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INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● FRIDAY JANUARY 26, 1973 ● No. 981 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

AFTER RECORD US TRADE DEFICIT

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

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The 'Financial Times' index was down 12.4 at 462.3—two points below Monday's floor when £4,500m was wiped off share values.

Observers estimated that share values had fallen by another £3,000 in a wave of panic selling following the devaluation threat to the dollar and the steep 14.7 point decline in Wall Street shares.

All the big capitalist institutions suffered. In the industrial sector ICI, Hawker Siddeley, BP and Fison's all fell between 4p and 13p. Food shares were badly hit, Rank Hovis McDougall, Cavenham's, Beecham's and Glaxo fell by an average of 7p.

One of the worst hit was Dunlop after news that the company was to share the losses of its Italian associate, Pirelli.

The persistent slump in share prices can no longer be explained by surface factors like Phase Two of the state pay plan.

The malaise is far deeper. The capitalist system now faces an enormous crisis of confidence based on the fictitious inflationary value of many shares and world currencies—particularly the dollar.

This was highlighted on the London Exchange yesterday—only mining shares stayed firm, reflecting the growing desire to buy claims on gold and other precious metals. Gold bullion itself was up 25 cents to \$65.25 an ounce.

The crisis faced by the big investors is world wide. International monetary and trading relations are slipping into a state of chaos.

The dollar took a battering on the European money markets after news of the £2,680m deficit for 1972—the worst ever in the history of the country.

Some deterioration of America's trading performance was expected after formal dollar devaluation in December 1971, but this dismal total, three times the 1971 deficit, exceeded the blackest expectations.

The Nixon administration and top officials at the International Monetary Fund now recognize the Smithsonian agreement, the December 1971 deal which fixed new parities between the dollar and other currencies after America abandoned the gold standard on August 15, is dead and buried.

The weakening of the dollar also caused grave concern among negotiators at the IMF's Paris meeting.

The Group of 20 began talks on international monetary reform on Tuesday, but the collapse of the American unit has made the deliberations a complete farce.

Officials argued that while the dollar remained firm, there was some chance of progress. The heavy external US deficit kept the pressure on for reform while the 'strength' of the dollar protected the system against any short-term 'patch-work' solutions.

The floating of the pound, followed by the partial float of the Italian lira and finally the floating of the Swiss franc were all signs that the Smithsonian system was breaking up.

SHARE PANIC WORSENS

Hot steel jobs clash

BY IAN YEATS

THREE THOUSAND Shotton steelworkers marched on the House of Commons yesterday smashing through two police barriers in an unprecedented display of anti-Tory feeling.

By law all marches must disperse one mile from Westminster when parliament is in session. The steelworkers and their wives had travelled from North Wales in two special trains and in a fleet of cars. Police moved in to break up the march at the south end of Lambeth Bridge and again on the far side damaging the works band's instruments, scattering music sheets and jostling frightened women.

Reinforcements were rushed to the bridge in coaches, but the marchers fought through to parliament in full order chanting: 'If you all hate the Tories, clap your hands'.

The workers were in London to persuade the government to abandon its plan to shut the open-hearth furnaces at Shotton, axing 6,500 jobs.

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They would lobby workers at Britain's car factories to persuade them to use the works' steel.

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The drift towards a 'patch-work' solution will now continue at great speed because of the dollar collapse. One can add that the 'solution' will be no 'solution' at all—on the exchanges it will be everyone for themselves.

The crisis is sharpened in Britain by the steep fall in profit rates since the mid-1950s. Latest figures show a 10-per-cent drop since 1953.

For the last decade this poor

performance has been disguised by property revaluations, price increases and other inflationary methods of buttressing returns.

But now fundamental tendencies are breaking to the surface and the investors are running for cover.

The world is now witnessing the drift towards an economic crash in a number of major capitalist countries.

Trading relations will become more and more difficult as the international monetary system

gets deeper into crisis.

News from the exchanges heralds struggles of revolutionary proportion. The Socialist Labour League, alone among the parties and tendencies of the left, has always placed the economic crisis at the centre of its analysis and perspectives.

The immediate task facing the working class is contained in the struggle for the transformation of the League into a revolutionary party to meet the challenge of the capitalist crisis.

workers press

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What Lenin said

THE Socialist Labour League does not take its stand with those who are proclaiming a 'great victory' and helping to disarm the working class of the world, but with Lenin, who wrote at the height of World War I:

'A propaganda of peace at the present time, if not accompanied by a call to revolutionary mass actions, is only capable of spreading illusions, of demoralizing the proletariat by imbuing it with confidence in the humanitarianism of the bourgeoisie, and of making it a plaything in the hands of the secret diplomacy of the belligerent countries.'

'In particular, the idea of the possibility of a so-called democratic peace without a series of revolutions is deeply erroneous.'

BRIEFLY • BRIEFLY

YUGOSLAV workers who received a bonus last month in anticipation of a pay freeze have been asked to return the money. Top party official Stane Dolanc said that those responsible for the payout would be called to account if it was found that they had broken the law. About £200m and 700,000 workers are involved.

AFRICAN textile workers in Durban struck yesterday demanding a £10-a-week wage at a factory owned by the Frame Group. About 60 are migrant workers employed under the notorious contract-labour system. EMPLOYERS have also sacked about 200 African car-delivery drivers who were asking for a minimum wage of £20 per week. A tea firm has offered to raise wages from £5 a week to £6.50 after a strike by its African workers.

PORTUGUESE reports that fighting is going on between guerrillas of the PAIGC following the assassination of its leader, Amilcar Cabral, are denied by the Committee for Freedom in Mozambique, Angola and Guiné in London. So is the



CABRAL

claim that there is a split between Cape Verdeans and mainland Africans in the movement. A permanent commission of inquiry has been set up in Conakry to investigate the murder. One of the organizers of the plot, Coda Nabonia, is said to have revealed its Portuguese inspiration.

DUNLOP - PIRELLI rubber alliance will continue despite Industrie Pirelli's losses amounting to one-third of its share capital. A letter to Pirelli shareholders says that each of the parent companies would cover the losses in proportion to its stake in the joint firm. Dunlop did not intend to provide further funds for Pirelli until a complete return to health by the Italian firm.

ASTANO shipyard workers in El Ferrol, Spain, struck work yesterday for the second time this month. The 3,000 workers are angry about the latest pay agreement signed by management and the fascist trade unions.

Down with Stalinism and imperialism

Long live the Vietnamese Revolution!

BY JOHN SPENCER

THE TERMS of the Vietnam ceasefire agreement due to be signed in Paris tomorrow show conclusively that the struggle could have been won outright had it not been for the actions of Moscow and Peking.

The agreement is, in reality, a breathing space which can only prepare for a new round of the protracted war against imperialism and its puppet regimes in Indo-China.

There is now not the slightest doubt that this war can and will be won by the North Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front whose titanic sacrifice and heroic struggle have forced the US to quit.

All President Nixon's talk of 'peace with honour' cannot conceal the dimensions of the defeat suffered by the most powerful imperialist country at the hands of the Indo-Chinese revolution. Whatever happens in Vietnam in the coming months and years, this enormous achievement will be a lasting example to the working class of the entire world.

The present agreement cannot bring peace to Vietnam. As long as the country remains divided and landlords and capitalists dominate the south, there is no basis for peace.

Those who say otherwise are in fact only assisting the imperialists to lay the basis for another bloody intervention in Viet-

nam, not excluding the use of nuclear weapons and the launching of World War III.

In the words of Hanoi's negotiator Le Duc Tho, in his Press conference on Wednesday: 'I am a communist. According to Marxist-Leninist theory, so long as imperialism exists there will be war.'

That the war will continue is recognized even by Nguyen Van Thieu, the Saigon dictator. He said the deal did not guarantee 'a stable, long-lasting peace'. It was 'only a ceasefire agreement', he said.

Le Duc Tho's statement is an indictment of the Stalinists in Moscow and Peking—and in Britain—who have betrayed the revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese people in the interests of peaceful co-existence with imperialism.

If the Vietnamese have been forced to come to a compromise with imperialism and accept for the time being less than total victory in Indo-China the blame must be laid at the door of Brezhnev, Kosygin and Mao Tse-tung.

The British 'Morning Star' hails the signing of the agreement as a 'great victory for the peoples of the world'. It quotes the hypocritical self-satisfaction of Soviet leader Andrei Kirilenko, who proclaimed it 'a great victory for the militant solidarity of the fraternal socialist countries... a victory for all the peace forces'.

Yet Moscow welcomed Nixon at a time when he was bombing and blockading the North. They feted him while he was trying to strangle the Vietnamese revolution with the most savage air war in history.

Their 'aid' to Vietnam was to supply just enough weapons to allow the Vietnamese to

continue fighting, but not enough to enable them to win outright. Soviet aid to Hanoi was one-ninetieth of that supplied by the US to the south.

Workers Press was the only paper which gave prominence to Hanoi's angry condemnation of Nixon's visit which accused Moscow of 'throwing a lifeline to a drowning pirate' and serving its own selfish national interests and the expense of the world revolution.

The Stalinists' jubilation that an agreement has at last been made is in the same tradition as their talk of the triumph of the 'spirit of Geneva' at the time of the 1954 sell-out when they accepted the division of Vietnam and robbed the Viet Minh of the full fruits of their victory at Dien Bien Phu. This partition laid the basis for the present US intervention.

The Socialist Labour League is opposed in principle to any agreement which does not give total victory to the North Vietnamese and the NLF—as this agreement clearly does not. Vietnam remains divided and Thieu has no intention of leaving the scene without a fight.

The Vietnamese revolutionaries, of course, have been forced by the combination of vicious bombing and Soviet and Chinese treachery to sign the ceasefire. That is their right and our opposition to the deal is in no way a condemnation of Hanoi.

Through its campaign for Nixon to sign this agreement and its servile vigils and protests to Heath as well as Nixon, the British Communist Party has recognized the right of US imperialism to impose terms on the Vietnamese workers and peasants.

More important, it has condoned the Soviet and Chinese treachery and their collaboration with Nixon against the Vietnamese revolution.

This is the essence of peaceful co-existence, which is the reactionary philosophy of the Stalinists all over the world. They have used the Vietnamese revolution as a bargaining counter with world imperialism.

The Vietnam ceasefire treaty is not a 'victory' as the Stalinists proclaim. It is the framework for continuation of the civil war.

The bankrupt Thieu regime is certainly doomed. The Saigon dictator is unable to hold elections, unable to erect even the flimsiest democratic structures and he will undoubtedly respond to the signing of the deal with unparalleled repression of revolutionary fighters and, in particular, the political prisoners in the south.

Deprived of American backing Thieu cannot hold out for long against the NLF and the North Vietnamese. His fate will be shared by the Lon Nol dictatorship in



Le Duc Tho, Hanoi's chief negotiator (right) in Paris with the US representative Dr Henry Kissinger.

'So long as imperialism exists, there will be war'

THE VIETNAM cease-fire agreement was fundamentally the same as the draft accord of October last year which the US would not sign, Le Duc Tho, Hanoi's chief negotiator, told a Paris Press conference.

He said it ended 13 years of fighting which he called 'the most difficult in the centuries of our fight against

foreign invasion'.

He said the formal signature of the agreement tomorrow would represent only a partial victory.

'The important thing now,' he said, 'will be to see that this agreement is strictly applied.'

He stressed the loose nature of the main political provisions and said that everything de-

pendent on the ability of the South Vietnamese to create 'a great national union', lead the country into general elections and eventually reunify with the north.

This would not be easy, he said. Reactionary forces would try to sabotage the agreement and war could break out again.

'I am a communist,'

he said. 'According to Marxist-Leninist theory, so long as imperialism exists there will be war.'

So much for the conception of 'peaceful co-existence' peddled by the Moscow and Peking Stalinists and their supporters in Britain.

(It is worth noting that Tho's fighting words were not reported by the 'Morning Star'.)



NIXON

Cambodia and the US puppet regime in Laos.

The world working class must come to the aid of the Vietnamese workers and peasants in their struggle not by succumbing to the siren song of peaceful co-existence but by fighting against its 'own' bourgeoisie and against imperialism internationally.

Four Basque nationalists jailed for 57 years

A FRANCO court has sentenced four Basque nationalists to a total of 57 years' jail for their alleged part in the kidnapping of Spanish businessman Lorenzo Zabala last year.

The heaviest sentence was one of 17 years imposed on Jesus Munoa. The other three received 15, 13 and 12 years respectively.

The sentences are subject

to confirmation by the local military commander.

Zabala was freed after his factory had met conditions demanded by the kidnappers.

The Basque nationalist

movement, ETA, is still holding another industrialist, Felipe Huarte, and is demanding rehiring of sacked workers and a ransom of £335,000 for his release.

Leaders of 300,000 civil servants meet in London to plan possible industrial action against the Tory ban on their pay review, due January 1. Before them will be calls for a one-day stoppage on Budget Day followed by selective strikes in key areas. Workers Press visited a mass meeting of civil servants in London on Wednesday night (right) to assess their mood.



Civil servants' chiefs decide action today

BY DAVID MAUDE

CIVIL SERVANTS from all over the country were in militant mood when 4,000 of them massed to lobby their MPs on Wednesday night. Union leaders got a rough ride at a meeting before the lobby—they faced a continual barrage of questions about just how they intended to fight the Tory government.

John Dryden, general secretary of the Society of Civil Servants, was forced to justify a statement that it would be 'tilting at windmills' to fight the Tory pay law outright.

Picking his way gingerly between shouts of 'Action now!' Dryden had to hedge his position round with qualifications. The majority of the membership would not support action to bring the government down by defying the law, he ended up claiming. 'Why not?' came a shout, accompanied by applause.

It was certainly a very different meeting from those usually organized by the Society. The men and women who packed into Central Halls, Westminster, had come not just to protest against the government's refusal to review their pay on January 1. They wanted to know what the Society was doing about it. And they wanted to know quickly.

The meeting became increasingly tense as Dryden rehearsed his members' grievances.

Civil servants' pay rates had more than 20 per cent behind those in outside industry since January 1971, he said. Their standard of living had decreased by 9 per cent over the past year. The Tories had broken their own agreement to review their pay.

'And what are you going to do, please?' inquired someone in the gallery.

'Thank you for teaching your grandmother to suck eggs,' the union chief snapped back. 'It's sometimes necessary,' came a voice from behind him.



Musical discord on Wednesday's demonstration

lagged

Dryden's attack on the government's conduct of pay talks with the civil servants, and his support for the idea that the Society should affiliate to the TUC, were enthusiastically applauded.

So was his statement that Phase Two of the pay law was 'totally unsatisfactory, totally unacceptable'.

And when he went through a list of the possible courses of action open to today's joint meeting of the civil service unions,

the meeting applauded for almost a minute the idea of selective strikes in key areas.

'The government is forcing civil servants to do things they wouldn't have dreamt of a year ago,' said Jack Morrish, secretary of the Customs and Excise Group.

His executive's proposal on Friday would be a one day strike either on Budget Day or the day after, he said.

This should be followed by selective strikes supported by strike pay if necessary to get a satisfactory settlement.

The cut in living standards proposed by the government were the worst for 40 years, he said. They were more severe than the supercuts of 1931.

If nothing was done by the end of the year, his members' living standards would have gone down by 13 per cent at the very least.

Wildfire

1973 could go down in history as either a year when the government kept its agreements with its employees, or as the year it provoked civil servants to take unprecedented action.

'They've lit a candle that can spread like wildfire,' Morrish said.

Walter Kendall, secretary of the Civil and Public Services' Association, spoke after repeated demands from the floor to hear him.

Industrial action on an extended basis was not inevitable, he said to big applause.

This should involve all the civil service unions. But if that proved impossible the SCS, C&EG and CPSA should go ahead themselves as soon as possible.

Builders get their jobs back

PETER CARTER, chairman of the Birmingham builders' joint shop stewards' committee, and three bricklayers have been reinstated by C. Bryant and Sons.

They will resume work on Monday at another of the Bryant sites in Birmingham. A Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians official said there was no suggestion that they should return to the Chamberlain Gardens site because work there was almost completed.

The agreement between Bryant's and UCATT was reached in London at a conference between two company directors, UCATT general secretary George Smith and two executive members. A three-point plan was agreed:

- Reinstatement of Carter and his three colleagues.
- Joint discussions on the bonus issue. (After the building workers' strike last year Bryant reduced the standing bonus.)
- Discussions between UCATT national officers and the company about outstanding industrial relations problems.



CARTER . . . new site

Before both parties ratified the agreement, it was accepted by Carter.

The swift settlement was reached after two major stoppages and demonstrations by Birmingham building workers.

UCATT's Midland regional secretary, Mr Ken Barlow, said yesterday that everyone was 'delighted' with the settlement.

He said the company had been forced to reinstate the men following the industrial backlash which the dismissals had caused.

Food, housing and the pound in your pocket

LIFE under the Tories is grimly revealed in some questions and answers in parliament this week:

Between June 16, 1970, and December 12 last (the latest date for which information was available) the Food Index rose by 24.9 per cent, said Mrs Peggy Fenner, parliamentary secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in a Commons written reply.

Mrs Fenner, who is one of the ministerial team dealing with consumer affairs, was answering Mr William Price (Lab Rugby).

House building in England and Wales during January-November last year dropped in the public sector and increased in the private sector compared with the same months of 1971.

The Minister for Housing and Construction, Mr Paul Channon, gave the figures in Commons

written replies to Mr Dennis Skinner (Lab Bolsover) and Mr Frank Allaun (Lab Salford E).

In the first 11 months of last year, 115,700 houses were started and 112,800 completed in the public sector compared with 125,700 started and 142,200 completed in the same period in 1971.

Houses started in January-November 1972 in the private sector were 210,500, and completed 178,800. The 1971 totals for the same period were 187,800 and 170,500 respectively.

The value of £100 sterling relating to its internal purchasing power in October 1964, had dropped to £63.70 in December 1972, the Minister of State, Treasury, Mr John Nott said.

He told Mr Ernest Marples (C, Wallasey) in a Commons written reply, that comparable figures for March 1966 and June 1970 were £94.50 and £77.50 respectively.

Nauseating charity for North Vietnam

IT WOULD be hard to beat the latest piece of nauseating hypocrisy from the Labour Party's National Executive Committee.

It has decided to launch a cash appeal 'to help pay for rehabilitation in North Vietnam'.

A delegation, which will include Shadow Foreign Secretary James Callaghan, will shortly go to North Vietnam.

According to general secretary Ron Hayward, the delegation will 'perhaps look for a bomb-hit village' and then see if there was 'a project—such as a hospital or school which needs rebuilding'—to which the fund could contribute.

The Labourites shouldn't have any difficulty in finding such places.

They have stood by and watched North Vietnam being blown apart without raising a finger ever since the war began.

On the contrary, they have faithfully endorsed the entire onslaught of American imperialism against the Vietnamese people.

Neither atrocities like My Lai nor the saturation bombings ordered by Johnson and Nixon could shake the subservience of the Labour leaders to imperialism.

In January 1969 Harold Wilson hastened to the United States to assure President Johnson that the British Labour government was solidly behind his war plans.

In Britain the Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists spearheaded a campaign demanding he call off his trip.

Now the social democrats can be sure that their imperialist masters won't object, they want to hand out a bit of cheap charity.

North-west rates shock

THE RATABLE value of some houses in the Bolton and Turton area is to go up by six or seven times the present amount. The average increase for domestic rate payers will be 2.8 times the present sum.

In Bolton, an Astley Bridge two-bedroomed semi-detached house has had its ratable value increased from £62 to £214, while a similar house with three bedrooms has gone up from £62 to £233.

A brick, terraced house in the Beckett Street area of Bolton has been increased from £22 to £50.

A house in the Hillside district has had its ratable value upped from £202 to £534 and a flat in Hill View Court has gone up from £78 to £178.

A bungalow in Turton's Shady Lane has risen from £162 to £409, a ten-year-old semi detached in Timberbottom from £78 to £224 and an old cottage in Egerton from £25 to £90.

A cottage in Turton's Chapel-town Road has risen from £98 to £580.

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LIQUIDATOR CALLS WORK-IN A MYTH

Mr Robert C. Smith, liquidator of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, has revealed that the numbers actually involved in the much-vaunted Stalinist 'work-in' were extremely small.

He added that the organizers of this anti-trade union stunt—Communist Party Stalinists James Reid, James Airlie and company, were not paid out of the work-in's fighting fund, but by the liquidator.

Speaking to members of Greenock Chamber of Commerce last week, Smith pointed

out that the greatest number of men participating in the work-in at any one time was 400 (in October 1971)—falling to 177 in June 1972.

In that time, the company's work force fell from 8,449 to 6,882.

It was a 'myth', Smith said, that the work-in committee of Reid and Airlie had carried out the legal, contractual, financial and practical problems of building ships. Nor had they organized the payment of thousands of men and the purchase of goods and services.

The original intention that redundant men should continue to work was observed only for a brief time in most departments. Many did not work at all and were not even in the shipyards.

The work-in was, of course,

Above: UCS 'Work-in' leaders, James Reid, James Airlie, Bob Dickie, with other stewards, on a visit to Heath in 1971.

against every single trade union principle. Those sacked workers who did report for work and were paid from trade unionists' donations were working for the liquidator for nothing.

Only 'credulous people', said Smith, could believe that the shop stewards' committee was raising a big enough fund to pay out more than £250,000 a week in wages and obtaining millions of pounds worth of materials.

'The reality of the work-in was negligible', concluded Smith. Shipbuilding continued throughout it—quite independently of the great 'work-in'—the organizers of which were paid by the liquidator.

FROM OXFORD, TO THE UNIONS, TO PARLIAMENT

You can't get more Labour than Chester-le-Street. The constituency has returned a Labour MP since 1906, the year the Labour Party was founded.

But even the most solid Labour supporter might be unhorsed by the next prospective candidate. He is 36-year-old Giles Radice, a research officer at the Ruxley Towers headquarters of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

He will be fighting the by-election in March caused by the death of Norman Pentland. At the last General Election Pentland received a majority of 20,000.

If Radice wins the seat—and there is every probability that he will—he will be strengthening the considerable influence of the G&MWU in the north-east.

The chief G&MWU bureaucrat in the area, Andrew Cunningham, is also on the local council and he chairs the police committee, the Tyne-side Passenger Authority and the Newcastle Airport Authority.

Cunningham achieved notoriety in the Poulson bankruptcy case when it was revealed that both he and his wife were the recipients of financial favours.

G&MWU men also hold the leading positions on no less than five local authorities in the area.

Radice is a cut above the sort of rank-and-file, grass

roots candidate to which Chester-le-Street is accustomed. He took an honours degree in history at Oxford and went on to study at the London School of Economics.

Last year he was re-elected to the executive committee of the right-wing Fabian Society. He is also the author of 'Democratic Socialism' which is a tract with strong Gaitskellite overtones.

Radice lives in a trendy north London house and was once featured in the 'Sunday Times' column, Atticus. The middle-class 'Sunday Times' readers were titivated with the idea that a thrusting egghead should be involved in a union which has members who are dustmen and cleaners.

The Labour voters of Chester-le-Street can quickly sort out their new candidate by demanding that, if elected, he will fight on the following programme:

- Withdrawal from the capitalist conspiracy of the Common Market.
- Repeal of the Industrial Relations Act, the Housing Finance Act and all anti-trade union legislation.
- The withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland.
- The preparation of a socialist programme to nationalize under workers' control the banks, big business and the land.

These are the urgent political tasks which Labour MPs must take up. If they don't, the constituents should find other MPs who will.

Below: Giles Radice, the Labour candidate for Chester-le-Street.



FEARS FOR SHIPBUILDING

European shipbuilding faces an increasing threat from Japan, according to an article in the January issue of the General and Municipal Workers' Union Journal.

Ken Baker, the union's National Industrial Officer reveals that at a meeting last November West European shipbuilders met their Japanese counterparts but failed to get an agreement on world tonnage forecasts or even on co-operation in standardizing a method of calculating tonnage.

The European shipbuilders met again in London on November 13 and fears were expressed that the industry in Europe could collapse with widespread unemployment if action wasn't taken.

At a meeting in Brussels

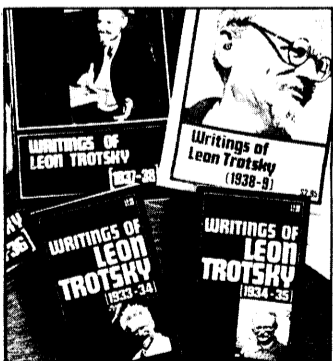
attended by British trade union delegates at the invitation of the EEC, the employers' fears were confirmed.

It is clear the Japanese are determined on cut-throat competition that could drive the entire industry in Europe to the wall.

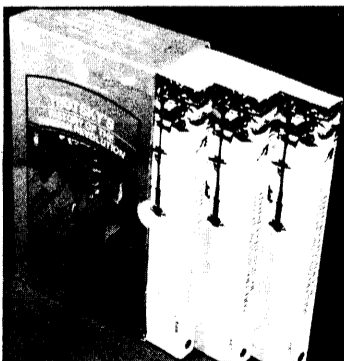
Mr Michele, for the EEC commission's Social Policy Department has said: 'Many trade unions who came to Brussels indicated clearly that they have no intention of seeing companies close down.'

But, apart from saying that Japanese 'planning' was more successful and asking for the structure of European yards to be 'studied', the unions had no programme for defending their members' jobs.

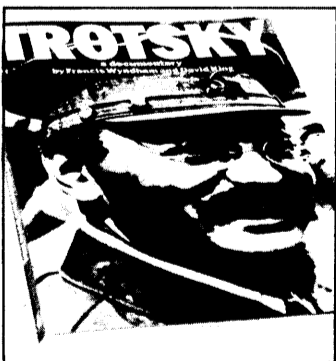
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SEVEN MILLION TONS OF DEATH

US planes dropped a million tons of bombs on Indo-China last year—the second-largest annual total of the war.

And since 1966 more than three and a half times more bombs have been dropped on Indo-China by the US than on its enemies in World War II.

Last week the Pentagon revealed that 1,084,359 tons of bombs were dropped on North and South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in 1972. Only in 1968 was the total greater, with 1.4 million tons.

100 SORTIES

The total weight in the Vietnam war since 1966 is now 7.1 million tons. During the Christmas bombing campaign against North Vietnam, B52 planes, each carrying about 23 tons of bombs, averaged 100 sorties a day.

Other strikes were flown by fighter-bombers, each averaging a two-ton bomb payload. Yet December's 95,490 tons totalled less than those dropped in each month between May and August and in November.

The peak bombing in the spring and summer was aimed at breaking the offensive of the North Vietnamese Army and the National Liberation Front and cutting the movement of supplies to the South.

BREAKDOWN

Most of these flights were flown by smaller fighter-bombers. The Pentagon said the comparatively low figure for December could be explained because raids were concentrated in Hanoi and Haiphong as opposed to the widespread bombing of earlier months.

The detailed breakdown of figures for each month, according to the Pentagon is: January 57,790; February 67,536; March 70,694; April 91,670; May 105,729; June 112,460;

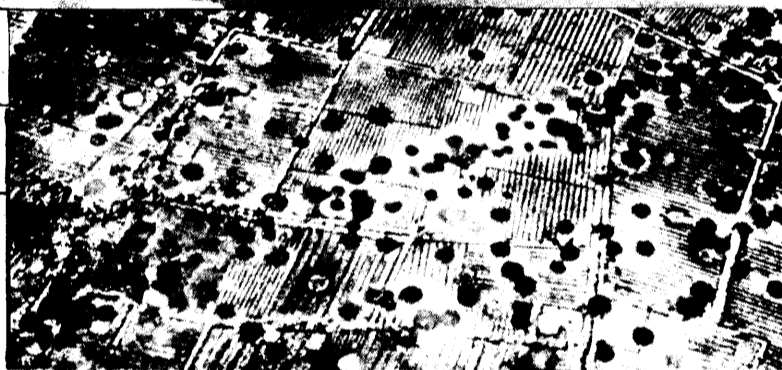


Loading a US bomber on the aircraft-carrier 'Constellation' off the coast of Vietnam. Right: Bombcraters in south Vietnam. The total weight of bombs dropped since 1966 is now 7.1 million tons.

July 99,066; August 98,182; September 91,700; October 94,300; November 100,678; December 95,490.

The Pentagon's obsessive accuracy in calculating and publishing these figures is not

the least bizarre aspect of the Vietnam war. It calls to mind the detailed files and figures kept by Adolf Eichmann and the other Nazi functionaries charged with the extermination of the Jews.



Soviet chief, Leonid Brezhnev: First he recognized the 'reality' of the Common Market. Now he leads overtures for trade agreements between Comecon, the Soviet trading bloc, and the EEC.

STALINIST LEADERS MAKE OVERTURES TO THE EEC

Eager for detente with world imperialism the European Stalinist leaders are quietly making overtures towards the enlarged Common Market in the hope of coming to some agreement.

They fear they could be excluded from sources of credit and trade in western Europe unless they have closer relations with the Common Market countries.

In addition they fear the possibility that China will outflank them diplomatically to establish its own ties with the Market. The Chinese leaders were particularly fulsome in their welcome for British entry.

Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev heralded the Soviet change of line on the EEC with his statement last year recognizing the 'reality' of the Common Market.

Over the past two months, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have put out discreet feelers for some eventual relationship between the Common Market and Comecon, the Soviet trading bloc, which also has nine members.

For years Comecon countries had refused to deal with the Common Market as an institution, sticking strictly to commercial arrangements with individual member-countries.

But since January 1 this year, the EEC countries have been barred from negotiating bilateral trade agreements with eastern Europe. Existing bilateral agreements must be discussed under the auspices of Common Market machinery.

This had spurred Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski to express his country's readiness in November last year for talks with the Common Market on technical questions concerning east-west trade.

In December, Hungarian deputy premier Peter Valyi said relations between Comecon and the Common Market could be helpful—"at the right time and in the right form".

And early in January, Czechoslovakia deputy premier Frantisek Hamouz said: 'We expect that talks will take place on potential contracts with the EEC, but we maintain

that the prerequisite must be mutual advantage.'

One of Comecon's main objections to the present set-up concerns the EEC's protectionist tariffs and quotas which discriminate against east European exports to the west.

Hungary, for example, complains that import quotas set by the EEC make it 'difficult if not impracticable' for Hungary to export agricultural produce to the Common Market.

From the Common Market side there are indications of increased interest in ties with the Soviet Union and eastern Europe, particularly since President Nixon's visits to Moscow and Warsaw in May.

The new line on the Common Market is already reflected in the position of the two main western European Stalinist organizations: the French and Italian communist parties.

Both advocate participation in the institutions of the Common Market and have a thoroughly reformist perspective of 'democratizing' this alliance of monopolists.

There is what appears at first sight to be a contradiction between their position and the nationalist stance of opposition to the EEC taken by the British Stalinists.

However this is only apparent and has no principled basis. The only question is how long before the British CP makes its 180-degree turn and comes back into line with Moscow's requirements?

ITALY'S NEW FASCISTS

THE DOORS TO POWER

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

To be transformed from a sect to a powerful force, fascism needs the backing of big business. Only the monopolies can unlock the doors to political power and finance the campaigns and conspiracies of the extreme right.

Italy's fascist party, the MSI, already commands considerable support among the largest banks and industrialists and its influence spreads out to the army, the police, the state administration and the judiciary.

This following can only be explained against the background of economic crisis in the country.

The 'Italian miracle' ran out of steam around the late 1960s. After two decades of boom, industry slipped into a malaise from which it has never emerged. Production in 1971 actually fell 2.7 per cent and investment slumped 9 per cent.

The performance during 1972 was no better. Investment is now stagnant despite a record amount of liquid capital held by the banks.

The recession has dealt the small businessmen a mortal blow. Bankruptcies are common-place and the devaluation of the lira and the sudden introduction of the Italian version of Value-Added Tax will make things worse.

Under VAT the small businessman will be forced to declare his true turnover for tax purposes and the practice of deliberately underestimating his level of business, to avoid the bulk of the inland revenue bill, will come to an end.

The giants—companies like the big three, Olivetti, Pirelli and Fiat—also face the future with considerable gloom. Profits are not expected to improve during 1973 and the monopolies face class war in their massive northern plants.

It is on this rich soil of crisis that the fascists prosper. It is estimated the MSI shares equally with the Christian Democrats the allegiance of the small business community and the trend is ever towards the right.

Particular support comes from the building employers and shopkeepers in the south, where the fascists are most powerful. Traders in Italy must apply each year for a licence and one is granted only after suitable donations to the party chest.

But it is at the top of the industrial ladder that the most significant shift has taken place.

The peculiar structure of the Italian economy has always facilitated political control and influence. Capitalism in Italy

has always needed substantial state support to survive. Industry is sheltered by enormous state trusts which pump in funds to guard against crisis and bankruptcy. Only the car industry, food manufacture and rubber are free from state control.

However, one should banish the idea of nationalization, even on the British model. The state trusts are controlled by political groups who have the interests of private enterprise engraved on their hearts. The system is more like the ill-fated Industrial Reorganization Corporation which provided millions to stabilize the private shipyards of the Clyde under the last Labour government in Britain.

The difference in Italy is that the politicians who control the trusts demand a return in the form of millions of lira to the party funds.

One executive described the set-up when he recalled a secret political meeting representatives of his company attended.

'All the large corporations in Italy were represented,' he said. 'We were asked to guarantee a huge loan to the party.' Instead his company made an outright gift—and had done with it'.

Another businessman describes the extent of this corruption:

'A company gives to political parties in proportion to the amount it thinks will be useful to its projects.' One big company, he said, 'gives to all the countries major parties. It gives to the communists—so they won't make trouble—and to the neo-fascists [the 'polite' term for MSI] in case they get more powerful'.

Bribery ('bustarella') is in fact institutionalized. Every major executive has a series of envelopes filled with varying amounts of lira tucked away in his desk. If he wants to get a tax concession or win a contract he calls in a 'consultant', and hands him one of the packages. If the 'consultant' shakes his head, a larger packet is brought forth, and so on until the required result is achieved.

FAVOURS

If the economic crisis is the basis of the fascists' influence in the board room, institutionalized graft and the tradition of political control has certainly smoothed their way to industrial power.

There are three groups that are widely considered to look with special favour to the MSI.

One is a conglomerate controlled by Attilio Monti based on his import-export business. Monti's influence extends into oil and newspapers. He owns 'Journal Italia', 'Resto Del Carno'; all the popular sports journals and 'Il Tempo'.

All these papers have a virulent right-wing line. One of the major contributors to 'Il Tempo' was Pino Rauti, an MSI deputy who was jailed in connection with the fascist

bomb outrage that killed 13 people in a Milan bank.

A letter has been published purporting to be a communication from a secret agent to Monti asking for funds to be handed over to the MSI.

Monti is involved with another admirer of the extreme right, the cement king Presenti (his Italia Cementi has a total monopoly of the product).

The two industrialists have formed a pact with Eugenio Cefis, the president of Montecatini Edison, Italy's biggest chemical and textile combine (it recently added pharmaceuticals to its empire by taking over the biggest firm in this sector).

The Montedison affair is an extremely complicated web of financial intrigue.

The company first made headlines over a year ago when its president, Cesare Merzago, resigned after eight months at his post. He had discovered a \$43m secret fund which was used by industrialists who had interests in Montedison for their own purposes—mainly to channel money into parties and newspapers of the right.

The president before Merzago, Giorgio Valerio, was charged with embezzlement of company funds, accounting irregularities and deception of the public. Several other influential Italian industrialists were charged with him.

This scandal led to a reorganization of the company, the third largest in the European chemical industry.

It was at this stage that Monti, Presenti and Cefis formed a group and began buying up shares. With them in the race was Agnelli, head of Fiat and Pirelli, chief of the rubber monopoly of the same name.

The people who suffered most from this game of financial chess were the small investors, led by Giorgio Pisano, a member of the Italian Upper House of parliament for the MSI.

But the clamour from the small men and Pisano has died down, despite the continued poor performance of the group. Observers believe that money is being channelled into the MSI to buy their silence.

Theoretically the state trusts are now supposed to control the company. But the Minister of State Ferrari Aggradi sent directives to the state trusts involved not to buy more shares from the private sector of Montedison while allowing the private factions to increase their own portfolios. The trusts have also been excluded from some Montedison board meetings.

The third man of the right is the most interesting of all—Michele Sindona—Europe's most secret financier, dubbed the Howard Hughes of Italy.

He was involved in the Montedison manoeuvres in the early stages, but has now pulled out, many millions of lira better off, in favour of investment in America.

Sindona's empire is based on his Liechtenstein holding company, Fasco AG. Through



PREFETTURA DI UFFICIO DI P. S. IN COMUNICAZIONE

Si riproduce testo del manifesto a seguito del decreto 10 Aprile:

Alle ore 24 del 25 Maggio scade il termine per la consegna delle armi ai posti militari e di Polizia Italiani e Tedeschi appartenenti a bande.

Entro le ore 24 del 25 Maggio gli shandati consegnando le armi di cui sono eventualmente sottoposti a procedimenti penali e nessuna sanzione secondo quanto è previsto dal decreto del 18 Aprile 1972. Qualunque ne sia il numero dovranno consegnare le armi ai posti Militari e di Polizia Italiani e Tedeschi un proprio incaricato. La presentazione dell'intero gruppo e per la consegna delle armi ai posti Militari e di Polizia Italiani e Tedeschi. Tutti coloro che non si saranno presentati entro le ore 24 del 25 Maggio saranno considerati fuora legge e passati per le armi mediante fucile. E' vietato cedere immediatamente anche testi o documenti alla vostra Provincia.

p. il Ministro Mezzanero
GIORGIO A.

Dalla Prefettura 17 Maggio 1972 ANI.

this he controls 51 per cent of Banca Privata Finanziaria.

Another quarter of the bank is owned by Chicago's largest bank, the Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company. The ex-head of this outfit is David M. Kennedy, ex-secretary to the US Treasury and now roving US Ambassador in Europe. Branches of Continental Illinois have recently been opened in Greece and Taiwan.

The other quarter stake belongs to Hambros, the establishment British merchant bank.

Sindona owns the largest English-speaking daily in Italy 'The Daily American', which distinguished itself in the May election last year with very favourable coverage for the MSI.

CONNECTION

Other indications of Sindona's political persuasions are his passionate advocacy of private enterprise—'I fight everyone who is in favour of nationalization. Mediobanca wants to stick the state into everything, and I wanted to keep it out. I fought for my ideas not for money.'

Sindona has close connections with the Vatican and has acted with them in deals that excited the Milan stock ex-

Top: Fascist influence in the special forces of the insignias march openly at the head of a fascist famous order issued by MSI leader Giorgio Almirante under Mussolini. It warned partisans and demobilitated hours 'or be treated as outlaws and shot in the b



PREFETTURA DI GROSSETO

UFFICIO DI P. S. IN PAGANICO

COMUNICATO



URA DI GROSSETO

I P. S. IN PAGANICO

MUNICATO

del manifesto lanciato agli sbandati
10 Aprile:

Maggio scade il termine stabilito per la presenta-
Polizia Italiani e Tedeschi, degli sbandati ed ap-

Maggio gli sbandati che si presenteranno isolata-
di cui sono eventualmente in possesso non saranno
nali e nessuna sanzione sarà presa a loro carico
dal decreto del 18 Aprile: I gruppi di sbandati
dovranno recarsi presso i comandi militari di
proprio incaricato che prenderà accordi per la
ppio e per la consegna delle armi. A che gli ap-
non saranno sottoposti ad alcun processo penale
gli appartenenti alle bande dovranno presentarsi
Polizia Italiani e Germanici entro le ore 24 del
non se saranno presentati saranno considerati
armi mediante fuellazione nella schiena. Vi pre-
te attente testo venga affisso tutti i Comuni

Ministro Mezzasoma - Capo Gabinetto

GIORGIO ALMIRANTE

1973 - ANH.

Special forces of the army. Paratroopers wearing their
head of a fascist demonstration. (Above) The in-
der Giorgio Almirante when he was a junior minister
ritisans and demobilized soldiers to surrender in 24
and shot in the back'.

change. His close personal friend is Monsignore Benelli, under secretary of state at the Vatican and leader of the reactionaries who look towards the MSI to arrest the 'progressive' drift in some sections of the Catholic church.

Sindona's secrecy has led to conflicts with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, who investigate ownership and control in industry. A complicated deal once led to a two days suspension of trading for his US interests after a Wall Street Journal investigation.

But Sindona, born in Sicily, makes light of this concern. The Americans had the wrong impression. They were worrying about 'black gold' from 'gangsters', when actually it is 'anonymous' money from highly respectable people, he says.

To Wall Street businessmen he had called together to discuss investment in the US he exclaimed: 'Ridiculous, if European bankers were to tell as much about clients as American banks do they would go to jail.'

But it is not only from finance capital that the extreme right are attracting support. Industrialists are also casting a keen eye in a fascist direction.

Fiat chief Agnelli has recently become extremely concerned about the working class.

'In Italy today,' he said, 'the amount of unproductive and

parasitic income has grown at a pathological rate. This is because wages cannot be restrained in a democratic society.'

He continued: 'The employers have two perspectives only, enter a head on collision with the working class or a series of initiatives to eliminate waste.'

Agnelli seems to have gone for the first option. Fiat now recruits workers from the fascist union CISNAL. Letters have come to light which reveal that Fiat chiefs, in asking for CISNAL workers from the south, prefer the ones who have a strong ideological motivation, since many southerners had been quickly absorbed into the labour movement within weeks of work in the factories of the north.

Fiat's latest plan is to go to the south and build factories. But big concentrations, where militancy grows fast, will be avoided.

The fascists are clearly anchored firmly in the industrial structure of Italy, but this influence is paralleled by their growing influence within the state institutions and the organs of repression.

The pro-fascist attitudes of the police were described in Wednesday's and Thursday's articles. Latest evidence suggests that there is now a deliberate policy on the part

of some police authorities to develop fascist influence within the ranks. The Communist Party newspaper 'l'Unita' has for example revealed that recruits to the police and the para-military Carabinieri are being obtained through CISNAL and the MSI.

The danger to the left of this infiltration is made more acute by a new regulation by which police will have the power to arrest anyone acting in a way that may 'indicate' they are liable to cause a breach of the peace.

If they do arrive in court, left-wing militants will get little joy. Judges, all over the world, are a most reactionary group of individuals, but there is evidence that this tendency among Italian judges is a little more pronounced.

Every year judges speak of their attitude to the job at an inaugural ceremony. From this, their political persuasions can be gauged. From the last inaugurations it is estimated that well over half the judges in Italy sympathize with the extreme right. In the south many have come out openly for Destra Nazionale (the National Right—the monarchist movement now officially part of MSI).

Case histories also testify to the bias.

CIVIL WAR

In the infamous Milan bomb case the anarchist Valpreda was kept in jail for over two years (his 'co-assassin' Pinelli, a rail worker, was less lucky, he 'jumped' from a police skyscraper block).

The judge on the trial, Falco, prolonged Valperaida's internment despite the fact that there was no evidence whatsoever to connect him with the attack. He and the prosecutor Occorsio (brother-in-law of Italian premier Andreotti) also had the hearing moved to Rome, a fascist stronghold.

This broke all custom and practice—crimes in Italy are always heard where they were alleged to have been committed, in this case Milan—the major working-class centre and a stronghold of the left.

In the armed forces too, the fascist command strong support. About 20 high-ranking officers stood as MSI candidates in the parliamentary elections (two admirals, one colonel and three ex-paras stood in the Rome region of Lazio alone).

Influence is particularly well developed in the 'crack' special forces, the paratroopers and the marines—sections of the armed forces that would be used (as they are in Northern Ireland) to fight a civil war against the working class.

Paratroopers march openly with fascists on demonstrations and the ex-paratroopers association, which organizes periodic re-training for its members, is controlled by fascists.

But perhaps the most sinister aspect of the rightward trend in the forces of repression is the apparent fascist influence within the secret and political police.

There have been several attempted coups by the extreme right with army and police support in Italy in the last ten years. One of the earliest was in 1964—prompted by a crisis in the centre-left coalition led by Christian Democrat Aldo Moro.

Head of the Carabinieri, Giovanni De Lorenzo constructed a plan to 'take the initiative' in the case of a national emergency. Over 1,000 names were passed on to the intelligence service SIFAR by Lorenzo. These were of activists in the left wing and trade union movement who were to be rounded up and flown to internment camps in Sardinia if an emergency was declared.

When the economic crisis deepened in May, De Lorenzo sent a personal message to the

armed forces and SIFAR officers. A key passage read: 'We are ready to face the future, united and calm, whatever may happen.'

Preparations continued. Detailed orders outlining a plan to occupy the radio and TV studios, the exchanges and the offices of political parties, trade unions and newspapers, were sent out. The plot was abandoned only after De Lorenzo had intervened and the Christian Democrats had resisted pressure from the left.

When these plans were revealed in the radical newspaper 'l'Espresso', De Lorenzo was forced out of office. He joined Destra Nazionale (the monarchist movement, now part of the MSI) and took with him 36,000 files on politicians and trade unionists all over Italy.

De Lorenzo is now an MSI member of parliament, the files are in a Swiss bank and presumably at the disposal of the fascist movement should the need arise—it is as though the head of Britain's security services had defected with all his files to the British fascist movement!

Since the De Lorenzo affair there have been two known attempted coups from the right. In both cases the security services must have been aware of these plans, but nothing was done. One can only conclude that the political police in Italy, passively, or actively back moves towards dictatorship.

There is one final point of importance to be made when considering fascist influence within the Italian ruling class. The MSI's power cannot be viewed simply within the Italian context. Regimes of traditional bourgeois democracy in western Europe are now the exception rather than the rule—Spain, Greece and France have all relinquished this form of capitalist rule—and the contradictions of the Common Market are forcing the other regimes in Europe in the same direction.

These developments are actively supported by the American's through NATO and the CIA. The American's support the Greek junta. It is an open secret in Rome that they would like to see a 'colonels' Italy. The departure of Gino Birindelli, ex-NATO naval chief in the Mediterranean for example drew approval from many American NATO officers.

The development of fascism is in fact a European, indeed, a world phenomena, since the capitalist world is gripped with the same intense economic crisis. This is why the story of Italian fascism has an immediate importance for the British working class.

The series so far has been inevitably one-sided. It would be perhaps understandable to assume that in the road to power the fascists face no serious obstacle. This would be totally and completely wrong.

Trotsky once said this about similar developments in Germany:

'Fascism is a product of two conditions: a sharp social crisis on the one hand, the revolutionary weakness of the German proletariat on the other. The weakness of the proletariat in itself is made up of two elements: of the particular historic role of Social Democracy . . . and the inability of the Centrist leadership of the Communist Party to unite workers under the banner of revolution.' (Leon Trotsky, 'The Key to the International Situation in Germany 1931-1932', essential reading.)

In Italy (as in France, Britain and Germany), the working class, once mobilized politically, is immeasurably more powerful than the forces the fascists at present command.

In the final analysis the fascist threat in Italy hangs on the one question of working-class leadership.

IT IS this we examine in tomorrow's final article.





Wilfred Downing playing George V, complaining to Ramsay MacDonald (Corin Redgrave) about the singing of 'The Red Flag' in the Albert Hall. Left: Malcolm Tierney (left) and David Hargreaves play two char ladies in a comic sketch about the catastrophes of modern living. Far left: Tom Kempinski (left) and Corin Redgrave perform a send-up of the Western Brothers' act—'Poor show, dear boy, poor show'. Below left: The whole cast on stage for the finale—the theme song of the campaign to defend basic democratic rights—'Road to Workers' Power'.

ON THE ROAD TO WORKERS POWER

The campaign for the pageant, 'Road to Workers' Power', is now well underway. An enthusiastic group of workers, their wives and families have come forward to assist in the production of episodes in working-class history.

For the next six weeks they will be involved in preparing a spectacular pageant to be staged at the Empire Pool, Wembley, on Sunday, March 11.

The theme of the anti-Tory rally will be the defence of the basic democratic rights of the working class. These are rights won by the working class from the dawn of the Industrial Revolution: the right to organize trade unions, the right to strike, to picket, to black, the right to negotiate wages freely, the right to a decent standard of living, decent housing and a free health service.

These rights have been won in bitter and heroic struggle. They can only be defended in struggle. The Tories cannot snatch away these rights without the most enormous indignation throughout the entire workers' movement. It will be the task of the pageant to give political focus to that indignation.

The concept of re-enacting episodes of working-class history on this scale is quite unique. It will be performed in the largest enclosed auditorium in Britain, seating more than 10,000 spectators.

The preparatory work for the pageant has been completed successfully. A cabaret road show has visited Middleton in Lancashire, South Shields in the north-east and Merthyr Tydfil in south Wales. These are three of the localities from which actual his-

torical incidents will be drawn for the pageant.

The team working in Middleton will concentrate on the struggle of the Chartist Movement which culminated in a General Strike and then armed insurrection.

In South Shields and Jarrow the presentation will be in the judicial murder of Will Jobling, the miners' leader who was hanged and gibbeted.

The Merthyr campaign will centre on the legal attacks on the trade unions at the end of the 19th century which climaxed in the Taff Vale judgement. It was the massive fines in this judgement which prompted the unions to build the Labour Party.

In London there will be a documentary account of the political struggle of Karl Marx during his exile in Britain. The whole purpose of the pageant will be to activate this history, bring it to life. In the text books of the bourgeoisie and in their cinemas this history has been hidden and distorted.

The cabaret took the form of a preliminary organizer. It gave the audience a taste of the possibilities of productions which have their roots in the struggle of the working class. In that sense, the word 'cabaret' is perhaps misleading. Of course there are plenty of laughs and songs.

But the hour-long performance of sketches and snippets of history has a cutting edge. In the three towns that were visited it evoked a class response, which said: 'We want to know our history, we will defend our rights, this Tory government is dictatorial and corrupt.'

After each performance the players moved among the audience seeking reactions and opening political discussions. This has been necessary to bring forward people to help with the pageant campaign to make it a success. It has also broken down the distinction

between those taking part in the sketches and the audience.

In the West End of London the players leave by the stage door after a show. But in the cabaret it was clearly demonstrated that the considerable professional talents of those taking part are subordinates to their role as organizers and political campaigners.

Their work for the pageant is absolutely in line with their fight in their own union, Equity, to oppose the Industrial Relations Act and to fight for a decent standard of living (see p. 11). Their membership has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country—90 per cent out of work—and recently they became the first section of workers to suffer a wage-cut under the new Tory pay laws.

Next week the first 'rehearsals' will be staged in the three localities. These will be public events at which trade unionists, housewives and youth will be taking part. All local workers' organizations are cordially invited to send delegates or observers—or just drop in to see what's going on.

This is when the campaign really commences: people will have to be found to play parts, costumes have to be made, props built and scripts to be worked on. There is also the important question of finance. Already schemes have been launched in Middleton to provide transport to Wembley for old aged people and unemployed youth.

To make the pageant a huge success and to see that it gets the widest possible audience, this is the type of organization which must be built up in the district.

During the next six weeks Workers Press reporters will be working alongside the teams organizing the pageant.

We will be reporting on struggles in the local areas and helping to involve as many people as possible in this great project.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

EXPLOITATION

Apart from his bonanza in the North Sea oil play, Lord Thomson of Fleet is still turning some fat profits in the printing industry. Take his organization in India called Thomson Press (India) Limited.

A recent catalogue is offering 'a speedy service' for the photosetting of books.



The price is 75p per thousand ens (characters) read and corrected. 'The price applies for straight-forward matter including two sets of galley proofs and page proofs and supply of final page film positives ready for plate making.

'We also specialize in Bible setting,' the blurb says.

Just to give you an idea of the rate of exploitation his lordship is operating in the backstreets of New Delhi, a similar job in London would cost about £3 per thousand ens.

DEFENCE

Each year the British Association for the Advancement of Science holds a meeting. All the big brass from the universities and research laboratories gather to discuss latest developments.

The chairmanship of the conference is greatly prized.

In 1974 Dr John Kendrew, the Cambridge biologist, has been chosen.

Is Kendrew some great humanitarian scientist battling on the frontiers of science?

We don't know. But what we do know is that he is chairman of an outfit called the Defence Scientific Advisory Council. This is a body of scientists which advises the government on keeping abreast of the latest weaponry for countering civil unrest.

A working party chaired by Kendrew began special studies on this subject six months after the Tories came to office.

Its report has just gone to Defence Secretary Lord Carington, who is also the Tory Party chairman.

The findings will not be made public, although it is known that the committee felt that the forces of 'law and order' should be equipped with the latest technology for combating demonstrations.

The Advancement of Science conference next year will be held at Stirling University from September 2 to 7.

The president said that an anonymous donor had given £3,250 towards the cost of the meeting and Stirling University had matched this with a similar donation.

FRENCH CP

The French Communist Party, desperate for any votes it can collect in the forthcoming elections, is trying to appear all things to all men.

A delegation from the Party and its union federation, CGT, attended the recent funeral of the Palestine Liberation Organization representative Mahmoud Hamchari.

This was presumably intended to assure the Party of the not inconsiderable Arab vote in the election. Mr Hamchari was the victim of a Zionist terror attack.

However, the Communist Party does not share the PLO's hostility to Israel.

Central Committee member Pierre Juquin recently made this clear to a predominantly Jewish audience at a Paris election meeting.

Asked about the state of Israel, he said the common programme of the CP-SP electoral alliance guaranteed that country's 'right to existence'. The common programme in fact bases itself specifically on the UN resolution of November 1967 which is not accepted by the Zionists or by the Palestinians.

Juquin went on to speak about the persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union, saying: 'There are shadows, sluggish development... But what we are proposing is a French programme, drawn up by Frenchmen for Frenchmen.'

The question was wrongly addressed. It was no concern of the French Communist Party, he concluded. Evidently the CP has hopes of capturing votes from both the Zionists and the Arabs with this approach.

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

Where is Britain Going? Paperback 37p

Problems of the British Revolution Paperback 35p

Lessons of October Paperback 60p

In Defence of the October Revolution Paperback 15p

Marxism and the Trade Unions Paperback 25p

Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International Paperback 10p

Postage: 10p per book. Order from:
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London SW4 7UG

TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

9.38-11.55 Schools. 12.25 Y garej. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Teddy Edward. 1.45 Television doctor. 2.05 Schools. 2.25 Children talking. 2.35 Parkinson. 3.35 Tomorrow's world. 4.00 Clangers. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Help. 5.15 Record breakers. 5.40 Magic roundabout. 5.45 News. Weather.
6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.50 DROOPY.
7.00 THE VIRGINIAN: MEN FROM SHILOH. The Legacy of Spencer Flats.
8.15 THE MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW. The Settlers. **9.00 NEWS.** Weather. **9.25 CANNON.** Stone Cold Dead.
10.15 THE DIMBLEBY TALK-IN. 11.00 NEWS.
11.05 INTERNATIONAL TENNIS. Rothmans International Tennis. **12.00 Weather.**

ITV

9.30 Schools. 12.05 Inigo Pipkin. 12.25 Happy house. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Time was. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Junkin. 3.25 Red one to London. 4.30 Merrie Melodies. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 Nanny and the professor. 5.50 News.
6.00 TODAY. 6.30 CROSSROADS.
7.00 THE PROTECTORS. Vocal. **7.30 IT'S ALL IN LIFE.**
8.00 HAWAII FIVE-O. Little Girl Blue.
9.00 FRIDAY PLAYHOUSE. The Regulars.
10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 POLICE FIVE.
10.40 FILM: 'GUILT IS MY SHADOW.' Patrick Holt, Elizabeth Sellars. A young man on the run.
12.10 CRISIS OF FAITH. 12.15 JASON KING. A Deadly Line in Digits.



Who are the authors of the shop window postcard adverts? Well Nora, who runs a general store, decides to invite these 'lonely' people to her birthday party. Three of them are Madge Ryan, Desmond Perry and Petra Markham in Friday Playhouse's 'The Regulars' on all independent channels. Left: Jeanne Moreau in the first of a short season of her films on BBC 2—'Les Amants', directed by Louis Malle.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.
7.05 HAMMER IT HOME. Starting a coffee table.
7.30 NEWS. Weather. **7.35 COME FISHING.** To Norway.
8.00 MONEY AT WORK. Success and Failure.
9.00 SIX FACES OF ROYALTY. Charles II—the new image of monarchy.
9.15 FILM: 'LES AMANTS.' Directed by Louis Malle. With Jeanne Moreau, Alain Cuny, Jean-Marc Bory.
10.45 FILM NIGHT. Inside the Maze. **11.15 NEWS.** Weather.



Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Bonanza. 7.30 Film: 'The Large Rope'. 9.00 London. 10.30 It's all in life. 11.00 Press call. 11.30 Faces of a stranger.

HIV Cymru/Wales as above except: 4.25-4.50 Stesion cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30 Sports arena. 11.00 Dragon and the lion. 11.45 UFO. 12.45 Weather.

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

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 2.30 About women. 3.00 London. 3.30 Dick Van Dyke. 3.55 Romper room. 4.20 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sale of the century. 7.30 O'Hara. 8.30 Play. 10.00 London. 10.30 Probe. 11.00 Film: 'The Strangers of Bombay'.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.20 Forest rangers. 4.50 London. 5.20 Flintstones. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Protectors. 8.00 Adventurer. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 Regulars. 10.00 London. 10.30 Film: 'Some Came Running'. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.32 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 3.25 Women. 3.55 Yoga. 4.23 News. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 UFO. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Long street. 11.50 Look up.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 3.30 Danger man. 4.25 London. 5.00 Calen-

dar. weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.30 North country. 10.55 Film: 'The Curse of Frankenstein'. 12.40 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Felix the cat. 12.05 London. 3.25 Shirley's world. 3.50 Cartoon. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.25 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.30 It's all in life. 7.00 Film: 'To Hell and Back'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Kick off. 10.55 Film: 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers'.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Prologue. 9.30 London. 2.30 News. 2.13 Yoga. 3.00 London. 3.25 Dangerman. 4.25 London. 5.20 Me and the chimp. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Sky's the limit. 7.30 Hawaii five-o. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 Regulars. 10.00 London. 10.30 North country. 10.55 Film: 'Corridors of Blood'. 12.30 News. 12.35 Lectern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 3.30 It takes a thief. 4.25 Nanny and the professor. 4.50 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Doctor in charge. 7.00 Protectors. 7.30 Film: 'A Weekend With Lulu'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Friday night. 11.00 Late call. 11.05 Hawaii five-o. 12.05 Love American style.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.50 News. 6.00 News. 6.05 Grampian week. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Second Chance'. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.30 Partners. 11.00 Job look. 11.10 Film: 'Soho Incident'. 12.30 Meditation.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Yoga. 3.00 Film: 'The Forgotten Man'. 4.23 Puffin. 4.25 Flintstones. 4.50 London. 5.20 Junkin. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Report. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 London. 7.30 FBI. 8.30 It's all in life. 9.00 London. 10.35 Film: 'The Brain Machine'. 12.00 News. weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.00 London. 4.23 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.25 Sports desk. 10.32 News. 12.00 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 Galloping gourmet. 3.25 Saint. 4.20 Weekend. 4.25 Funky phantom. 4.50 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. Scene SE. 6.35 It's all in life. 7.05 Sale of the century. 7.35 Film: 'Escape'. 9.00 London. 10.30 Weekend. 10.35 Film: 'Die, Monster, Die'. 12.20 News. 12.30 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.30 Women only. 3.00 London. 3.25 Marcus Welby. 4.25 Rovers. 4.50 London. 5.20

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight Rising Prices
 Force the Tories to Resign
 Support the Engineers

MIDDLESBROUGH: Sunday January 28, 7.30 p.m. Settlement Community Centre, Newport Road.

LIVERPOOL: Sunday January 28, 10.30 a.m. St Christopher's, Speke.

WATFORD: Monday January 29, 8 p.m. Trades Union Hall, Watford, near Watford Junction station.

PADDINGTON: Monday January 29, 8 p.m. 'Dudley Arms', corner North Wharf and Bishop's Bridge Road, W.2.

MANCHESTER: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. 'The Maypole', Ford

Lane, Pendleton. Speakers: Connie Fahey, Harry Price, Mike Hyndman. 'Fight rising prices! Force the Tories out!'

ROCHESTER: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. 'The Greyhound', Rochester Avenue.

BARKING: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, corner of Fanshawe Ave./Lagbridge Road.

HARROW: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Labour Hall, Harrow and Wealdstone.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4.

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Tooting Broadway, SW17.

CAMDEN: Tuesday January 30, 8 p.m. 'Prince Albert', Wahrfedale Road, off York Way, Kings Cross.

KINGSTON: Thursday February 1, 8 p.m. 'Liverpool Arms', (corner of Cambridge Road/London Road).

CAMBRIDGE: Thursday February 1, 8 p.m. 'The Rose and Crown', corner of Newmarket Road and East Road.

MANCHESTER: Thursday, February 1, 8 p.m. Ross Place School, Fort Ardwich. Joe Potts, Winnie Price, Connie Fahey. 'Fight rising prices! Force the Tories out.'

LIVERPOOL: Tuesday February 6, 7.30 p.m. AEU House, Mount Pleasant.

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An appeal on behalf of the Fine Tubes strikers of Plymouth

THE Plymouth Fine Tubes strikers have just completed two years and seven months on strike.

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.

These latest months have been the hardest of all for the men, their wives and 53

children. Common Market entry, with rapidly rising prices, has imposed a severe financial burden. The 37 strikers face the challenging months ahead with a depleted strike fund—this is in a period when meat has now become a luxury for all but the highest paid. January is always a difficult month to raise money to further their fight.

Yet they are determined to fight on. This is a struggle the working class cannot afford to

lose. That is why the Socialist Labour League and the Workers Press wishes to make a special appeal to all trade unionists to take collections in their factories and branches for the Fine Tubes men in order that their heroic and determined action can be carried forward. All money should be sent to:

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

Bitter fruits of Equity's registration

Actors' union in crisis

Some of the actors and actresses who lobbied the Equity Council last year during the demand for the West End pay rise. They now find their pay has been cut by £12 under the Tories' state pay law.

ANY ILLUSIONS that Equity, the actors' union, might be exempt from the Tories state pay laws were dashed at a December 28, 1972, meeting at the Department of Employment. Present were a Mr Brand, under secretary, representatives from the Society of West End Theatre Managers and a delegation from Equity's Council.

Mr Brand's message was simple: both the £7 increase already in Equity members' pay packets, and the further £5 about to be paid—bringing their minimum to £30 a week—contravened the government's wage freeze and must stop.

Two months earlier—at a mass meeting on October 20—Equity general secretary Gerald Croasdell held out hopes that the proposed West End deal might not be subject to the Tories' future legislation.

If the deal were accepted, he said, it could be 'signed, sealed and delivered in 24 hours'. The meeting had been called, in fact, with the new laws 'very much in mind'.

It was hoped that with the employers' assistance, a way round the legislation might be found—as it was during Labour's 'freeze' in 1966.

But Employment Minister Maurice Macmillan's signature on the January 1 order showed that as with their 'fair deal at work', 'fair rents' and 'fair trading Bill', the Tories intended to be scrupulously 'fair' . . . actors' wages were to be frozen just like anyone else's.

In fact Equity was given the distinction of being the first union in post-war years to receive a direct wage cut!

By seeking special concessions, Equity's Council set up actors as a sitting target for the Tories who wanted to demonstrate to the whole trade union movement just how ruthless they intended to be to carry out their plans.

There has been no lead or call to action from the Equity officials. In fact, the response has been the kind of 'forebearance' which Heath paid tribute to in his Lancaster House Press conference last week.

The Council's paralysis is the logical outcome of its policies. The union's recently-published employment survey shows that average earnings are under £20 a week; that at any given time 70 per cent of the membership is unemployed; that in the past five years, while the cost of living has leaped up, earnings have scarcely increased at all.

CONDEMNATION

If these figures—released the day after the government's 'freeze' order—were intended to thaw the Tories' hearts, they clearly failed. However, they do provide a damning condemnation of the union leadership.

And, while presenting no jobs policy, this leadership vehemently opposes nationalization . . . all the more so as this policy gains increasing support among the ranks.

A resolution at the June 27, 1972, annual general meeting calling for nationalization of the entertainments industry without compensation and under workers' control was defeated by only a handful of votes. Croasdell opposed the motion on behalf of the Council.

He returns to the attack in this month's 'Equity Journal'. Referring to the fight against John Bentley's attempts to 'asset-strip' the Shepperton film studios in Middlesex, he writes:

'In these circumstances the utmost vigilance and continued unity on the part of the Federation of Film Unions is essential. We believe that this unity . . . will be maintained in spite of the attempts to divert the Federation from the main objective by the insistence of a minority on injecting into every relevant resolution which they sponsor or support the sectarian and irrelevant signature tune of 'workers' control' . . . 'At the present stage of the



Equity's general secretary Gerald Croasdell



SLL LECTURES

GLASGOW

Sunday January 28
The Communist International in the Days of Lenin and Trotsky.
Sunday, February 4
The Left Opposition's struggle against Stalinism.

MID HALL
Partick Burgh Halls
7.30 p.m.

Lectures by Tom Kemp, SLL Central Committee member

DONCASTER

Sunday February 4
The crisis and the socialist answer.
Sunday February 11
The revolutionary party in Britain.

Lectures given by Cliff Slaughter.

SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL
Westlathgate
7.30 p.m.

TODMORDEN

Monday February 5
'Trotskyism'

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

LONDON

Lecture 1
1919-1924—The Communist International in the days of Lenin and Trotsky

Lecture 2
1924-1933—The Left Opposition's struggle against Stalin

Lecture 3
1933-1938—From the German defeat to the founding of Fourth International

given by TOM KEMP (SLL Central Committee)

ACTON

Wednesday January 31
Lecture 1

Wednesday February 7
Lecture 2

Wednesday February 14
Lecture 3

Woodlands Hall
Crown Street, W.3. 8 p.m.

EAST LONDON

Thursday February 1
Lecture 1

Thursday February 8
Lecture 2

Thursday February 15
Lecture 3

Old Town Offices
Poplar High Street
E.14. 8 p.m.

collective bargaining?

Actors, singers and dancers face this crisis under a leadership which has already, by its policy of registration under the Industrial Relations Act, prepared the way for complete acceptance of state wage control.

It has encouraged the extreme right wing, the 'Goads' of Equity, to threaten the union with legal action, and to campaign for withdrawal of affiliation fees from the TUC in order to sever Equity from the trade union movement.

It has convinced employers such as the BBC of their ability to attack the union with impunity.

Above all, by its surrender of fundamental trade union rights, and by cutting Equity away from the strength of the movement, it has tied members' hands for the crucial battles which lie ahead on wages, on theatre and studio closures, and on unemployment.

VINDICATION

Only as part of the trade union movement, and in concert with all those unions which now face the government with wage claims, can Equity members fight for the future of their profession.

What emerges, therefore, from the present crisis is, on the one hand, a vindication of all those members who have fought in Equity for active policies against the Tory laws and the employers' offensive; and on the other and absolute condemnation of a leadership.

There is no way forward now for any section of the profession without a fight to clear out this present Council and to demand elections, representative of every section of the profession, for a new leadership.

Such a leadership must be charged with carrying out the policies demanded by the membership at AGM's and with policies to meet the requirements of the present crisis:

ON WAGES: Industrial action for the immediate payment of the West End claim. Total opposition to statutory wage control. Full wage claims for every section of the membership.

ON UNEMPLOYMENT: Nationalization of the entertainments industry without compensation and under workers' control.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT: Immediate de-registration. The new Council to build unity actively with all professional and allied unions, to demand the recall of the TUC for a campaign to force the Tories to resign and to elect a Labour government pledged to repeal all anti-union laws.

battle for the preservation of Shepperton, it represents no more than a political slogan wholly irrelevant to the immediate problem.'

Socialist policies for the theatre and film industries are anathema to the Council because a struggle to implement them would involve a fight against the Tory government and determined offensive against the employers.

'NO POLITICS'

But the Council's policies are based on co-operation with the government in the name of 'non-politics' and with the employers in the name of 'harmonious relations'.

As the political and economic crises merge, the leadership is driven further into the arms of the government and employers to maintain its position . . . and further away from the members' actual requirements.

Though it was compelled at the annual meeting to accept a resolution calling for strike action if the employers refused the full West End claim, it has done everything in its power since then to bury that resolution.

Every time a call was made for a fight on the full claim, it has insisted on the sufficiency of negotiation and the necessity to avoid presenting an ultimatum to the employers.

The employment figures show how sufficient such methods have proved to be.

Two years' negotiations with the BBC ended with a new agreement last June which forced a wage-cut on actors already earning above the minimum wage. Three futile months of negotiation ended with a BBC ultimatum: accept the cuts above the minimum or a 12½ per-cent cut all round.

Equity responded by signing a productivity deal allowing the BBC to extend its whole range of programmes and to cut wage rates by 25 per cent.

Two months ago, at a time of the worst-ever inflation, the Council signed an agreement for the new West End contract to be binding for five years.

It contains no holiday entitlement, or reduction of hours. Overtime is paid at 50p an hour, those who fall sick are to be paid half salary for the first and last weeks of their permitted month and rehearsal pay, said to be an absolute demand at the outset of negotiations, is to reach parity with performance pay in 1977.

Such are the rewards for the Council's policy of co-operation with the employers.

What is the prospect for Equity members now that even these concessions can no longer be won by the method of free

Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

SIX DAYS TO GO £546.25 TO RAISE

THE BATTLE is on. We have six days to complete our target of £1,750 and we are determined to do it. We are also confident that you, dear readers, are fully behind us.

Workers Press, alone, has been the only daily paper to speak out against the treachery of the Stalinist bureaucracies behind the peace agreement in Vietnam.

Just at the time when complete victory was within grasp of the Vietnamese people, pressure was increased by both the Soviet Union and China to reach a peace settlement with Nixon.

Only Workers Press fights for the victory of workers throughout the world against imperialism. It is this struggle we know that wins all your support.

Help us now with a very special effort to complete our January Fund. We know you will do it. Rush all donations immediately to:

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

Students march for grants

TWO THOUSAND students marched through the main streets of Southampton yesterday demanding supplementary grants for all students.

In a noisy demonstration the students chanted 'Heath out, socialism in' as they proceeded to a rally at the City Halls.

The main contingent was from Southampton University where a one-day strike was in progress. There were other strong delegations from Portsmouth, Bournemouth, Fareham, Salisbury, Bristol, Oxford, Salisbury and Basingstoke.

The students were supported by the Southampton Trades Council, which represents about 100,000 trade unionists in the area.

Bread may rise 1½p

RANKS HOVIS McDUGALL, Britain's biggest flour milling and bread combine, is to apply for an increase of 1½p in the price of a loaf of bread.

Mr Joseph Rank, the company's chairman, told the annual meeting of shareholders yesterday the application would be made

to the government on March 6.

Ranks Hovis McDougall, which makes a quarter of the country's bread, markets such brand names as Mother's Pride and Nimble.

Its trading profit over the past five years is as follows:

1967	£22.7m
1968	£27.5m
1969	£29.4m

1970	£30.5m
1971	£32.9m

The price rise is not expected to bite into the family budget of Joseph Rank. His annual salary is £41,700 a year, while three of his directors get more than £20,000 each.

However, his 61,000 employees in the UK will feel the impact.

During 1970-1971 their average pay was £1,105 per annum, £22 a week. And there has been little increase in wages since.

The company's political alliances are quite clear—they believe in right-wing Toryism. In 1971 the board gave £3,500 to the reactionary Economic League and £5,000 to the anti-socialist Aims of Industry.

EEC means sugar and bacon up

BY OUR OWN REPORTERS

BACON and sugar will cost at least 3p a lb more in the shops from July. The sharp increases are a direct result of Common Market entry. Under an agreement worked out in Brussels Britain has been forced to abolish subsidies for bacon producers and sugar refiners.

The Tory Food and Agriculture Minister, Mr Joseph Godber, attended the Council of Common Market Ministers' meeting which decided to drop the £65 a ton curing subsidy for bacon and the £25m subsidy on sugar.

Godber also agreed to abolish by next January the £2.5m in subsidies paid to Northern Ireland's egg producers.

It will be recalled that Godber masterminded the recent three-man investigation into beef price rises.

The price raisers are the Tories and the profiteers who back them in big business.

Two weeks ago Godber was shedding tears about the rise in beef prices. Two days ago he travelled to Brussels to supervise deliberate increases in bacon and sugar prices.

Weekend shoppers are in for another round of hefty price increases. At the livestock markets this week prices have been sharply up. These rises will be passed onto the housewife with the main burden on 'luxury' cuts like sirloin and topside.

Argentine topside will be about 60p a lb, while Scottish will be around 75p a lb with the equivalent rump prices at 70p and 95p. New Zealand lamb chops will be as high as 50p and shoulders will range from 20p to 25p a lb.

Mr Len Moss, a spokesman for the National Federation of Meat Traders, told shoppers yesterday that the best they could do was 'shop around'.

VAVASSEUR Financial Group has made a £17m takeover bid for John Bentley's Barclay Securities, which controls Shepperton film studios. The bid values Barclay Securities at around £17m and each Barclay share at 87p. The shares in the asset-stripping company rose slightly on news of the bid.



A section of the 3,000-strong steelworkers march in London yesterday. Report page 1.

CAV sit-in keeps 'passes'

BY DAVID MAUDE

ACCESS to the Lucas combine's factory site in Fazakerley, Liverpool, must be controlled by the CAV Fazakerley occupation committee, sit-in strikers insisted at the factory yesterday.

An afternoon mass meeting rejected the committee's recommendation that a pass system which has been in operation for the last 12 weeks be abandoned.

The strikers voted to maintain control both of the site's boiler house and canteen facilities, and of the gates through which all supplies, transport and personnel must enter or leave.

But the meeting stressed that it was in no way denying laid-off workers at Lucas Industrial Equipment, which shares the Fazakerley site with CAV, the right to return to work.

This was the management's responsibility, sit-in strikers pointed out. Last week's mass meeting had agreed to allow the free movement of supplies on and off the site. It had been Lucas who refused to accept the pass system.

Lucas had also refused to accept that the CAV occupation committee control the workers chiefly responsible for operating the on-site services.

On Wednesday the occupation committee had drawn up its recommendation that LIE workers and staff be allowed through the gates without passes,

THE VIETNAM ceasefire was likely to lead to the go-ahead for an American supersonic airliner, Mr Edward Bishop, an Opposition aviation spokesman, told a Commons Standing Committee yesterday. MPs were considering the Concorde Aircraft Bill which increases the limit on loans or guarantees which the government may provide to £25m. The Bill also provides to raise this limit by order to £350m. The committee stage of the Bill was concluded.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG.

but the combine management wanted even further concessions. These have now been refused.

The occupation committee's attempted retreat on the passes issue followed a Tuesday night meeting with leaders of the Liverpool Trades Council.

In December the trades council pledged to call a meeting of stewards throughout the area early in the New Year to support the CAV fight against closure, but on Tuesday there was evidence of considerable backsliding by the council's executive.

Several key members of the executive were absent. Those

who were present refused to accept a resolution that they call the stewards' meeting immediately.

Any decision on this was postponed until after an engineers' union district committee meeting on Wednesday night.

The trades council leaders will meet again next Tuesday.

The engineers' district committee, CAV workers were told yesterday, has endorsed the occupation committee's decision on Wednesday morning to maintain control of the on-site services.

But it also endorsed the dropping of the pass system and there is a danger that union officials will continue to press for this to be done.



Socialist Labour League Yorkshire Rally

FORCE THE TORY GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN!

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY!

SUNDAY JANUARY 28, 7.30 p.m.
Great Northern Hotel,
Wellington Street (near Leeds station),
LEEDS

FILM: THREE YEARS OF WORKERS PRESS

Speakers:

G. HEALY (SLL National Secretary)
PAUL WHETSTONE (Young Socialists)

In personal capacity:

GEORGE LUBY (U.P.W.)
ROBBIE ROBERTS (N.U.M.)