRESS REPORTER

SHOP STEWARDS at Thorn Radio Valves and Tubes Ltd, Sunderland, met last night to consider further action on their demand that the firm dismiss two men who have left their unions.

The factory is at present on half production because of an overtime ban.

Convenor Barney McGorrigan said yesterday: 'We were told by the management that we seem to be prepared to run the factory into the ground over these two men.'

'But we replied that the management seemed to be prepared to do the same thing and that the only way to get a return to normal working would be to strike these men off the payroll.'

The workers refuse to work alongside the two non-unionists—Joseph Young (ex-AUEW) and Terence Canavan (ex-G&MWU)—and they will not have them back in the union.

Nor will they accept that they should be suspended on full pay—they want Young and Canavan dismissed. The men have threatened to go to the National Industrial Relations Court.

The amount recently won in an industrial injuries case for Mr Canavan by the G&MWU (see yesterday's Workers Press) was £1,200.

George Rayner, G&MWU convenor and branch secretary, and deputy convenor Sam Hood told Workers Press:

'The men are 100 per cent behind the leadership. The two who resigned their unions say that they want to unite the unions in the factory. But what they've done is what Heath and the capitalist government want them to do.'

'If they had any problems with the unions they should have come to us first.'

'The one from the G&MWU only recently won a substantial amount of money for an industrial claim fought for by the G&MWU. In this case the G&MWU spent £1,000.'

'He also could have been paid off by the company for medical reasons, but the union in the factory fought on his behalf to keep his job at full wages of £32.32 for 37½ hours a week.'

'As far as we are concerned,

we are not going to let them have a golden handshake. It's no Chrysler here.'

'Many will jump on the bandwagon. That's because of the Industrial Relations Act.'

'No matter what the Tories say we are not going to accept the Act. We will give in at no price. The spirit of the men is very high.'

After yesterday's stewards' meeting, the two convenors and two union officials were to meet representatives of Thorn management from London.

## Midlands' 'defendant' attended tribunal

A CONVENOR at a Midlands factory has broken Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' policy and attended two industrial tribunal hearings—despite Press reports to the contrary.

He is Reg Wilkes, AUEW convenor at M&W, Grazebrook, an engineering firm at Dudley.

Wilkes said yesterday that his use of the Industrial Relations Act had gone unnoticed. He had in fact attended the Birmingham tribunal on Wednesday.

The case has been brought by a former crane driver at the plant, George Wallens. He claims that shop stewards and workers put pressure on management to sack

him because he was not a union member.

Wallens—who worked at Grazebrook for six weeks last year—is claiming damages for alleged unfair dismissal by the firm.

Many national newspapers yesterday ran stories saying eight Grazebrook workers were to be summoned to appear before the tribunal on pain of a £100 fine.

Their reports of Wednesday's hearing in Birmingham read as if no stewards had been present and that this was because of AUEW policy. Articles forecasted a big clash with the court.

But Wilkes told me yesterday:

'I have attended hearings on two occasions. If I refuse to go I can be

fined.'

The other eight would go if asked, he added. Wilkes claims he was not breaking AUEW policy. His excuse was that the case would 'snowball' if he did not attend.

'This is helping us in every way,' he said.

Wilkes admitted, however, that the local district secretary of the union had not been informed of either the case or his decision to attend the tribunal.

A spokesman for the Wolverhampton office of the AUEW confirmed this to be the case. 'It is consistent with the union's policy not to attend,' he added.

'It's a policy reached by agreement with workers in the union and that's it.'

## Durham police have had 'gun' for year

THE NEW Viking 'supergun', for which police forces all over Britain are clamouring, has been in the hands of County Durham police for almost a year.

The gun can fire anything

from CS gas to signal flares as well as conventional shot.

It can kill with the accuracy of a rifle at ranges up to 100 yards. It costs £80 and was designed specifically for British police work by a Yorkshire firm which describes it as a self-contained weapons system.

Chief Superintendent Harry Clarke, head of weapon-training for Durham Constabulary, says:

'We have had a number of these guns for almost a year. In Durham we have some of the most sophisticated systems and techniques in the country.'

A Northumberland police spokesman said they had had the Viking for about six months.

'The great thing about it from our point of view,' he said, 'is its tremendous accuracy.'

'If we have to fire a weapon in a public place we have to make certain that no innocent bystanders are hurt.'

'The weapon itself is basically a short-barrelled shot-gun. It can fire CS cartridges, through a barricade if necessary.'

## BRIEFLY

**ELECTRICIANS** walked off the £230m Anchor site steel project at Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, as 6,500 steel workers returned to work after 'suspending' their 12-day-old dispute for 28 days. The 350 electricians' strike is over a 15 per cent cutback in manpower and redundancy pay.

**SHOP STEWARDS** from Coles Cranes are to hold a public meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday at the Steels Club, Sunderland. Some 2,000 men are on strike claiming that the management has tried to get rid of existing work agreements. In November the company announced that it was going to dismiss 300 workers because of a drop in orders. The men believe that this is a 'preliminary figure' and will lead to the entire closure of the plant. Hundreds of men have picketed the gates turning away scores of vans and trucks.

**A COURT** order closing the Dublin offices of Provisional Sinn Fein is expected to be renewed this weekend. Dublin's Special Branch Chief John Fleming said in October he believed the premises in Kevin Street and Blessington Street, Dublin, were being used by an illegal organization.

**SIR LESLIE GAMAGE**, former chairman and managing director of the General Electric Co, who died in October, aged 85, left £452,830 gross, £444,265 net (duty £228,901), in his will published yesterday. He left several thousand pounds to charities and the remainder to relatives.

**HULL** district committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has demanded that the national executive call a national indefinite stoppage in defence of the union in the event of further action being taken against the union by the National Industrial Relations Court. See engineers' strike p. 3.

**LAI-D-OFF** workers from Lucas Industrial Equipment at Fazakerley, Liverpool, yesterday decided to seek 'by all means possible in the trade union movement' to get the factory working again. The 300 workers have been laid off for eight weeks because of the sit-in strike against closure at CAV Fazakerley, which occupies the same site. Were the CAV occupation committee to allow supplies into LIE it would seriously weaken their fight to defend 1,000 jobs.

**LEWISHAM**, London, branch of the National Association of Local Government Officers is asking the union's 1,600 branches to take up the thalidomide affair with any of their employers—in town halls and other public services—who have used superannuation funds to acquire shares in Distillers. The branch is asking for the names of holders of shares and details of the holdings to be returned to them, and is urging other TUC-affiliated unions to do the same.

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