

# WORKERS PRESS

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● MONDAY FEBRUARY 12, 1973 ● No. 995 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

## Capitalism teeters on the brink **INFLATION, TRADE WAR RECESSION**

BY JOHN SPENCER OUR FOREIGN EDITOR

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Tokyo has already closed its foreign exchange market and the European exchanges will also be closed today.

There is general agreement that the present situation is the direct outcome of the Nixon measures of August 15, 1971, which put an end to the dollar's convertibility with gold.

This meant that paper currency no longer had any definite value for world trade.

The relationships between the various currencies were realigned in the Smithsonian agreement of December 1971 which began to break down when sterling was floated and has now been completely undermined.

August 15, as we warned repeatedly, marked a decisive political turning-point and spelled the end of the post-war monetary system and the political compromise to which it had given rise.

The assault on the German mark and the Japanese yen over the past week has created a POLITICAL crisis of the first magnitude in the relations between the world's main trading blocs.

The big American corporations, Middle East oil sheikhs and other speculators are turning their dollars into marks and yen in the expectation that these currencies will be revalued.

They can then buy back their original dollars at a profit and use the surplus to service their loans.

The vast dollar pool outside the US makes it impossible for Germany and Japan to resist this pressure for revaluation.

The US has made it clear their currencies must be revalued immediately so as to price these countries' exports out of the world markets, giving American traders the advantage.

Discriminatory tariffs will follow as the next stage of trade war with Europe and Japan.

America's strategy is clear: the burden of inflation and unemployment must be borne by its rivals, whether they like it or not.

'Peace' through international conferences and agreements is doomed from the start. The conflict can be resolved only through ruthless combat.

The crisis has already revealed the fragility and impotence of the European Common Market and completely disrupted its attempts at a unified monetary system.

Tory boasts of prosperity and vast markets opened up by entry into the Common Market are a hoax.

The trade war set in motion by President Nixon will have an unprecedented effect on workers' living standards, jobs and conditions.

State pay laws are only the beginning. Both Edward Heath (p. 12) and James Prior, Tory Party deputy chairman and leader of the Commons, have said there is no effective alternative to this policy.

The only alternatives that have been put forward would lead on the one hand to massive unemployment, or on the other to the economic and political life of a banana republic,' Prior said.

Rapidly the basis is being created for a General Strike in Britain and the replacement of the Tory government by a Labour government pledged to socialist policies of nationalization which alone can surmount the anarchic conditions created by the capitalist crisis.

## Glassmen fighting a 'loathsome' closure

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

THE DECISION by the Rockware Glass group to close its Greenford plant in Middlesex was yesterday described as 'loathsome and disgusting'.

Local MP Bill Molloy told a rally of Rockware workers that only weeks before the company announced its decision to close down in January 1971, the firm was sending careers propaganda to Greenford schoolchildren.

He also said that the firm had asked him to help over a threat to their power supplies. 'They wrote to me and asked would I help them with their plans to increase production. Weeks later they announced their decision to close.'

But apart from passionate words from Molloy and the other platform speakers, who ranged from a UCS delegate to Bill Freeman, leader of the Briant Colour sit-in, there were no real perspectives put forward for victory at Rockware.

The campaign at present is being restricted to putting pressure on the management to change its mind over a decision to sell the factory in a multi-million pound property transaction.

Stan McKnee, a boiler-makers' official from UCS, said:

'We had at UCS the misfortune of coming into contact with the destroyers of decency, but I am glad to report that we were not contaminated by the contact,' he said.

Describing the UCS work-in as a victory, he failed to mention that over 2,000 jobs were lost, that contracts which broke trade union principles were signed and that Stalinists James Reid and James Airlie had congratulated the Tory 'destroyers of decency' for their 'economic good sense'.

Arthur Harris, chairman of the Rockware shop stewards' committee, said:

'There is a difference between crooks and robbers who deal in land speculation and those who rob your house. One gets put in jail and the others get the OBE.'

But Rockware workers can only fight on the basis of a political campaign—involving workers throughout the London area and especially those faced with redundancy—to bring the government down.



Over £200 was collected for the Greenford Rockware workers' fight against the closure at their meeting yesterday.

Socialist Labour League Public Meetings

Unite in action to defend basic rights

**MIDDLETON**

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 8 p.m.

Middleton Baths, Middleton, Manchester

**JARROW**

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 7 p.m.

Civic Centre, Jarrow

Speaker at both meetings: G. HEALY (SLL national secretary)

# workers press

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## UPW chief raises right-wing bogey

# Fighting Tories scares Jackson

ONLY TWO alternatives face the trade union movement today, said Post Office workers' leader Tom Jackson yesterday in one of the most forthright declarations from the reformist right-wing in recent months.

The alternatives were: negotiation and co-operation with the Tories, on the basis of statutory control of both wages and prices, or 'massive', all-out industrial action to change the mind of the government'.

In an hour-long, partly off-the-cuff speech to the

### TOMORROW Special comment

In tomorrow's Workers Press Labour Correspondent David Maude will be commenting in detail on the special conference at Bournemouth.

Union of Post Office Workers' special conference here, Jackson argued fiercely for co-operation. All-out industrial action, he said, would not bring about the replacement of the Tories by Labour.

FROM DAVID MAUDE OUR LABOUR  
CORRESPONDENT IN BOURNEMOUTH

It wouldn't necessarily lead even to a General Election, but could 'swiftly lead to the replacement of Edward Heath by Enoch Powell'.

And if there was an election, he said, the experiences of May-June 1968 in France and 1926 in Britain suggested that a vastly more repressive government would be elected than the present one.

The Labour Party would be condemned to five years out of office.

Jackson, who was ostensibly reporting to delegates on the progress of the union's £5 pay claim, has long been an advocate of keeping politics out of unions.

But politics—the politics of collaboration with the Tories—formed the centre of his speech.



Campaigners for the Pageant, 'The Road to Workers' Power', held flag sales in their respective areas at the weekend. Rehearsals are underway for the Pageant which will cover the crucial episodes in the working class's fight for basic democratic rights. In this picture pageant supporters in Middleton, near Manchester, talk to high street shoppers about the Pageant and the fight against the Tory government.

## BRIEFLY Fresh debate on rent Act

MOVES have started to force a fresh debate of the Tory rent Act on the Labour-controlled Glasgow Council.

A majority of the city's Labour councillors have signed a petition asking for the issue to be debated again. Forty-one councillors who originally voted for non-implementation of the Act have signed the petition.

The motion will be submitted to the group's executive tomorrow and discussed by the full group on Wednesday night. Councillors will hear deputations from trade unions and tenants' associations.

## Arms deal man charged

ARMS DEALER Andreas Pavli (46), of The Ridgeway, Church End, Finchley, was remanded on bail to February 19 when he appeared at Thames Court on Saturday charged with illegally exporting five armoured vehicles to Cyprus from Millwall Dock on February 29 last year. Pavli, who is a director of Military Equipment Consultants (International) Ltd, is also accused of making a false declaration to customs by saying that crates containing the vehicles contained used agricultural machinery.

He was allowed his own bail of £5,000 with two sureties each of £5,000, ordered to surrender his passport to police, and to report twice daily to police while on bail.

JOHN PAXMAN, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' convenor at CAV, Acton, has warned the plant may shut down unless militants are curbed. It is believed he may not stand as convenor at this Wednesday's annual general meeting if this policy is rejected.

Only two shop stewards are thought to support him, while others are opposed to a right-wing witchhunt.

## Army ready for take-over in Ulster?

THE BRUTAL assault on unarmed women by British troops in Belfast on Saturday night is a serious portent of Westminster's plans for Ulster's future.

Why did the army deliberately over-react by sending an assortment of bulldozers, armoured cars, a water cannon and a considerable body of troops to disperse 40 women?

And why did the officer-in-charge provoke a riot situation, despite the protesters' respect for army barricades and Mr Michael Farrell's public appeal for restraint and 'no violence'?

For answers to these

questions, we shall have to turn to the latest and most sinister intrigues of Whitehall in Ulster in preparation for the implementation of the notorious White Paper.

Having failed to break the resistance of Protestant and Catholic workers by internment, arrest, special tribunals etc, the Tories have decided to pursue an even tougher policy.

They are giving greater powers to the army while maintaining the facade of a civilian administration led by William Whitelaw.

Inspired rumours from Lisburn already indicate

that Lord Carrington, Defence Secretary and notorious hardliner on Ulster, is to take full charge of Ulster affairs, when the White Paper is announced.

There are many aspects of this move to open dictatorship.

Most notable has been the extensive use of SAS murder squads to exacerbate sectarian feeling and create fear in the ghetto.

Lord Balniel admitted in parliament that 'plain-clothes surveillance squads' had opened fire at least on 20 occasions.

More recently the indiscriminate shooting of

Catholics by car-gun squads has been attributed to the SAS and to Unionists who have been recruited to them.

At the same time harassment of women shoppers by army units has been stepped up and women soldiers (WRACs) have been introduced to facilitate the army's job.

Some of the other less rewarding if not more ingenious roles of the army have been to canvass for Whitelaw's border poll and even supervise progress of jobs on the work sites belonging to the Derry Development Commission!

## Nationalist illusions

FROM IAN YEATS IN SOUTH WALES

SOME 250 delegates from 25 trade unions and most of Wales' 51 trades councils defied TUC advice on Saturday and went ahead with a special conference to set up a Welsh Trade Union Congress.

Conference chairman, right-wing Merthyr Tydfil Labour councillor and Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' district organizer Mr Tal Lloyd said he hoped there would be no permanent split with the 'English' TUC.

He said he believed the next meeting of the embryo Welsh Congress to be held at Llandrindod Wells next May would have the TUC's blessing.

Mr Lloyd said: 'The grass roots have made a call and we have now reached a point of decision. We are not intending to be in conflict with the TUC, nor should the TUC be in conflict with us. These must be a recognition of the inevitable.'

Communist Party member and Welsh NUM executive member Mr Dai Francis, who shared the platform with Lloyd and Welsh region Transport and General Workers' Union secretary Mr Tom Jones, said it was the failure of the TUC to act during the miners' strike which had promoted the demand for a Welsh Congress.

Saturday's conference at the Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells, was sponsored by the T&GWU and National Union of Mineworkers.

The Congress tone was set by Welsh T&GWU assistant secretary Mr George Wright, who said that as a result of the

## Right wing creates 'Welsh TUC'



Tal Lloyd



Dai Francis

Tories' last budget, 'the British economy is winding up'.

But, he said, 'we are not getting our fair share of what is going on'. In England there were five workers chasing every one job, but in Wales the ratio was 12 to one.

Mr Wright said one of the first demands of a Welsh TUC should be for

a public finance corporation to direct investment in Wales and bring about the conditions for full employment. Trade unions would play a leading role in the new body.

Wright condemned the British Steel Corporation's decision to axe 18,000 jobs in the Principality.

He said: 'The BSC is acting like businessmen,

financiers and capitalists. If they have money to invest we will tell them where to invest it because it is our money.'

An economic policy document before the Congress said: 'In the light of the patent failure of successive governments to stimulate the Welsh economy and provide balanced industrial growth it is incumbent upon the Welsh TUC to formulate an alternative programme for the economic reconstruction of Wales.'

The document called for:

- Increased job creation in areas of 'emergent industry'.
- Increased public spending throughout the economy.

- The setting up of a public finance corporation.

- More development of Wales transport facilities.

- The diversification of the activities of nationalized industries.

The Congress agreed the proposals of a working party which reported on the feasibility of a Welsh TUC on December 18.

The report, which was approved overwhelmingly on Saturday, stressed that the Welsh Congress would remain affiliated to the English TUC and give it 'strong support'.

Delegates to the congress are to be elected on the basis of one per 2,000 members and to represent

Welsh T&GWU assistant secretary George Wright speaking from the platform on Saturday.

every shade of political opinion.

Giving 'guidance' to the conference, chairman Tal Lloyd said it would be wrong of the meeting to do more than 'sympathize' with a resolution demanding industrial action to back council tenants at Bedwas and Machen fighting the Tory rent Act.

He said: 'Some unions might not accept a dictate at this early stage and when we are trying to unite working-class movements in Wales, a decision today could be very dangerous.'

The meeting, held in front of a giant red banner proclaiming 'Cyngres Undebau Llafur Cymru' ended with the singing in Welsh of the Principality's national anthem.



# BEHIND THE GRANADA BLACKOUT

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT ROYSTON BULL

For the first time ever, the commercial channel television screens have been blacked out by strike action conducted for a political end.

When the ITV channel went blank last Monday during the half-hour that 'World in Action' is usually broadcast, it marked a new stage in the developing political crisis.

The television journalists and technicians have fallen out with their management in the past over wages and other domestic trade union issues.

And the journalists have remonstrated indignantly on several occasions about editorial censorship and have talked of withdrawing their labour.

But never before had the reporters and the technicians got together to use their power to control what the television monopolists put out.

The direct cause of this action was the banning of the programme 'John Poulson, his friends, and influences'.

The television workers were not able to force the Independent Broadcasting Authority to show the hour-long documentary, but in protest they blacked out its replacement.

In the background of this situation, far deeper causes were working to push ACTT members to new levels of activity.

There is growing disquiet among workers and professional people at the ever-increasing signs of censorship in Britain.

In most instances so far, workers in the media have not made the correct political conclusions about the sources of the censorship or the reasons behind it.

But their concerned resistance to these early moves towards a full-scale political censorship in Britain indicate that the ruling class is going to have a massive fight on its hands.

Even at the present stage, when the many liberals working in television are merely angry in a professional sense at the cutting and banning of some of their best work, but do not see any political conspiracy behind it, the censors are scarcely having things all their own way.

Once the political origins of the drive towards censorship become clearer and the ruling class is seen to be deliberately manipulating the news in the defence of its class interests, the resistance could grow into a decisive challenge to the monopolists' 'right to rule'.

How important control of television is to the ruling class was made quite clear after the black-out. The Granada management said:

'The implications of using industrial action to affect decisions which Granada believes to be concerned only with broadcasting and editorial policy can be serious.'

This piece of gobbledegook means that questions of programme content are to be decided by management alone and the unions should confine industrial action to trade union matters.

The London 'Evening Standard' tried a feint with the left followed by a cross with the right in order to try and appease outraged liberals about the censorship, but warn them

off industrial action as a way of dealing with it.

Its editorial knocked the easiest target available—the Festival of Light fanatics for the attempt to suppress the Warhol film—although it did even that in the most obscure way.

'It is alarming to genuine liberals that one or two self-appointed spokesmen for public decency should have attracted attention, whether or not they intended it, to the cause of repression.'

But then they got to the real point: 'But what is perhaps of even greater concern was the decision by TV technicians to protest against censorship by acting as censors themselves.'

The official statements of the London Granada ACTT shop, which held a one-day strike against the ban, reveal the present attitudes of the journalists whose objection to censorship is still mainly a professional one:

'The refusal of the IBA to allow transmission of this programme is a grave infringement of the freedom of broadcasters to report events in a responsible manner. It is possibly the gravest such infringement ever imposed upon independent television. To delay a current affairs programme is in effect to kill it.'

This statement then stressed the journalists' belief that the programme was made in 'a totally fair and professional manner', which indicates to what extent the ACTT members are still on the defensive.

The IBA's ban was called 'arbitrary, absurd, and a dangerous precedent'. The ruling class's attitude to the Poulson bankruptcy hearings was not really analysed.

## Exposed

Although some of the journalists are highly suspicious of some of the immediate personal connections between the Poulson case and members of the IBA board, they don't as yet make any political connection between the hearings and the ruling class's anxiety at the growing economic crisis.

'We believe that the Poulson bankruptcy hearings, and the circumstances surrounding them, are matters of wide public concern which should be freely reported by the Press and on television.'

The reality is that the hearings boldly exposed many dubious aspects of capitalist society and, even more important, the complicity of important elements in the labour and trade union movement.

What the ruling class fears is that the wide coverage of these revelations in a mass-audience television programme, and above all the constant repetition of these facts, will have a profound political effect on the working class.

And as they approach an all-out political confrontation with the working class, they fear like the plague too much adverse propaganda about the capitalist system, and especially about its chief prop, the social democracy.

The way the television professionals see all this is interesting. Their initial reaction is that the normal 'rules' of editorial control by management, which they usually accept, have been broken.

They see the IBA as having



ACTT members picket the IBA over the ban on the documentary, 'John Poulson, his friends, and influences'.

stepped in in an 'abnormal' way, against their own officials' and lawyers' advice, to cut a programme 'for sinister motives, given the connections.'

It has left the liberals asking: 'Where are the rules?' With the result that 'even moderates were convinced that strike action was justified because normal editorial processes had broken down'.

One television producer commented: 'In the background to all this, there seems to be growing discontent and in all areas decision makers are being made to account for their decisions.'

'In television and elsewhere, people are saying to decision makers: "You are not getting away with it any more, you are not going to trample on us."

'People are demanding and asserting their rights, as limited as they are.'

'But we must not kid ourselves how far this revolt is going. The more working-class members of ACTT, the technicians, were more hostile to the idea of doing something about the ban than were the producers.'

'This black-out has been a good step forward, but it is only the first flicker of workers' control in television. Although there was a good debate in the Manchester shop of Granada, there is still a feeling among the technicians that this is not the right area for industrial action.'

'In a curious way, the ordinary engineers share the management's view on this. But this has been a historic step forward and people will learn from it.'

'The atmosphere has unquestionably got worse recently in ITV and we are now getting almost a ban a week, but it is not always the same forces at work. There are all kinds of reasons for it and it is not simply a class thing.'

'Different parts of the establishment all seem to be under pressure in their own way, in-

cluding the TUC leaders. All the authorities are creaking and are now being forced to give a little. The minor crises in the media are part of the same thing.'

'The people with statutory responsibility for television programmes are subject to the same kinds of tension as those administering the government's wage controls.'

'And just as the government has shown an amazing readiness since 1970 to rush to the law to squash things where it didn't do before, so do institutions like the IBA rush to use their statutory powers where they didn't do before.'

'Authority in general is searching round for new weapons because they are facing greater challenges.'

'The more revealing kind of television programme has been on the increase for five years, but either the IBA did not watch current affairs programmes before, or they are being pressured for the first time into doing something about them.'

'Whole areas of society are demanding things they did not demand before. Authority is being forced to concede things to trade unionists, students, women, and other sections. It is one way of redistributing power.'

'The way that authorities have waded in against protest movements over the last five years in France, Germany, and the United States has caused people to change their ideas of what democracy is. Authorities have been particularly hostile to trade unions' assertiveness because they cannot afford to let it go on.'

'The Industrial Relations Act is part of a whole machinery of oppression. Either they use an old-law, like the ancient Incitement to Disaffection Act used against an Irish labourer in Ulster, or they make a new one.'

'The IBA ban on the Poulson

programme was not a party political issue. The IBA was worried at giving further publicity to matters which question so devastatingly the quality of public life.'

'The programme states that large areas of public life are beginning to stink, but the IBA saw it as a programme about people much like themselves and so they were concerned.'

'But no one who went on strike over the ban thought that the programme was being censored because the economic basis of society was being challenged. The black-out was not a class response to an attack made on Press freedoms in defence of property.'

'It is still possible to practice free journalism within the present system, but if this kind of censorship action continues, it won't be possible much longer. Censorship would wipe out whole areas and free journalism would become a shrunken animal.'

## Historical

These views contain many misunderstandings about how the basic struggle between the bourgeoisie and the working class affects developments in the superstructure of society, including television, and also about how the working class comes to political consciousness.

But they give a good indication of the historical attachment to democratic rights which is deeply ingrained into British politics, particularly among the working class and sections close to them.

They also indicate how difficult it will be for the ruling class to take away those rights as the Tories are forced to try to do in order to solve their economic bankruptcy by dictatorial control of the economy, including workers' wages, and therefore dictatorial control of society in general.

## IRONWORKERS WAGES CUT BY £5

From this week, skilled workers at G. Clancey, ironmakers, of Halesowen in the Midlands will be receiving £5 a week less in their pay packets.

The company will be observing a notice served on it by the Department of Employment. The notice, backed by the authority of criminal courts, calls on the company to stop paying the £5 increase which it introduced on January 1.

From all accounts it seems clear that the Clancey workers are being led around by the nose. The £5 increase was to have been paid on August 9. But because of cash-flow questions this was deferred until January 1.

The company began to pay the £5—illegally—in the New Year. The decision to pay was based on 'both the moral and written obligations to our employees and their unions'. But the statement was also careful to add 'The company has made clear to the unions throughout the negotiations that it will obey the law.'

Once served with the notice, therefore, the company has immediately rushed 'to obey the law' and stop payment of the £5.

As Workers Press has persistently warned, there is no guarantee that pay increases outlawed by Phase One will be allowed before the implementation of Phase Two.

On the contrary, Phase Two is a legally tougher piece of legislation which imposes three-year controls on wages. Under this new Bill, now before parliament, the Clancey men are only entitled to the £1 plus 4 per cent, which is the new Tory 'norm'.

Their chances of getting £5, or anything like it, are remote. The company can't now make a new offer because free bargaining has been outlawed.

When the company talks about holding talks with the DEP 'in an attempt to get round the order', they are being naive or worse.

Higher wages can only be won today by massive action on a united and national scale against the Tory government to force it out of office.

# TORIES WHO BACK ATTACKS ON THE NHS

Sir Keith Joseph, the Tory Secretary for Health and Social Security, has made an important statement encouraging the growth of private health schemes.

He told the House of Commons: 'I think private practice has a great deal to contribute to the health and benefit of the people of this country.'

He was answering criticisms of the moves by private companies to takeover private wings of National Health Service hospitals.

Joseph's blunt reply shows the extent to which the Tories are determined to undermine the NHS.

Last week Workers Press produced an extensive article showing the Tories who were involved in the private medical industry.

Private Patients Plan has Lord Brock as chairman and among its directors are:

- Lord Amulree, Liberal Whip in the House of Lords.
- Lord Brentford, chairman of the Automobile Association and a former Tory Minister. Brentford and Reginald Maudling were directors of the now-bankrupt Real Estate Fund of America started by Jerome D. Hoffman. Hoffman is at present in prison in the United States.
- Timothy Raison, Tory MP and a member of the House of Commons expenditure committee, which reported in 1972 that private practice is good for the NHS.

Another major private health scheme is Western Provident Association whose chairman is Sir John Partridge. He was last year's chairman of the Confederation of British Industry and participated in the Downing Street tripartite talks which led to the state pay laws.

Partridge wears another and more lucrative hat as chairman of the multi-million pound Imperial Tobacco group.

Imperial Tobacco, Britain's biggest cigarette firm, which also has large food interests, last week reported a profit increase of more than £10m for the year to the end of October.



A patients' waiting-room for NHS treatment. NHS gains by the working class are jeopardized by Sir Keith's encouragement to private health schemes.

The total came out at £78,451,000 against £68,206,000 before tax. No figures were included from Courage's bought by Imperial in Britain's second-biggest brewery takeover a few months ago.

Sir John said that despite rising costs the company was showing 'significant gains in both turnover and profits' compared with the first quarter of its last financial year.

The new brewery division 'has also out-performed its result of a year ago and has

contributed valuably to group profits'.

The results were greeted on the Stock Exchange with a gain of 3½p in the share price which moved up to 98½p.

The tobacco division's trading profit was up by £4.7m, mostly from higher sales.

The food division pushed up its profits by 17 per cent to more than £10m.

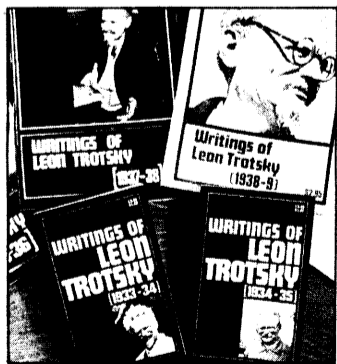
With this kind of high-powered backing it is no wonder that Joseph can encourage the private business-

men in their private health schemes.

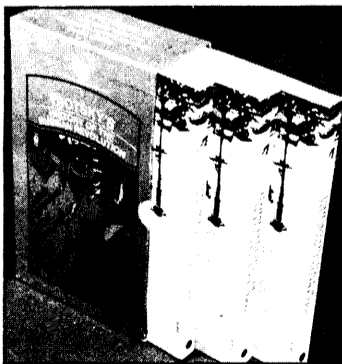
For the working class Joseph's statement is nothing short of a provocation. The NHS was established by the first post-war Labour government.

The mass movement must demand that an incoming Labour government institutes an entirely free medical service and that the drug companies are nationalized without compensation and under workers' control.

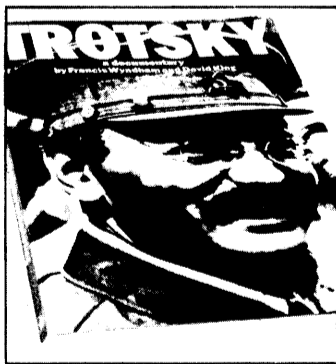
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## STUDENTS GO TO PLEAD WITH THE QUEEN

Having tried to plead with the Tory-in-chief, Edward Heath, students are now planning to take up their fight for student grants with the Queen!

Students at Sussex University are to petition the Queen in support of higher grants. They have been in touch with Buckingham Palace to see if the Queen—who founded Sussex University in 1961—will let them personally deliver a petition to her.

In the petition they 'humbly pray' that as 'visitor' to the university, she will investigate their grievances or 'cause such other order to be made as may appear to be just and proper to Your Majesty'.

David Youlton, Sussex student's president, said the students had looked into the legal position and believed that the Queen was legally obliged to send a 'visitation' to investigate if there was internal disension or conflict.



# HOW WEST GERMANY PROTECTS WAR CRIMINALS

BY JOHN SPENCER

Five former members of the Nazi police and security services have just been sentenced for mass murder in Frankfurt, West Germany—11 years after they were first arrested and charged.

But as they are appealing against the paltry sentences awarded against them by the court, the men have been allowed to remain at liberty on bail.

The men involved are Adolf Petsch (67), a former member of the Nazi security service (SD). He was given 15 years for his part in mowing down more than 12,000 Jews with a machine-gun in front of a mass grave at Pinsk, in western Russia.

The other four—all former police officials—were found to have taken part in the eviction of ten ghettos in the Pinsk area in the autumn of 1942, ordered by Nazi secret police chief Heinrich Himmler.

The court was told the police battalion in which they were company leaders had sealed off the ghettos before ordering their inhabitants to mass graves, where they were shot.

They were Johann Kuhr (56), sentenced to two and a half years; Heinrich Plantius (57), four years; Rudolf Eckert (58), three years; and Heinrich Teltz (56), three and a half years.

All four served for many years after the war in the West German police. They were briefly detained in 1962 for investigation and then released on bail. They have been on bail ever since.

Kuhr and Plantius were also accused of taking part in the shooting of 6,000 political commissars of the Red Army at Bialapodlaskas, but the court found the charge had not been proved!

The maximum sentence for these crimes under West German law is life imprisonment. The same court also sentenced a former German commandant of a Polish railway station, Walter Gross (61) to four years' jail for shooting and killing a young Jewish girl who had been pushed out of a carriage by non-Jewish passengers. He told the court he had carried out an order that all Jews found outside the ghettos were to be shot immediately.

All six were released on bail after defence lawyers announced they would appeal on the grounds that the accused were acting under orders.

The lawyers had succeeded in spinning the trial over 14 months, during which evidence had been taken from witnesses in Israel, Austria, the United States and the Soviet Union.

The delays engineered by the Frankfurt defendants are the rule rather than the exception when Nazis come before the West German courts. One anti-fascist lawyer, in a recent letter to 'Der Spiegel', suggested sarcastically that a free sanatorium be established to treat the illnesses cited by Nazi defendants to delay their trials.

The letter was from Dr Robert Kempner, of Pennsylvania, who was an official in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior before Hitler came to power and later prosecuted the Nazi leaders at Nuremberg.

Four particularly glaring cases have recently been cited by the International Committee of the Survivors of Ausch-



Inmates of the Nordhausen concentration camp who had been forced to work underground in a munitions plant. 20,000 died here.

witz, which was meeting for the first time on German soil. The names of these Nazis were ignored by the German Press.

The four men named by the committee are:

● **Horst Wagner**, liaison man between Adolf Eichmann and the Nazi Foreign Ministry, who later served under Heinrich Himmler himself.

For the last 15 years Wagner has stood under a charge of complicity in the murder of at least 356,664 Jews from Hungary, Slovakia, Greece, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Denmark.

His victims were deported to the extermination camps after April 1943 when the Nazi 'final solution' was in full swing. Less than two weeks before Wagner was due to appear for trial in Essen, his lawyer withdrew, bringing the first postponement.

His new lawyer succeeded in winning a whole number of further postponements to allow Wagner to undergo medical examination. He was examined in succession by a general practitioner, an eye specialist, an orthopaedic surgeon and finally a psychiatrist.

In this way he managed to keep out of the court until June 1971. On May 26, 1972, three days before the court finally intended to begin the trial, Wagner had an eye operation performed, which forced another postponement.

In July last year, after stalling successfully for 14 years, Wagner won another postponement because of an orthopaedic disorder of the hip. He was admitted to a clinic on August 24 last year and his doctors plan to operate this

year—but not just yet.

Visitors to Erkrath, near Dusseldorf, can find the old butcher walking the streets a free man.

● **Horst Schumann**, a doctor of medicine, was responsible for macabre operations on human guinea-pigs at Auschwitz and Buchenwald, two of the most notorious Nazi death-camps. He was seeking a way of preventing 'subhumans' from reproducing, while at the same time being able to force the last ounce of labour power out of their bodies.

Schumann used radiation to sterilize his victims and then removed their reproductive organs surgically for examination. He belonged to the Luftwaffe, not the SS, which means he cannot claim he was acting under orders—the usual excuse put forward by these war criminals.

Schumann enjoyed the personal protection of Ghana's 'redeemer' Kwame Nkrumah until the latter's death in 1966, when West Germany succeeded in extraditing the German criminal.

Investigation has shown Schumann is adroit at manipulating his blood pressure with strong coffee just prior to court examinations of his state of health. His first trial, in 1970, ended before a verdict due to ill-health established by a court examiner.

At this trial Schumann was not accused in connection with his infamous 'experiments', but only for other crimes under the Nazis' 'euthanasia' programme. After four years' prevarication the court claimed there was no time to prepare a case based on Schumann's

experiments.

Schumann lives freely in Seckbach, outside Frankfurt, and has yet to come to trial again. It is worth noting that the survivors of Schumann's 'experiments' and similar 'medical' enterprises of the Nazi regime also had a long wait. It was not until late last year that the West German government agreed to pay them compensation.

It finally earmarked just over £1m to pay compensation—at least 1,357 of the survivors had previously been forced to rely on charity from the International Red Cross.

● **Johannes Thuemmler**, former Gestapo chief of Katowice, Poland. He headed court-martial in which he passed sentence, as documents prove, after 30-seconds to two-minutes proceedings.

Thuemmler had only one verdict and only two sentences. They condemned 60 per cent of the defendants to death and all the rest to Auschwitz. He admits to having been in charge of about 200 such 'trials'. But documents indicate that personally he passed at least 658 death sentences.

On June 10, 1970, a court in Ellwangen declined to bring Thuemmler to trial and an appeal from the prosecution was later rejected by a higher court in Stuttgart.

In July 1972 Thuemmler was exposed in a television documentary programme broadcast from Baden-Baden. The programme showed Polish documents and interviewed witnesses who massively incriminated the former Gestapo chief.

The programme's editor handed his material and documents to the Stuttgart prosecutor's office, but it appears nothing has been done with it. Thuemmler receives a substantial pension from the Carl Ziess foundation, where he was employed for years in an important post, enabling him to live in some style at Aalen in Württemberg.

● **Albert Ganzenmueller** was a state secretary in the Nazi Transport Ministry when Himmler appealed for more trains to deport Jews and carry out the 'final solution'.

Ganzenmueller responded with brisk efficiency, brushing aside red tape to speed Himmler's victims to their deaths. No such efficiency has been displayed by those charged with preparing Ganzenmueller's trial.

He selected a lawyer who was already immersed in a complicated war crimes case and has succeeded in postponing trial for over 15 years on the grounds that his lawyer needs adequate time to familiarize himself with the case.

Ganzenmueller lives today, a free man, in the little Allgau town of Oberjoch, near Hindelang. Like Thuemmler he is now nearly 70 and has at the present rate an excellent chance of living out the rest of his days without ever seeing the inside of a prison.

These cases are not by any means unique. There are dozens of other notorious Nazi criminals in West Germany living as respected, often wealthy, middle-class citizens and protected by the state apparatus riddled by the Nazi old boy network.

On January 1 this year the new British Gas Corporation was inaugurated by the Tory government to replace the Gas Council and the 12 area gas boards.

Sir John Eden, the Industry Minister and man behind the carve-up at UCS, said the corporation was 'necessary for the efficient conduct of the industry'. He went on: 'We have decided to put full statutory authority for the industry in the hands of a single body, the British Gas Corporation.'

The Tory Gas Act of 1972, which received its Royal Assent on August 9, marked the culmination of a huge rationalization programme. This has already cost the industry 22,500 redundancies over the past five years.

In other words there have been just under 100 redundancies a week since 1967. The industry was originally nationalized in 1949 when 1,037 undertakings, of which 689 were private companies, were absorbed under public ownership.

Ten years later the number of separate works had been reduced to 463. By 1968 it had fallen to 192 and on March 31, 1972, was only 96.

The number of jobs in the industry has fallen sharply in the past few years due to the discovery of large quantities of natural gas under the North Sea. The finds in 1965 and 1966 convinced the Gas Council that the future of the industry would be natural gas and that the manufacture of town gas would be phased out.

Throughout this massive reorganization in the industry, the gas workers' wages have remained at a miserable level.

The labourer's basic is £19.10 while the skilled craftsman receives £22.87 basic. This is well behind the pacesetters in the electrical industry. In the power industry a shop floor worker gets £4 more than his equivalent in the gas industry and the skilled craftsman in electricity supply gets £6 more than his counterpart in gas.

Extraordinarily, the massive redundancies were carried through 'with union co-operation'. Just as the pits were closed with union assistance, so the gas industry was savagely rationalized with the active connivance of the trade union bureaucrats in the G&MWU and the T&GWU.

Yet all along the profiteers from the North Sea gas were the private gas interests.

The companies which are making a bonanza from North Sea gas are BP, whose supplies are landed at Easington in Yorkshire at the mouth of the Humber, the Phillips and Arpet group, the Gas Council-Amoco and Shell Esso groups, whose supplies are landing at Bacton on the Norfolk coast, and the Conoco-National Coal Board group with supplies landing at Theddlethorpe, Lincolnshire.

The Tories have also nominated a board of their choice. Chairman is Arthur

F. Hetherington, former chairman of the East Midlands Gas Board, whose salary is well in excess of £23 a week. He gets about £17,000 a year. That's about £350 a week.

The real political teeth lies in his part-time members who get a couple of thousand plus expenses for making appearances at board meetings. They include:

● **Sir Don Ryder**, chairman of Reed International, the newsprint and publishing group. If gasmen have been receiving a bad Press in the 'Daily Mirror', the 'Sunday Mirror' and the 'People' they should address themselves to Ryder.

Reed international has a controlling interest in International Publishing Corporation, the largest newspaper group in the world. He was the man who carried through the boardroom purge of Cecil Harmsworth King and was later knighted by Edward Heath.

● **Dr E. G. Woodroffe**, chairman of Unilever Limited, has massive interests all over the world in raw materials. It is among those companies which are making gigantic profits out of the Tories' decision not to impose price restraint under its Phase Two legislation—but to hold down wages at the pain of criminal action against those who disobey.

● **Joe King**, right-wing general secretary of the National Union of Textile and Allied Workers. Gasworkers might well ask what a trade unionist is doing on the board of the Tory-created Gas Corporation. He heads a union whose members also suffer from gross exploitation.

● **Professor A. D. Campbell**, Professor of Applied Economics, University of Dundee.

● **Mr George Cooper**, chairman of the North Thames Gas Board. He receives £13,000 for running North Thames, plus extra bonuses for his appearing on the corporation.

These are among the men who are now working might and main with the trade union bureaucrats to restrain the rising tide of militancy.

But just as the reluctant miners finally took a stand 12 months ago, so the gasworkers are now forced onto the scene to take up the struggle for a decent standard of living.

But a warning must be sounded: when the Tories first came to power they began to pick off one section of workers after another—dustmen, postmen, Ford workers, power workers, etc. They came unstuck with the miners and to some extent with the railwaymen. But all these experiences proved that the Tories cannot be defeated in isolated, single issue struggles.

Everything is on the table now—unemployment, soaring prices, council rents, asset stripping and wage-cutting. To end these vicious measures against the working class requires a united struggle of the whole labour and trade union movement against the government. To force it out and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

## 'TWO WEEKS WORK IN EVERY WEEK'

Ken Smith of the Westminster, Vincent Street, fitters depot, is married with two children.

Last week he worked 88 hours—virtually two weeks and a day's work—for £40.68.

'I need about this amount of take-home pay in order to get a decent living wage for myself and my family.'

'Even though I don't have to pay much income tax, with having two children, I still virtually have to do two weeks' work in every week in order

to provide good conditions for my wife and children.

'But what it means, of course, is that I sometimes only see the kids once a week.'

'When I go out in the morning to be on shift at 8 a.m., there is little time. Frequently I work on after normal finishing time at 5 p.m. until 10 p.m. doing emergency fitting repairs for time-and-a-half payment.'

At the Lenton depot in Nottingham another gasworker told Workers Press: 'For 40 hours I get £21 a week with bonuses. And I had to spend five years at college to get my qualifications.'

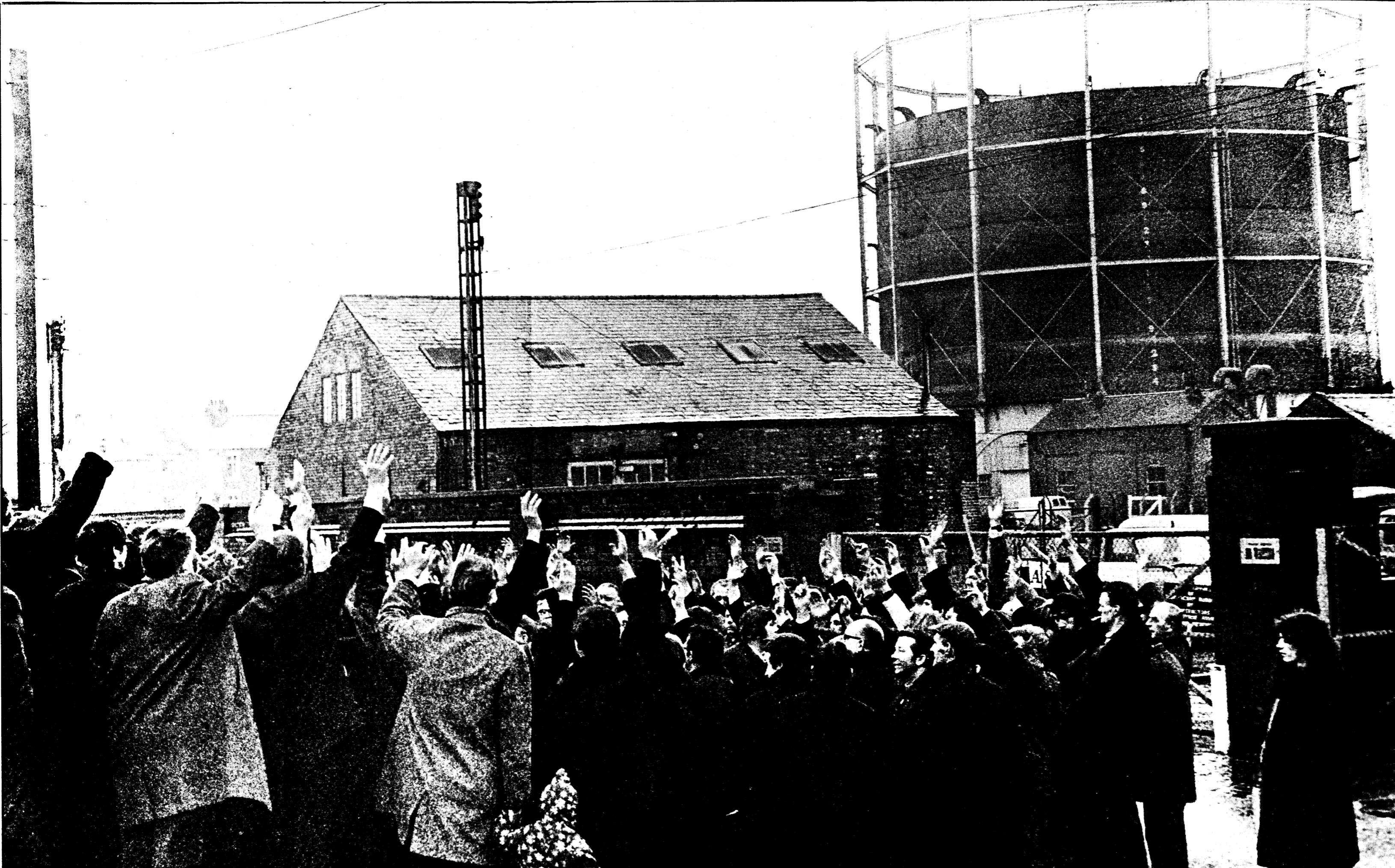
Another worker chipped in: 'I had five years of study too. I did my City and Guild exams to become a first class fitter. My basic is only £23.31.' Then he added defiantly: 'I should be getting £30 a week.'

# WHY THE GAS



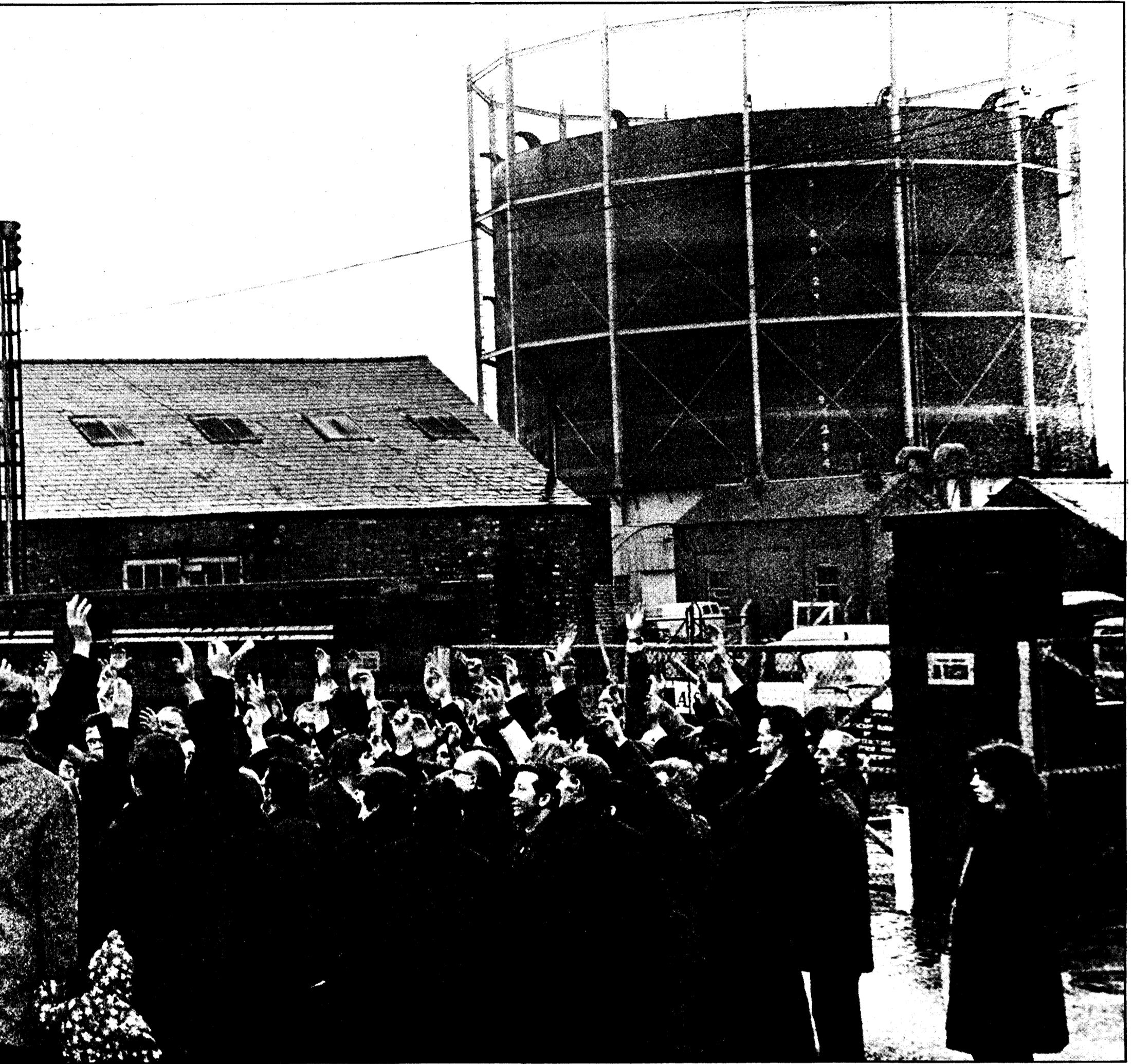
Left: Ken Smith, worker at the Westminster fitters depot. Right: Greenwich gas works. Above: Wakefield gasworkers, voting for strike

# WHY THE GASMEN ARE STRIKING





# AS MEN ARE STRIKING



Gasworkers, voting for strike action

## THE HOPE OF THE WORKERS FOR THE FUTURE

Preamble to the Rules of the Gasworkers' Union, 1892. (Drawn up by Edward Aveling and Eleanor Marx Aveling.)  
**FELLOW WORKERS:**

Trade unionism has done excellent work in the past, and in it lies the hope of the workers for the future; that is trade unionism which clearly recognizes that today there are only two classes, the producing working class and the possessing master class.

The interests of these two classes are opposed to each other.

The masters have known this a long time; the workers are beginning to see it, and so are forming trade unions to protect themselves, and to get as much as they can of the product of their labour. They are beginning to understand that their only hope lies in themselves, and that from the masters as a class they can expect no help; that divided they fall, united they stand. This is why every form of labour is now organizing, even what is called 'unskilled' labour and admits all workers, women as well as men, on an equal footing.

The immediate objects of this union are the improvement of the material conditions of its members; the raising of them from mere beasts of burden to human beings; the making brighter and happier the home of every worker; the saving of little children from the hard, degrading, bitter life to which they are condemned

today; the dividing more equally between all men and women the tears and laughter, the sorrow and the joy, the labour and the leisure of the world.

It is important that all members should understand the necessity for and aims of this union; that they should accept and loyally carry out its rules; that they should remember that the interests of all workers are one, and a wrong done to any kind of labour is a wrong done to the whole of the working class, and that victory or defeat of any portion of the army of labour is a gain or a loss to the whole of that army, which by its organization and union is marching steadily and irresistibly forward to its ultimate goal—the emancipation of the working class. That emancipation can only be brought about by the strenuous and united efforts of the working class itself.

The ruling class all over the world shrinks from no atrocity to preserve its rule and defend its profits. In country after country—in Asia, Latin America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East—the most brutal repressions are practised. Opposition parties and trade unions are outlawed. Free expression is banned. Revolutionaries, youth, intellectuals and trade unionists are jailed and tortured.

Everywhere the hand of international, and particularly American, imperialism can be seen, usually through the direct intervention of the US Central Intelligence Agency. Often enormous profits are sucked out of these countries by powerful monopolies while the workers and peasants live in poverty, disease and fear.

Invariably, the British Tories rush to defend these brutal regimes in the name of 'democracy' and 'freedom'. But the struggle for socialism and for real freedom goes on. Jailed and murdered workers and leaders are replaced by others. The obscene tortures of the imperialists and their agents are more than matched by the courage of their opponents.

Imperialism will be unable to crush this resistance and, with the construction of the Fourth International, will be finally overthrown. In this series of articles JACK GALE examines the structure of government and repression in a number of key centres for British imperialism.

## PART ONE

Brazil, the largest of the south American states, is also the most brutal. Arrests without charge, beatings and torture, forced confessions, fascist gangs protected by the state, police murder squads and laws gagging the Press and banning strikes are normal aspects of life in this country.

The armed forces, police and torture squads work in close liaison with the American Central Intelligence Agency.

Brazil is, in fact, the lynchpin of Washington policies in south America. It receives enormous American military aid and each year selected officers of the armed forces go to the United States for 'orientation visits'.

Special Brazilian units are trained there in guerrilla and jungle warfare. The political police are also trained at the expense of the US government.

In June last year, President Nixon's Secretary of State William Rogers spoke of 'the excellent opportunities for the expansion of foreign investment operations in Brazil'.

A recent survey in the 'Jornal do Brasil' revealed that 30 per cent of the capital in the ten most important Brazilian companies was foreign owned; 73 per cent of the capital in companies producing capital goods; 70 per cent of that in durable consumer goods; and 54 per cent of that in non-durable consumer goods.

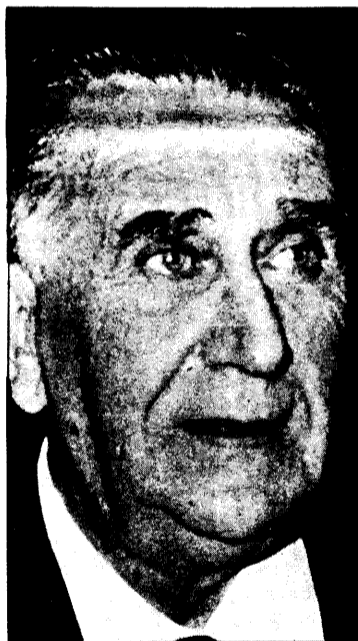
General Motors' biggest investment abroad in 1972 was in Brazil and Ford of America invested \$150m in new and expanded plant in the country.

Current Volkswagen planning includes an outlay of \$200m on its new factory at Taubate, Sao Paulo, between 1970 and 1975.

Six Japanese conglomerates are investing \$400m in Brazilian projects, ranging from minerals to acrylic fibre.

Brazilian banking is also dominated by world imperialism.

# THE BRAZIL THE BANKERS LOVE



**General Garrastazu Medici.** Above: The military coup which brought General Medici to power in April, 1964. Medici has proceeded to tighten anti-strike laws, jail trade unionists and repress opposition through arbitrary arrests, torture and murder.

The largest investment bank is the Banco Real de Investimentos, an affiliate of the Adela investment company, which has its headquarters in Brussels.

The next largest is Bradesco. But Bradesco has been engaged in long negotiations with the Union of Brazilian Banks, large sections of which are owned by the Deltec Banking Corporation, of Deltec Chicago, of the Rockefeller Group.

Third in rank is InvestBank, a real international centre whose stock is owned by the Deutsche Bank of Frankfurt, the Credit Lyonnais of Paris, Hill, Samuel and Company of London and late of the AUEW, the Banco Nazionale of Italy, the First National City Bank of New York and the Banco Popular Español of Madrid. The Fuji Bank of Tokyo also has a toehold in InvestBank.

Another investment bank is Cresiful, which is associated with the First National City Bank of New York.

The penetration of foreign

capital is no less evident in the commercial banks. Chase Manhattan recently took over, to mention just one example, the Banco Brasileiro to 'provide new and aggressive services in the financial area', declared David Rockefeller in Rio in November, 1972.

Also last year the World Bank promised a \$1,200m credit and \$50m was handed over by the American Agency for International Development.

The 1973 Brazilian arms budget totals \$1,100m.

But it is not only the imperialists who assist the Brazilian rulers. Last October a five-man trade delegation, headed by Gaulite Coutinho, President of the Brazilian Exporters' Association, attended the Canton Export Fair.

After talks with Chou Hua-min, Chinese vice-Minister for Trade, and Wang Wen-lin, vice-President of the Council for Promotion of World Trade, Coutinho announced that a large mission of Brazilian businessmen would visit China in 1973 to sign contracts.

Meanwhile, of course, leaders of the pro-Chinese Brazilian Communist Party—like its secretary Raul Gonzales—are rotting in the military prisons.

And Joao Antonio Mesple, a central committee member of the pro-Moscow Communist Party, was arrested last November . . . during a four-day trade visit by a Russian delegation.

The Brazilian Communist Party has been illegal since 1948. That has not prevented plans being well in hand for a Soviet Trade Fair to be held in Sao Paulo this year.

Meanwhile, the sufferings of the Brazilian masses are almost beyond description. In May, 1970, it was revealed that in the north-east states men and women were being sold as slaves at \$18 a head to the big estates in Minas Gerais and Goias.

The last census (held in 1970) showed that one-third of the Brazilian workers received less than \$20 a month and a further third less than \$40.

According to Gerhardt Filmo, director of the National Tuberculosis Division, two new cases of TB are registered every minute and one dies every 40 minutes.

In some Brazilian states 40 per cent of all children born alive die before they reach one year old. According to government statistics 23 million Brazilians suffer from 'amarelas'—a disease carried by worms which penetrate the soles of the feet.

And in 1971, there were 250,000 recorded cases of leprosy.

Prior to the dictatorship of Getulio Vargas, established in 1937, Brazil had been governed by local political bosses, with their own state militias, ever since the republic has been declared in 1889.

Vargas was ousted by the army in 1945.

A series of unstable governments followed until another army coup in March 1964. Yet a further military coup took place in 1968 under General Garrastazu Medici. Ever since 1964 there has been an official 'war against subversive groups'.

The 1960s saw a spread of workers' unrest in the southern towns, the emergence of peasant leagues in the north-east and a large student movement. The latter was led partly by the pro-Moscow Communist Party (PCB) and partly by the Catholic 'Acao Popular'.

The PCB lost most of its influence in 1965 when it advocated accepting a law which banned student unions. Student demonstrations continued, however, particularly in 1968 after a student had been killed in a Rio de Janeiro demonstration.

The Brazilian 'trade unions' have been run on corporatist lines for 40 years. The Minister of Labour appoints the heads of the 'sindicatos' (unions) and levies and distributes the 'imposto sindical' of one day's wages per year.

This did not save Juan Lechin Oquendo, leader of the Miners' Federation, from being jailed by the military regime.

Following the 1964 coup, the anti-strike laws (all strikes

are illegal in Brazil) were tightened. While workers were subjected to a forced savings rule, as well as an erosion in real wages, strikes became political crimes in 1967 instead of civil crimes.

But resistance is growing. In May 1970, thousands of troops with helicopters and incendiaries laid waste large areas of Sao Paulo and Parana in a hunt for members of the Popular Revolutionary Vanguard (VPR) led by Carlos Lamarca.

May of that year saw the arrest of five leaders of the Workers' Party of Brazil, which operated from bases in a number of towns, including Pernambuco, Sao Paulo, Ceara, Bahia and Rio Grande do Sul.

Their names were Wili Alberto Brankas, Alexandre Schneider, Lucio Borges, Vito Antonio Letizia and Nava Helena Naumann.

In October 1970, 4,000 people were arrested to prevent demonstrations on the anniversary of the murder of Carlos Marighela by a police ambush.

Marighela had been the leader of the guerrilla movement, National Liberation Alliance (ALN). His successor, Joaquim Camara Ferreira, was murdered under identical circumstances a year later.

This growing opposition is seriously worrying the ruling clique. Army Chief of Staff, General Alfredo Souto Malan, has called for 'large diversified and well-trained civilian groups' to deal with the workers in the towns, leaving the army free to fight the guerrillas in the countryside.

(There is also an urban guerrilla movement called the 'October 8 Revolutionary Movement'.)

A number of 'illegal' right-wing groups are already active, the most notorious of them being the 'death squads'. These are composed of off-duty policemen who capture and kill those they cannot easily deal with through the official machine.

Torture is now a routine part of any interrogation, whether official or otherwise.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## MIDGET

Does anybody know an exceedingly small person who would like to rent some space for an office or a bed in the City of London? Providing he's small enough, and can afford, say £12 rent, we've got just the thing.

A new building has just been completed at St John Square, near Farringdon Station, on the Metropolitan Line.

The agents are offering office space in the building at the price of £6 per square foot a week. If you invested £12 you could have two of these prime square feet to live or work in. But as we said, you'd have to be quite a midget to make things work out.

## RECORD

Greenall Whitley and Co, the Lancashire-based brewery, hotel and soft-drinks group has announced record profits for the third year in succession. Group profit before tax was £4,519,221—an increase of over 10 per cent on the previous year.

'But for the industrial problems prevalent during the second half of our trading year and the redundancy and closure costs involved at Groves and Whitnall Ltd and Allied Vintners Investments Ltd, the results would have been even better' said company chairman Mr Christopher Hatton.

The company has recently built a 108-bedroom hotel at Daresbury, near Warrington.

Meanwhile the town council at Oldham, also in Lancashire, has been told that it will not get a new hospital before 1990. Present hospital accommodation in this area serving 250,000 people is a patched-up workhouse and an infirmary a century old.

## MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

The dozing spires of Oxford University are periodically shaken by learned controversies which, as well as contributing to the march of science, serve to keep the older occupants of college sinecures awake at High Table. In the most recent instance, however, excitement has mounted to the point where academic decorum is in danger, and rude words have even been exchanged in the public prints.

The present dispute arises from the 'discovery', in manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, of an identity for the anonymous 'dark lady' to whom many of Shakespeare's amorous sonnets are addressed. Author of this literary breakthrough is Dr A. L. Rowse, well-known as a weighty trencherman-fellow of All Souls (the college most esteemed in ruling-class circles since it admits no students whatsoever, is fabulously wealthy, and has more bottles in the cellar than books in the library).

Dr Rowse claims the woman was in fact one Emilia Lanier, daughter of an Italian musician (and therefore probably swarthy), mistress of the courtier Lord Hunsdon, wife of a court minstrel, and lady of easy virtue.

He offers evidence from the notebook of an Elizabethan astrologer that she may very possibly have been Shakespeare's mistress in the 1590s.

Dr Rowse published his discovery in 'The Times', where he embellished it with piquant details of Mrs Lanier's love-affair (with the astrologer, not Shakespeare) and compared it favourably with Newton's discovery of gravitation.

His claim has provoked a mass revolt among the ivy-covered labourers of the 'Shakespeare Industry', fearful that such a delectable 'puzzle' should be 'solved'. The correspondence columns of 'The Times' are a daily running sore of censure and derision at Dr Rowse's expense. Professor Trevor-Roper, late of Magdalen College has reproved him for 'outrageous egoism' and 'a sentence dulled by opulent fat'.

Agatha Christie has suggested that Mrs Lanier was the original for Cleopatra, and that the asp was Will's revenge for her inconstancy; while a Hampshire clergyman has penned the conjecture (with textual evidence from the Sonnets) that 'Hamlet' was actually written by Mr Bernard Levin.

Shakespeare's own lines are even being muttered *sotto voce*:

'I pray thee, cease thy counsel, which falls into mine ears as profitless as water in a sieve'.

('Much Ado about Nothing' Act. V.)



# WHAT'S BEHIND TURNING ON THE TAP

TV REVIEW BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

Tuesday Documentary: **The Longest Drink**. A film by Don Haworth. Commentary by David Marlow. BBC 1.

The spectacular highlight of last week's television was from 8.00 p.m. to 8.30 on Monday night when the screen was empty (see page 3).

Don Haworth's Tuesday documentary 'The Longest Drink', which was one of the programmes which the technicians permitted to broadcast this week. It gave us good clear filming and plenty of information but at the same time a limp liberal commentary by David Marlow which was bent on dispersing facts and rendering them impotent as fast as they emerged.

The problem under consideration was water supply. 35 gallons of water are consumed daily in this country by each individual; industry eats up the same amount again. In the next 25 years the country will need to double its water supply, on the reasoning of the current political system, without either ruining rivers or flooding country valleys.

The film showed the old world of water supply, the haphazard means for keeping it clean and flowing in the right directions; and the new, highly-computerized, newly-equipped, automated centres for control and distribution of water where manpower is reduced to a minimum and chlorination, re-cycling and all other water business is possible and efficient.

Focusing on Manchester, as the epitome of the big industrial city's demands for water, we followed the machinations of the local Corporation against all odds and cutting its expenditure every way it can, in bringing what the trade calls 'wholesome water' to every individual as their right (although of course they do pay 1½p a day for that right).

We watched the way industry systematically destroys waterways and naturally ignores the pathetic statutory controls which exist (on paper), while at the same time all the industries ensure construction and expansion where water is available in order to facilitate usage on the scale of: **400 gallons in the making of a single car.**

**44,000 gallons in the making of a ton of steel.**

**300,000 gallons in the making of a ton of aluminium.**

The heart of the capitalist crisis, sharply exposed by the apparently straightforward matter of supplying water, was brought right to the fore.

We saw men working for Manchester Corporation where a new 'dynamic' system of work has been instituted: bonus schemes, no overtime, gang labour in hot competition with itself, incentive structures which ensure not just the essential matter of keeping water clean and healthy, but—in a world where even water begins to spell profit—where the major portion of work and energy goes into cutting down water losses and leakage.

A 'top' waterworks ganger, under pressure from the bosses and their time-and-motion measures, their committees deciding who is the 'top' ganger each month, can earn the princely sum of £40 a week. No comment was made on the money earned by less fortunate gangs.

The great revelation on manpower came with the filming of sewage treatment and its relation to re-cycling—one of the great moves for the future which emerges uneasily and sparsely at present because of 'prohibitive costs'.

Down in the sewers in tunnelling a 100 and more years old, entirely inadequate for its job, men work at shifting the solids and sludge and easing its passage onward amid rats, urine, poisonous gases, danger from flooding and scalding and disease of all sorts.

Above: Lancashire's River Irwell—the water supply is jeopardized, so is the life on our planet.

On a 60-hour week they shift blockages that the clogged and reeking, jerry-built sewers cannot do; sewers which were built at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution when men had the smell of ready money and big profits in the air and were only concerned with hurrying through the necessities which allowed as much labour as possible to exist, not live, in the areas required.

All the lessons were there to be drawn—against the will of the programme makers who were stuck in their persistent dilemma of 'impartial comment'.

Pollution, the devastation of ecosystems, water or otherwise, may be contaminated by the superficial abuse of liberal standpoints. In its real perspective it illumines the rotten core of the capitalist crisis—human need is everywhere blocked by the ruthless calculations and ploys of profit-makers.

Human labour is contemptuously exploited and the results are in water supply as they are everywhere else.

Future decent supply is jeopardized and so is the future of life on the planet. The current supply is distorted and hampered by antiquated methods, abuse of labour power, wretched organization and minimal expenditure.

None of it is necessary. To the working man in the backstreets of Manchester it's simple as the programme showed: 'It's not my problem mate—I just want my water running properly.'

All the technological means are to hand for both man and nature to be satisfied and develop. What is required is the overthrow of a corrupt and diseased system of government to set man on the road to achieving satisfaction and development in every aspect of life.

## POLITICAL PROFILES

By LEON TROTSKY  
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# CLEANING UP THE CITY'S TARNISHED IMAGE

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Suddenly we have the extraordinary sight of moralists emerging in the City of London. Not a day goes by when there is not some businessman indulging in self-flagellation.

Unclean, unclean, they cry in the capitalist Press. The Stock Exchange must be tidied up. There must be an end to insider-trading. Indeed, one official report said that insider-trading should become a criminal offence.

Workers reading about the drive to 'purify' the business activities in the money-changing world should be—and are—very sceptical.

Asking the City of London to reform itself just can't be done.

During the past week Mr Jim Slater, the City's most spectacular financial entrepreneur, has been joined in a welter of moralizing by Sir Kenneth Keith, chairman of the Hill Samuel Group.

Sir Kenneth is the financial world's hardest nose. He is a devoutly keen Tory—his merchant banking group gave the Party £25,000 a year ago—and he enjoys the closest contacts with top Tories in his other role as director of Times Newspapers.

In a typically abrasive speech the other day he referred to

the 'spivvery on the periphery' of the City. He went on: 'The City's image has been tarnished in recent years by the continued publicity given to a few cases. I mean those operators who have specialized in deals which have been done with pure financial gain in mind and with apparent scant regard to other consequences—the getting-rich-quick brigade, some of the barrow boys of the property world seeking new outlets for their money and so-called managerial talents.'

He said it was 'a pity' that the legitimate search for improved efficiency and rationalization of British industry through takeovers and mergers and the realizing of assets for more productive use elsewhere had been abused.

He warned that the City must put its house in order.

Sir Kenneth's line of argument is scarcely subtle. What he is saying is that the ruthless pruning of British industry should proceed, but it should do so in a gentlemanly way. None of your crudities or adverse publicity, please.

It is ironical that an old hand at asset-stripping should now be slapping the wrist of the Young Turks. But then, this is part of the smokescreen.

The elder statesmen of British capitalism are being called upon to solemnly take up the cudgels for 'cleaning up capitalism'.

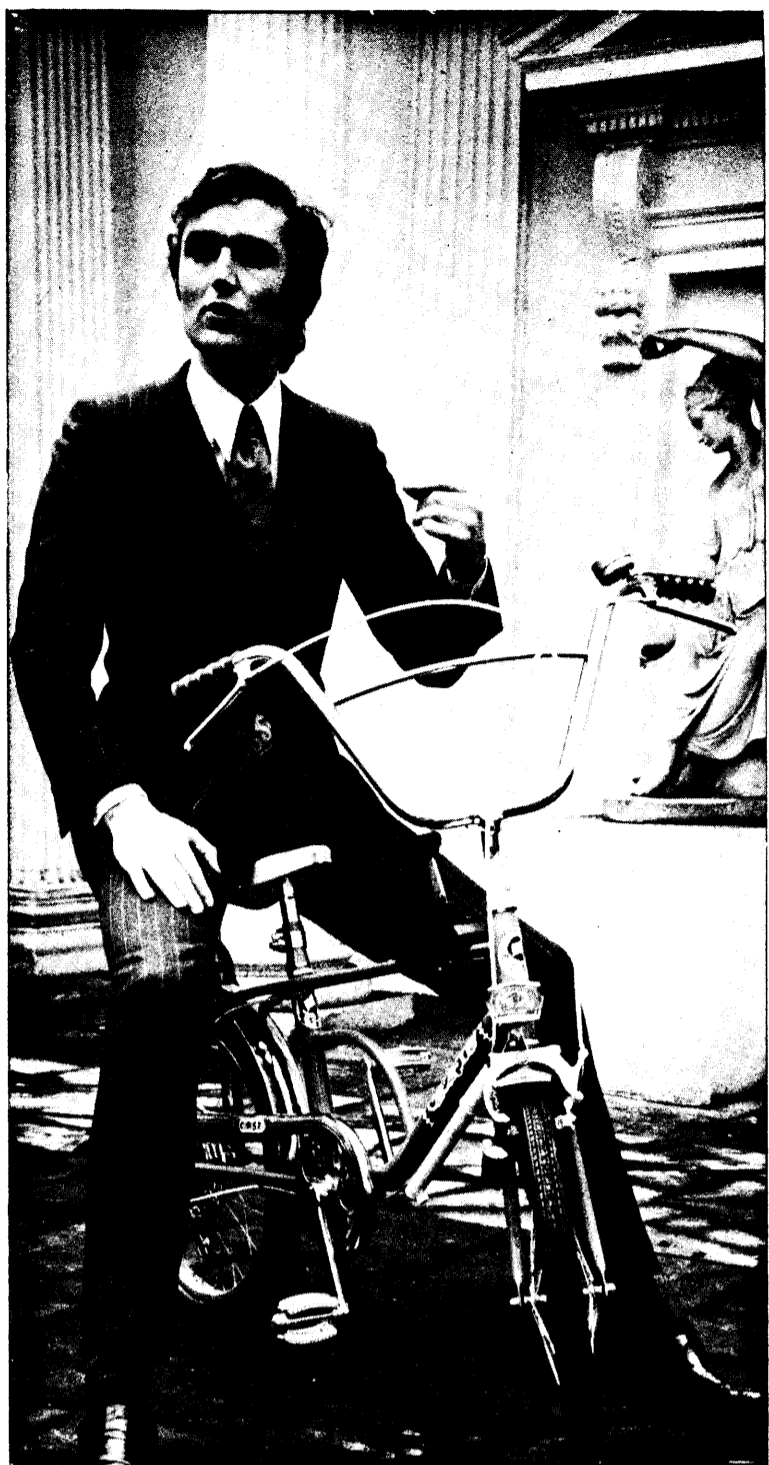
This is part of the Tory propaganda to the working class. The business community is trying to convince the trade unions that capitalism has, after all, 'a human face'.

The gospel of corporate morality being spread by Sir Kenneth and Mr Slater has confounded Mr John Bentley of Barclay Securities, the man described by 'The Guardian' as the country's 'No. 1 asset-stripper'. Bentley, who in reality is a novice compared with Sir Arnold Weinstock of GEC, say, gave a very self-pitying interview the other day to the 'Sunday Times'.

'I don't like being branded as a wheeler dealer,' said 'Honest John' in the colour supplement. 'We're just a young earnest bunch of guys all sincerely trying to reorganize and reutilize companies to the best of our ability, doing what the country needs to be done.'

There can be no 'reform' of British capitalism. It is a ruthless, parasitic structure. For the working class there is one way forward—expropriation of the assets-strippers, young and old.

These people are all closely connected Tories: Sir Kenneth is a life-long contributor to the Party, Mr Slater's business partner is Mr Peter Walker, the Environment Secretary, and the despondent Mr Bentley is now striking out in a new career as a prospective Tory MP.



John Bentley: 'I don't like being branded as a wheeler dealer.'

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## TUC STUDY GROUP APPROVES CORPORATIST MOVES

The TUC is co-operating with the Tory government to implement a scheme of worker-directors in British industry.

This corporatist move is in line with legislation on 'industrial democracy' which the Common Market will be introducing throughout the nine member-countries later this year.

The TUC study group which decided to agree with these Tory proposals include the 'lefts' Jack Jones of the Transport and General Workers' Union and Hugh Scanlon of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

It can be seen, therefore, that implementation of the worker-director scheme is nothing more than acceptance of the Common Market as well.

Both moves have been implemented without consultation with the members—indeed, the whole TUC is overwhelmingly committed to an anti-Market policy—and in secret.

Among west European countries, Britain has the least degree of boardroom participation by the trade unions. It has been a founding principle of the trade unions that the chairmen, the directors and the shareholders belong to the enemy class. And written into the aims of these unions is the long-term aim of bringing private enterprise under public ownership and workers' control.

Now, when the ruling class is at its weakest and is striking out at the working class in the most reactionary fashion, the reformists want to enter the

boardroom. They wish to participate in a phoney scheme towards worker-participation.

This is already being practised in the British Steel Corporation. And privately-owned companies have been more than satisfied with the conduct of the trade unionists on this nationalized body. They have presided over the closure of massive sections of the industry with the loss of some 31,000 jobs.

Under the new Tory rationalization a further 50,000 jobs will be axed. At this point one would have thought that the worker-directors might have pulled out of the boardroom. On the contrary, BSC chairman Lord Melchett has just announced a strengthening of trade union membership of the board.

Five new employee directors have been invited to serve on BSC's divisional boards. Five others have been reappointed. All ten will serve for four years from April.

They were selected from 70 nominees considered by the TUC steel committee, on whose recommendation the appointments are made.

Steel workers who are facing the savage effects of the Tories' hatchet plan may like to know those who were reappointed and newly-elected:

Those reappointed were: Mr Len Eaton, Tubes Division, (Stanton); Mr Jim Kane, Tubes Division, (Corby); Mr John Slater, General Steels Division, (Lackenby); Mr Cyril Whur, General Steels Division, (Irlam); Mr George Williams, Strip Mills Division, (Trostre). The new 'directors' are:

Mr James Armstrong (57) has worked at Lanarkshire for

34 years, is an Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundry Workers' shop steward and convenor. He is a magistrate and a member of Lanarkshire County Council.

Mr Kenneth Clark (56) has spent 32 of his 35 years at Stocksbridge in the melting shop. He has been a member of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation executive for five years and is the current vice-chairman and former chairman of the works council.

Mr Norman Jackson (50) has been chairman of the Normanby Park joint works' committee for ten years. He is a member of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen's national committee and was chairman of the union's north Midlands district for three years.

Mr James McLaren (38) is the youngest of the new employee-directors. He is Iron and Steel Trades Confederation works' convenor and secretary of Ravenscraig No. 2 branch and of the Joint Branches Committee at Motherwell in Scotland.

Mr Alan White (51) has been chairman of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation Temple No. 1 branch for 11 years and secretary for six years. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1970. Two years ago he completed a three-year course at Sheffield University's extra-mural department as 'a storeman at the Rotherham works of the special steels division'.

Each get £1,000-a-year salary, plus very lucrative expenses on their frequent trips to London.

# Workers Press MONTHLY APPEAL FUND

## FEBRUARY FUND STANDS AT £206.48

IT IS proving a tough struggle so far this month. If we don't step up our campaign immediately, there is a danger we might not collect our £1,750 target on time. Let's go into action right away.

We know the situation can and will be changed. As Ford workers, gasmen, teachers, hospital workers, trade unionists from all walks of life, take up the struggle for wages, more and more readers are being won behind our paper.

Workers Press, alone, gives a firm political lead. We will never cover up for the class collaboration of the reformist and Stalinist trade union leaders. We know that the fight for wages today is part of a political fight to make this Tory government resign.

We will continue to speak out loud and clear as we know that it is this that wins your growing support.

Therefore we appeal to you all. Keep your paper, Workers Press, out in front. Make every effort you can for our February Fund. We still need £1,543.52 by February 28. See if you can raise a bit more. Post all donations immediately to:

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

# Sanctions on Rover deal over frozen £2.90

STEWARDS from British-Leyland's Rover plants in the Birmingham area have decided to withdraw co-operation with management over efficiency and mobility of labour clauses in the 1972 wages agreement.

The decision to withdraw co-operation was taken at a meeting on Saturday of 700 stewards

representing all direct workers in the plants.

A proposal for an overtime ban was left to stewards in the individual plants. The sanctions have been imposed because the £2.90 second stage of a wage increase due on January 1 has been stopped under the government's pay laws.

Non-co-operation with the clauses is expected to rapidly create production difficulties.

# GEC men oppose transfer of steward

ABOUT 500 GEC-AEI workers will meet outside the Mill Road factory in Rugby today to consider the next steps in their fight to stop the transfer of militant AUEW steward, Mr Steve Evans.

If he was moved from the generator shop to the press shop he would lose his shop steward's credentials.

Last Friday more than 800 men from four unions stopped work in protest against the proposed transfer.

They claim that since failure to agree had been registered two weeks ago and they await a works conference on the transfer, the management was violating accepted negotiating machinery.

On Friday, the works' committee recommended a return to work and said negotiations would continue during the week. Five hundred, mainly AUEW members, rejected this and said they wanted total withdrawal of the transfer and decided to stay on strike.

In November 1971 the same firm was successful in sacking militant DATA (now TASS) executive committee member, Bernard Pearce, for trade union activity.

SIR DAVID BARRAN, ex-head of the Shell Oil Company, will lead a government inquiry into the future of London's rail services. The study is being set up jointly by the Department of the Environment, the Greater London Council (GLC), British Rail and London Transport. It is thought the inquiry will take a year to finish.

MR JAMES SIM, who resigned from the National Union of Mineworkers at Westoe and Harton colliery, has been dismissed by the National Coal Board. Immediately Sim's lawyer, Mr Tony Brown, announced he would be going to the Industrial Relations Tribunal at Newcastle. Sim (32), a former soldier, has been in trouble with the local lodges for excessive overtime.

## TODAY'S TV

### BBC 1

9.38 Schools. 12.25 Cywain. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Woodentops. 1.45 Animals at home. 2.05-3.55 Schools. 4.00 Pixie and Dixie. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Yao. 5.40 Wombles. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 YOUNG SCIENTISTS OF THE YEAR. 7.10 STAR TREK. A piece of the Action. 8.00 PANORAMA. 9.00 NEWS. Weather. 9.25 PLAY FOR TODAY: 'ONLY MAKE BELIEVE'. By Dennis Potter. With Keith Barron, Georgina Hale. 10.40 COME DANCING. 11.20 LATE NIGHT NEWS. 11.20 OPERA IN REHEARSAL. Act 2 of Mozart's 'The Marriage of Figaro'. 11.45 Weather.

### ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.33 World War I (London only). 12.05 Mr Trimble. 12.25 Alice through the looking glass. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Mr and Mrs. 1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Schools. 2.20 Cartoon. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Film: 'This Is My Affair'. 4.25 Pardon my genie. 4.55 Clapperboard. 5.20 My good woman. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.40 OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 WORLD IN ACTION. 8.30 BLESS THIS HOUSE. To Tell or Not to Tell. 9.00 THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. Cell 13. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 WILD, WILD WEST. Night of the Undead. 11.30 DRIVE-IN. 12.00 WORLD WAR I. 12.25 THE PIONEERS. Women's Rights.

### BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University. 7.05 PARENTS AND CHILDREN. In Search of Identity. 7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather. 7.35 LOOK, STRANGER. Children of One Family. 8.00 ALIAS SMITH AND JONES. The Reformation of Harry Briscoe. 8.45 TALES FROM HOFFNUNG. Professor Ya-Ya's Memoirs. 8.55 CALL MY BLUFF. 9.25 DAVE ALLEN AT LARGE. 10.10 THE LONGBOW. Story of the Longbow. 11.00 OPINION. 11.15 NEWS. Weather.



Keith Barron and Georgina Hale are in Dennis Potter's 'Only Make Believe' on BBC 1.

### REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-11.52 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.25 Film: 'Raising the Wind'. 4.20 Puffin. 4.25 London. 6.00 News. 6.15 Maverick. 6.45 London. 10.33 Name of the game. 11.55 News, weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 12.05 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 4.20 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 6.35 Date with Danton. 10.30 News. 10.33 Name of the game. 11.55 Faith for life.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.15 Training the family dog. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Film: 'Alaska Seas'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 London. 10.30 Southern scene. 11.00 News. 11.05 FBI. 12.00 Farm progress. 12.25 Weather. Guideline.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 2.00 Farmhouse kitchen. 3.00 Film: 'Cruisin' Down the River'. 4.25 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.22 Report Wales. 6.45 London. 10.30 Film: 'Night Must Fall'. 12.00 Weather.

HTV Cymru/Wales as above except: 6.01-6.22 Y dydd. 8.00-8.30 Yr wythnos. HTV West as above except: 6.22-6.45 This is the West this week.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 Marcus Welby. 3.55 Romper room. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.45 London. 10.30 Russell Harty. 11.30 London. 12.00 Big question.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30 London. 12.00 Today. 12.05 London. 2.00 Dr Simon Locke. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'A Boy, A Girl, and A Bike'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Stories worth telling. Weather.

ULSTER: 11.00 London. 1.33 News. 1.40 Schools. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 Film: 'Isn't Life Wonderful'. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.15 Dick Van Dyke. 6.45 London. 10.30 Monday night. 10.40 Film: 'The Beauty Jungle'.

YORKSHIRE: 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 London. 3.00 Film: 'Diamond Wizard'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.50 Yoga. 12.15 Uglyest girl in town. 12.45 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Film: 'Will Any Gentlemen...?'. 4.00 Crossroads. 4.20 London. 6.00 News. 6.25 This is your right. 6.40 London. 10.30 Stephenson's way. 11.00 Appointment with fear.

TYNE TEES: 9.25 Songs from the heart. 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 News. 2.31 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 Film: 'Don't Ever Leave Me'. 4.25 London. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Face the Press. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.25 News. 12.40 Lactern.

SCOTTISH: 9.30 London. 2.00 All our yesterdays. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 Film: 'The Farmer Takes a Wife'. 4.25 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Cartoon. 6.45 London. 10.30 Late call. 10.35 Dragon and the lion. 11.20 Reg Varney revue. GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 1.38 Schools. 3.05 News. 3.08 Film: 'The Fake'. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Royal Clansmen. 6.45 London. 10.30 Name of the game. 11.55 Meditation.

# ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Fight rising rents and prices  
Defend basic democratic rights  
Force the Tories to resign

**WANDSWORTH: Monday February 12, 8 p.m.** 'King's Arms', Wandsworth High Street. 'Fight rising rents and prices'.

**WATFORD: Monday February 12, 8 p.m.** Trade Union Hall (downstairs), opposite Watford Junction station.

**TODMORDEN: Monday February 12, 7.30 p.m.** 'Woodpecker Inn'. 'Defend Basic Rights'.

**CLAY CROSS: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m.** Social Centre, Derby Road. 'Fight rising rents and prices. Defend basic democratic rights'.

**COVENTRY: Tuesday February 13, 7.30 p.m.** Wood End Community Building.

**LOUGHBOROUGH: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m.** Cobden Street School.

**CLAPHAM: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m.** Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'Defend basic rights'.

**PADDINGTON: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m.** 'Artesian', corner Chepstow Road and Westbourne Grove, W2.

**CAMDEN: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m.** 'Prince Albert', Wharfedale Road, Kings Cross. 'Lessons of the rents fight'.

**HARROW: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m.** Labour Hall. 'Defend basic rights'.

**TOOTING: Tuesday February 13, 8 p.m.** 'Selkirk Hotel', Selkirk Road. 'Defend basic rights'.

**OLDBURY: Wednesday February 14, 7.30 p.m.** 'The Bulls Head'.

**WOLVERHAMPTON: Wednesday February 14, 7.30 p.m.** 'Little Swan', Horseley Fields.

**KINGSTON: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m.** 'Liverpool Arms', corner of Cambridge Road/London Road. 'Build Councils of Action'.

**SLOUGH: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m.** Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'How to defeat Phase Two'.

**HOLLOWAY: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m.** Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'Build Councils of Action'.

**WINSFORD: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m.** 'Red Lion Hotel', Winsford, Cheshire.

**LEEDS: Thursday February 15, 7.30 p.m.** (please note date change). Peel Hotel, Boar Lane. **SWANSEA: Thursday February 15, 7.30 p.m.** Council of Social Services, Mount Pleasant Hill, (near fire station). 'Defend democratic rights'.

**LIVERPOOL: Tuesday February 20, 7.30 p.m.** AEU House, Mount Pleasant.

**BRIXTON: Tuesday February 20, 8 p.m.** Brixton Training Centre, Control Room. 'No state control of wages'.

**DAGENHAM: Tuesday February 20, 8 p.m.** Barking Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue. 'Defend basic rights'.

**LEWISHAM: Thursday February 22, 8 p.m.** Deptford Engineers Club. (opposite New Cross station).

**ACTON: Tuesday February 27, 8 p.m.** Co-op Hall, High Road, W3. 'Forward to the Pageant - The Road to Workers' Power'.

**CROYDON: Thursday March 1, 8 p.m.** Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Defend democratic rights'.

# Socialist Labour League Public Meetings UNITE IN ACTION TO DEFEND BASIC RIGHTS

**CLAPHAM WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 8pm**  
South Island Library  
South Island Place  
Stockwell, SW9  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

**WATFORD MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm**  
Trades Union Hall  
near Watford Junction stn  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

**NORTH KENT MONDAY FEBRUARY 19, 8pm**  
The Shakespeare,  
Powis Street  
Woolwich  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

**ACTON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 8pm**  
Woodlands Hall,  
Crown Street  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

**MEDWAY TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 8pm**  
Aurora Hotel  
Brompton Road  
Gillingham  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

**DAGENHAM THURSDAY MARCH 1, 8pm**  
Manor Park Library  
Romford Rd/Rabbits Road  
opp Rabbits Pub  
speaker: G HEALY  
(SLL National Sec)

**BRADFORD THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 7.30 p.m.**  
Central Library  
Top of Hall Ings.  
Speaker:  
Cliff Slaughter  
(SLL Central Committee)

**BIRMINGHAM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 7pm**  
Digbeth, Civic Hall  
Digbeth, Birmingham  
speaker: MIKE BANDA  
(SLL Central Cttee)

## London

## Socialist Labour League Lectures

**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

**NEWCASTLE: Monday February 12, 8 p.m.** FORD ARMS, Shields Road. Lecture 2.

**ACTON: Wednesday February 14, 8 p.m.** WOODLANDS HALL, Crown Street, W3. Lecture 3.

**EAST LONDON: Thursday February 15, 8 p.m.** OLD TOWN

OFFICES, Poplar High Street, E14. Lecture 3.

**NEWCASTLE: Monday February 19, 8 p.m.** FORD ARMS, Shields Road. Lecture 3.

**SHEFFIELD: Monday February 19, 8 p.m.** YS PREMISES, Portobello (near Jessops hospital) 'The economic crisis and the socialist answer'.

**SHEFFIELD: Monday March 5, 8 p.m.** YS PREMISES, Portobello (near Jessops hospital). 'The Revolutionary Party in Britain'.

## Not a single concession on Phase Two

# Heath threatens the trade unions



Heath

**PRIME MINISTER** Edward Heath has given the clearest warning yet to the trade union movement that 1973 is going to be different from last year—the government is not going to give way at all in its dealings with the working class.

His weekend speech to Conservatives stating that the government cannot afford to allow exceptions to the wage-cutting policies contained in the Phase Two wage control laws ought to remove any lingering illusions among trade union leaders.

There has been speculation that if the government was pushed as hard as it was by the miners' strike

**BY ROYSTON BULL OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT**

during last year's wage restraint, it would give way as it did then and make a 'special case'.

Such illusions are highly dangerous.

The international trade and currency crisis is now so deep that the slightest hesitation by the Tories in carrying out their long-standing need to tame the trade union movement would cause a disastrous deterioration in Britain's international financial standing.

The Tories now have their backs completely to the wall in their dealings with the working class. No more compromise is possible. Either the ruling class brings the labour movement firmly under dictatorial control, or Britain's capitalists lose out in the world trade and currency war.

'If we accepted each special case

which is now being put forward, we would quickly find that our policy against inflation was destroyed,' Heath declared.

Admitting that Phase Two would be bound to cause cases of great hardship and unfairness, he added that nevertheless 'their existence can be no reason for trying to frustrate, by the use of industrial power', the government's policies.

This clear declaration that the Tories will not weaken or climb down can only mean one thing for the working class. Either it must defeat the government that is threatening it or it will have to live under dictatorial controls from the monied class.

All that lies ahead is confrontation, nothing else. And the outcome will be defeat or victory. For the trade union leaders at this late stage to still be talking about 'resuming negotiations with the government' is criminal betrayal in the face of an enemy ready to go.

The government is armed with punitive legal powers to use on trade unionists and any section of the working class which organizes defiance of the Tories in defence of their basic rights.

Heath and his Cabinet are preparing to fine or imprison anyone who speaks out or takes action to defy their new and arbitrary laws, whether by striking, picketing or rent strikes. Simultaneously, the free reporting of the working-class's fight back will be hampered.

Under the pay laws, Press reports which can be alleged to 'incite' workers to resist them will be outlawed.

In the general reporting of the mounting opposition to the laws, the capitalist Press editors have already agreed to play down the fight trade unionists are putting up.

In related fields, such as the Poulson case, which reveals the corruption of the ruling class, outright censorship has been used against a television documentary.

In this gravest challenge to the working class since the defeats and betrayals of the 1920s and 1930s, isolated piecemeal actions and one-day strikes, and other forms of protest politics will be completely useless.

Unless the working class takes decisive united action to bring down the Tory government by mobilizing a General Strike, it is in the greatest danger of being defeated section by section.

Here, the responsibilities of leadership are crucial. The present unholy alliance of Communist Party Stalinists and right wingers at the head of the TUC and of the major unions is hell-bent on selling out.

They are hostile to a political fight against the Tory government and actively organize against the development of such a movement. All of their traditions of compromising and talking to Tories and employers over decades now makes them a threat to the working class.

Even now, as the government is putting the finishing touches to the state machinery for taking on the working class in head-on confrontation, the trade union leaders are either flirting with the idea of joining the monopolists' Common Market, or else dithering helplessly at conferences about Phase Two which never decide to do anything.

The way for the working class to prepare the transformation of class collaboration into decisive class struggle is to build up the influence of the revolutionary party—the Socialist Labour League and its daily paper the Workers Press—in all sections of the labour movement.

Either the working class must enter all-out struggle to preserve its democratic rights and its living standards, or it will be made to sacrifice everything to the British capitalists' desperate bid to survive. There is no middle way.

## Order in Council threat to BRS bonus

A TORY Minister has warned that the government will intervene with an Order in Council if British Road Services pays a £2.50 bonus being demanded by 1,300 Midlands lorry drivers.

Mr Robin Chichester Clark, junior minister at the Department of Employment, has issued the warning in a letter to BRS management and Mr Alan Law, the Transport and General Workers' Union's regional officer.

The two-week-old dispute has created havoc in the car and car components industry. There are now 15,000 Midlands car workers laid off at nine British-Leyland factories.

The men are asking for the £2.50 bonus which is already paid to more than 170 drivers for private road hauliers and to men working for a BRS subsidiary.

But under the state pay laws, the payment of wage—or bonus—increases is outlawed. And under the state pay legislation, unions or sections of workers who defy the laws can be fined or even jailed.

In a speech at Oxford on Friday night, Mr Kenneth Cook, the BRS managing director, said the transport union was trying to create a situation where he, the head of a state-owned enterprise, would openly oppose the government's declared policy.

'It is my considered opinion that Mr Alan Law and the T&GWU is fighting not just Midlands BRS but the British government,' Cook added.

## Gasmen and civil servants defy pay law

**GASMEN** and civil servants today enter full scale defiance of the Tory government's state pay laws.

Under the new laws, trade unions and sections of workers can be fined or even jailed for taking industrial action in support of higher wages.

There are now more than 3,000 gas workers on strike while another 7,000 have introduced unofficial overtime bans and works to rule.

Shop stewards representing 3,000 gas workers in the north decided at Newcastle at the weekend to ask the national executive of their unions to call a

The Tory Press has begun a most scurrilous campaign against the gasmen. Yesterday's newspapers were full of scare stories about gas explosions.

The wretched liberals of Age Concern have also joined the bandwagon. Yesterday this body said that 'the lives of half a million old people will be put at risk from cold'.

In the dustmen's northern regional strike from Wednesday.

Mr Eric Easey, the northern district organizer, said the men wanted the strike to last a fortnight and they

strike the Tories said Britain would be swamped with garbage; in the powermen's strike they raised the spectre of patients dying in lung units in hospitals; in the miners' strike they said that thousands of pigs and battery hens would freeze to death.

All of these lies were completely rebutted by events.

also demanded union backing.

In the north-west there are 1,400 men on strike while 170 are working to rule.

The Scottish stewards want all-out strike action from next week.

● Three civil servants' unions representing some 272,000 members have called for a national overtime ban starting today.

The unions—the Civil and Public Services Association, the Society of Civil Servants and the Customs and Excise Group—have also asked members and branches to 'withdraw co-operation' which means a work to rule.

The civil servants' sanctions will culminate in a one-day national strike—the first ever in the civil service—on February 27.

## POWs to be brainwashed by their own side

WITH THE first batch of American prisoners of war due for release by North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front today, the authorities are leaving nothing to chance.

Each returned prisoner has a ten-man team to look after his every need. They will be rushed from the hand-over point to the seclusion of a camp on the Philippines where they can be 'debriefed' before being shipped back to the US.

Each prisoner is to be given his own personal escort who has been thoroughly briefed about the family background and experiences of his 'captive'.

All the released men will be sternly warned not to speak to the Press unless they want to lose all their 'privileges'. To prevent any embarrassing disclosures about what life under US bombardment in North Vietnam was really like, the prisoners are being completely segregated from the media and at the same time subjected to a relentless brainwashing from psychiatrists and intelligence officers.

The prisoners' families have also been brought in on the act: they have been instructed not to encourage the prisoners to talk about the experiences in the North Vietnamese camps.

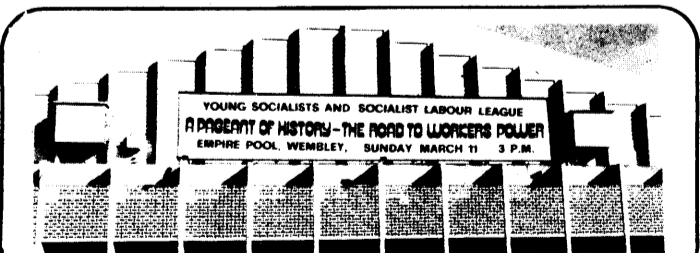
**BOOK YOUR TICKET FOR EMPIRE POOL NOW**

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## Cotton bonus strikers meet today

THE 3,800 striking Liverpool dockers meet this morning to decide future action in their bonus dispute with the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company.

They are out in support of 200 men who stopped work last Tuesday when their claim for extra money for impedance was rejected.

They were claiming extra money because they say the cotton cargo was badly stowed on the Thomas and James Harrison cargo liner 'Administrator'.

A company spokesman said at the weekend: 'The dockers were made an offer which they turned down.'

'Instead of going to the second stage of an agreed procedure, they walked out.'

Because of the dispute, 29 ships are idle—24 deep sea and five coasters. Other vessels are being directed to nearby ports.

## Storemen's next move?

STOREMEN employed at Massey Ferguson in Coventry meet today to consider their next move in the dispute over an incentive deal allied to tractor production.

The storemen, mainly members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, went on strike a week ago over the management's attempt to disrupt their previous work conditions.

The company has laid off 1,300 workers in the assembly plant.

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