

Workers Press

18p

ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
Saturday January 11, 1986 Number 4

£60,000 Legal Fund appeal

THERE are not many bailiffs who apologise for their actions — but that's just happened to us. He turned up at one of our premises demanding rent for January-March 1986. The invoice arrived just four days before.

He phoned later to say he had to visit us after someone had contacted the local council to imply we were

about to do a 'moonlight flit'.

'I felt it only fair to phone to apologise when I realised what happened,' he said.

Was it just a coincidence that the very same day two of the members of the Healy rump visited the same premises to view some machinery put on sale? It was members of the

same rump that put Astmoor Litho, the printer of News Line, predecessor of Workers Press, into liquidation through the courts.

The lengths to which this outfit will go to try to break the Party through smashing its companies knows no bounds.

Well they can be sure of a

run for their money.

The following donations raised £269.10 to give us £30,270.62: MA (Dundee) £20, East Leeds £25, Leicester £63.42, Kilburn £10, Brixton £9, Anon £3, Edinburgh £20, Aberdare £5, Crawley £15.68, RV £98.

Send donations to 21B Old Town, Clapham, London SW4 0JT

JOBLESS USED AS CUT-PRICE POLICE

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE TORIES are planning to use jobless people as a national police force on the cheap.

Under a Manpower Services Commission scheme, and organised by the Home Office, unemployed men will be put in old uniforms to form 'anti-vandal', 'anti-crime' squads — at £22 more a week than they receive on the dole.



Armed police at Heathrow

THE FIRST sub-machine guns to be carried by police on a regular basis appeared at Heathrow airport London on Thursday. Members of Scotland Yard's D11 blue beret squad paraded themselves and their 9mm Heckler and Koch carbines in the Intercontinental terminal.

The move is yet another 'exercise' against an alleged threat from 'terrorists'. The excuse was first used over a decade ago to send the army into the airport and its perimeter roads — they have made

several return visits since.

Following the attacks at Vienna and Rome airports over the Christmas period, the army joined police on January 1 in patrols at the airport.

The troops were withdrawn this week and then, on Thursday, the blue berets turned up with their carbines. In the next few weeks, these marksmen will be replaced by airport police and the weapons will be in open use throughout Heathrow.

The scheme, already in operation in Warrington in the north-west, reveals the reactionary nature of the MSC. The Tories clearly plan to use the unemployed against working-class youth and trade unions in future struggles.

The Thatcher Cabinet has decided that the Home Office will direct its new uniformed branch through the funding of the MSC under the direction of local police and the help of 'voluntary' organisations and the trade unions!

The scheme is planned for every area of the country and is intended to exploit the desperate situation of the growing number of jobless revealed in Thursday's unemployment figures.

Northumberland's Chief Constable Stanley Bailey has denied claims that a 'cut-price police force' is being created by the recruitment of 600 jobless north-east people for crime-prevention work.

But wages averaging only £63 a week will be paid to the temporary worker on anti-vandal patrols and neighbourhood watch schemes.

He said: 'They are not doing a policing job. They are acting as guards who will call the police if necessary'.

They will help patrol the streets, as well as parks, school grounds and community centres.

Operating

Eighteen north-east 'crime-prevention projects' are already operating.

Bailey claimed one scheme in Washington had managed to cut crime rates significantly.

MSC north-east regional employment manager Derek England said:

'providing 600 jobs is just the first stage there could be many many more'.

Wages will be paid by the MSC and each project will last one year. People on them will earn £22 a week more than they would on the dole.

Leaders

Just as disturbing as this reactionary role planned for the jobless is the attendance of trade union leaders, including TUC general secretary Norman Willis, at a Downing Street anti-crime seminar organised by Prime Minister Thatcher on Wednesday night.

Police chief Mr Bailey from Northumberland was also there.

Among the meeting of over 50 people were Sir Terence Beckett of the CBI, A. Buchan, Sunderland assistant Director of Education, Roy Horrocks, British Leyland car chief, Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary (previously northern Ireland secretary), Giles Shaw, Home Office minister and Chris Potter, education minister of state.

Will Mr Willis be campaigning for the latest 'job-creation' scheme on the General Council or at TUC Congress?

Reagan campaign wins little support in Europe

SANCTIONS BUSTED

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

US PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan has stepped up the confrontation between American imperialism and the Libyan Jamahiriyah with a total economic boycott by the US.

However in Europe Reagan's allies are not so keen. British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has opposed Britain joining the American sanctions.

West Germany, Spain and Portugal have also come out against a boycott. France, Ireland and Italy have doubts and want to consult their European allies, while Greece is reported to be more concerned about the actions of the US than the threat from Libya.

It would appear that Reagan has, at least for

the time being, decided against military actions against Libya in favour of an economic boycott. Reagan aides said that military force was ruled out because of the unacceptable risks. In particular there are more than 1,000 Americans in Libya.

Reagan announced on Tuesday that he had signed an executive order that ends direct trade and economic activities between the US and Libya and imposes criminal penalties on companies or individuals who defy it, with journalists excluded.

He also called for the 1,000 to 1,500 Americans working in Libya to leave by February 1.

According to Thursday's 'Daily Mail', Reagan is unlikely to have much success in getting the Americans work-



REAGAN . . . Confrontation



GADDAFI . . . US barbarism

ing in Libya to leave. The 'Mail' said that 'far from being hostages, the British, the Americans and other Westerners working in the vital oil sector are likely to be treated as pampere guests by Col. Gaddafi.'

On Wednesday Reagan told an interviewer that he understood that West European nations are torn between their economic need for trade with

we have become accustomed to from past American administrations.'

On Wednesday night the US ambassador met Foreign Secretary Howe with little success. He left with an agreement that the British government would do nothing to undercut Reagan's actions, but opposition to Britain joining the sanctions.

Even before Reagan's announcement on Tuesday, Downing Street officials had been explaining the view of the Thatcher government that economic sanctions were unlikely to be effective.

Charge

In Bonn, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government ruled out sanctions. 'Past experience shows that sanctions, regardless of who imposes them, have never had the desired result

and have often produced the opposite effect,' said a government spokesman.

The Soviet Union accused Reagan of preparing military action against Libya and pledged to continue its support for Gaddafi. In Moscow TASS news agency denounced the US boycott as 'a policy of state terrorism'.

In the Arab world, the Libyans received backing in a statement from the Fez meeting of the ICO (Islamic Conference Organisation) foreign ministers. They declared their decisive solidarity with the Libyan people and support for their efforts to defend their territory.

They also drew the international community's attention to 'the continuing provocations and aggressive escalation carried out by international imperialism and the Zionist entity'.

Cash crisis hits jobs

BY JOHN SPENCER

MORE unemployment is clearly on the way, in the wake of the government decision to raise bank interest rates by 1 per cent to 12.5 per cent.

The number out of work in December showed a rise of 14,221 to 3,273,089 and the new level of interest rates signifies that a further increase is on the way this month.

The December jobless figure gives the lie to claims by the Tories and their supporters in the media that the trend of unemployment has begun to turn down.

In fact, the government is once again having to turn the screw on industry in an attempt to protect the position of sterling.

Rumours

But there is no guarantee that the 1-per-cent rise in interest rates will have the required effect. The City is awash with rumours of further increases.

Each rise in interest rates favours the parasitic money-lenders against manufacturing industry.

The latest rise was dictated by the fall in the value of sterling against the major European currencies. Sterling has been undermined by the drop in the price of oil.

More than £2 billion was wiped off share prices in the wake of the banks' announcement. The Financial Times index fell 10.9 points.

January is the month which usually shows the sharpest increase in unemployment of any month, and the normal increase each January is more than 100,000.

This is because temporary staff taken on in the run-up to Christmas are laid off and bad winter weather hits outdoor work such as construction.

An increase of around 100,000 in January would push the unemployment total well above the previous peak of 3,346,000 recorded last September.

Threat

Higher interest rates also pose a threat to the government's plans for tax cuts in the budget. Last year the Chancellor set aside £3.5 billion for tax cuts in 1986.

But his room for manoeuvre has been drastically reduced and the tax cuts will be much smaller than planned unless the situation changes radically.

If the high level of interest rates is maintained the building societies will be obliged to raise their mortgage levels, too.

Shopfloor anger over EETPU deal

A ROW has blown up over a deal agreed between a computer company and electricians' union leaders — because the deal had already been rejected by the workers. Disclosure of these developments at the Brynmawr, South Wales, factory run by Xidex is particularly embarrassing to the EETPU leaders because one of their single-union agreements is in operation there.

Local EETPU branch secretary Brian King said this week that members at the plant were 'very upset' because an offer they had already thrown out had now been accepted by the union's executive. Pay negotiations had begun with the previous owners, US-owned Control Data. They resulted in an offer involving no pay increases, but for two lump-sum payments of £50.

This was rejected in a ballot, and the matter went to ACAS which produced

two further options, both putting the two payments together into one £100 sum. The options were divided between guaranteed payment of the money in return for shift pattern changes to boost productivity, and payment of the money in July as long as the firm was in a position to pay at that time.

No further ballot was held but soundings amongst the workforce produced rejection of both options. Branch secretary King said this was by a large majority.

Then, however, the EETPU's executive councillor for the area, Wyn Bevan, stepped in and agreed to the second option. Bevan formerly worked at Port Talbot steelworks where he claimed to be a left-winger. His move was made under the terms of the single-union agreement reached between Control

Data and the EETPU, which gives powers to the executive councillor to take a final decision in such matters.

But King said Bevan had acted against the wishes of the workforce and that some members were talking about leaving the union, although this was inadvisable because under the single-union deal they would lose recognition if they did so.

Teachers' pay talks

THE NATIONAL Union of Teachers is to join peace talks aimed at ending the long-running teachers' pay dispute. But its discussions will be held separately.

All six unions involved and the employers have been invited to talks next Tuesday at the London offices of ACAS. NUT general secretary Fred Jarvis said on Thursday: 'We have always been ready to talk to ACAS.'

Apartheid demo case dropped



CAMBERWELL, south London, magistrates dismissed the case against three anti-apartheid campaigners in front of a packed courtroom last Wednesday.

Supporters of the Cultural Awareness Programme, a Brixton-based group of African people had lobbied the entrance to the courts all morning against police

attempts to convict the three on charges of threatening behaviour.

Spartacus R, Claudette Douglass and Chester Jones had been arrested on November 5 last year after a successful boycott leafletting campaign outside Tesco's in Brixton. They plan to sue the Metropolitan Police for wrongful arrest and imprisonment.

Electricians 'break rule' says NUM

THE NATIONAL Union of Mineworkers is to report the EETPU electricians' union to the TUC because of its links with the breakaway miners' organisation.

Following an executive meeting in Sheffield on Thursday, NUM president Arthur Scargill said the EETPU was being reported to the TUC for investigation under Rule 13 which outlaws support for breakaway movements.

The NUM executive voted unanimously to take this action. Scargill stated: 'The question we will be asking the TUC to look at will be the involvement of the EETPU in support of the breakaway

union and the continued involvement with the leadership of that organisation.'

'It is our view that those activities are contrary to the rules of the TUC and in particular Rule 13. We shall ask the TUC to investigate the matter and take action.'

The complaint, said the NUM president, would be forwarded immediately and would be before a meeting of the TUC next Monday.

He added that the executive had received re-

ports which showed membership of the UDM was 'reducing and reducing quite startlingly — feedback to our executive suggests that in all cases there have been more and more applicants wishing to return to the NUM.'

● ANOTHER issue concerning the NUM leaders at present is a coal board threat to use pensions as a weapon against miners in dispute.

By introducing a fear of losing pension contributions by going on strike, the board would be attempting to impose an instrument of labour discipline that has not been used in Britain for decades.

£5,000 Monthly Fund December Monthly Fund ends at £2,739.78

COMRADES, our December Monthly Fund has fell dangerously behind. Here we are Saturday January 11 and we are still £2,260 short of our target. Since the midweek edition of the Workers Press we have received just £274.98.

We are sure you realise the urgency of completing the December Fund. We must continue to fight the Healy clique with our twice-weekly paper. It is a vital weapon in our political campaign to expose them to the trade union movement and working class.

Healy and his fellow renegades have shown their true colours since they were expelled from our Party. Their one aim is to try and smash us, reverting to the courts when they realised they could not do it politically.

Meanwhile the Workers Revolutionary Party and Workers Press continues the fight for Trotskyism — and the continued political battle with Healy and his cohorts.

But The Workers Press cannot be kept alive on fresh air. We MUST have the fund to continue fighting for the working class. Can we get 1/25,000 in by the end of January?

Please send your donations immediately to:

Monthly Fund Appeal
21B Old Town Clapham
London SW4 0JT

FURNITURE WORKERS' FIGHT

Glasgow picket never falters

FROM
SIMON
PIRANI



Workers on the picket line outside the Morris factory in Glasgow

TWENTY-eight furniture workers at Morris, Glasgow, started 1986 on the picket line with seven-and-a-half months strike action behind them.

They walked out when a one-year agreement, under which they worked extra hours, ran out and Morris refused to negotiate with their union. Then he sent their cards and brought in a semi-skilled scab force.

'Some of these boys worked here for 35 years,' shop steward Brian McKee said last week. 'They did this guy Morris a favour by doing a 41½ hour week. Now they would rather see this place closed than walk away from here.'

'We can't let him get away with it, or other employers will do the same'.

Asked what the main lessons of the strike were, McKee said: 'Never trust management; never give an inch or they'll take a mile.'

'In 1986 we have to get more public opinion behind us. There's no doubt people will be on our side.'

'For example, we were invited by the teachers to their rally in George Square during their pay campaign. People were asked from the platform to give generously to the Morris dispute, and we took a collection. We raised £600 in 20 minutes — not bad from members of a "right-wing" union!'

Appeal

Over the Christmas period, the Furniture Timber and Allied Trades Union launched a 'support a family' appeal for the Morris strikers and workers at Silentnight, Barnoldswick, Lancashire.

'Cheques are coming in all the time,' said McKee. Large donations have just arrived from GMBATU members on Glasgow District Council, engineers union branches and the Wolverhampton-based National Union of Lock and Metal Workers.'

The Morris picket has never faltered.

Every Friday, the strikers are joined at 4p.m. by local trades unionists.

● **SUPPORT** and donations should be sent to: **Morris Strike Committee, c/o FTAT, 46 Carlton Place, Glasgow. Delegations to the picket line should go to Morris of Glasgow, Milton Street, off Cowcaddens, at 4p.m. Friday.**

Silentnight pay rise 'a stunt'

A PAY rise given to strike-breakers at Silentnight Bedding has been described by the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union as 'shabby propaganda'.

A union statement this week said: 'To give strike-breakers an increase of 6 a week in a loss-making

year, after renegeing on an agreement to pay an almost similar sum during a profit-making period, only shows even more clearly the contempt the company has for the loyalty given by its workers for 20 years or more.'

The Silentnight struggle at two factories in the

north of England has been going on since the summer of last year and has received wide support in the trade union movement.

Ben Rubner, FTAT general secretary, says in the union statement that the chairman and his family had recently

received a return of nearly 700,000 on their shareholdings.

For those who might be taken in by the firm's pay rise move, Rubner points out that the 6 extra a week is precisely the amount which the bedding employers (NBF) have agreed with this trade union for a

39-hour week as a national wage increase for the bedding industry, but without a no-strike clause.

'The company is guilty of embarking on nothing other than a piece of shabby propaganda; it is a cheap publicity stunt,' said Rubner.

'We are ready for nego-

tiations at any time. This has been made clear from the start. All the "honest brokers" who have offered their services, and there are many, know this'

He added: 'Failure on their part to tread this path will ensure that the support for the strikers will ascend to a much higher level.'



SCARGILL



DENNIS SKINNER



TED KNIGHT

Lambeth rally to raise defence fund

ARTHUR SCARGILL, Labour MPs Dennis Skinner and Jo Richardson and Hackney council leader Bernie Grant are among the speakers at a rally on Sunday in support of Labour councillors in Lambeth, south London. The Town Hall rally is intended to raise funds and rouse support for the councillors' High Court appeal, which begins on Tuesday.

Thirty-two councillors are facing surcharge, bankruptcy and disqualification. Two of them, Labour leader Ted Knight and Sharon Atkin, will speak at the rally. Atkin is chair of the Labour Party black section.

Councillors from both Lambeth and Liverpool are appealing against surcharge. Their lawyers will seek to have their appeals held separately on the

grounds that the actions of the two councils were determined by specific local requirements. The case is expected to last three weeks. The Lambeth defence is that their actions were the only possible way of meeting the problems imposed by the Tory government's rate-capping legislation.

Lambeth's fighting fund raised £74,000 up to the New Year towards their £110,000 target. Of this £25,000 came in donations from local Labour Parties, £25,000 from unions and trades councils, and £13,000 from community organisations and individuals. In addition, more than £3,000 has come in since January 1. and fund-raisers say they are 'reasonably confident' their target will be met.

Tory law to hog-tie rate revolt

BY A SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL democracy and the right of local authorities to campaign against the governments onslaught on council jobs and services will suffer its most vicious blow when the Local Government Bill becomes law in April.

The 12th Local Government Bill since 1979, this one was introduced on November 7, had its second reading on November 18 and is now being rushed through the committee stage.

One of its key sections will make it illegal for local authorities not to set a rate by April 1, in an attempt to prevent a repeat of last year's fight against rate-capping.

Just as significant, however, are the Bill's

devastating implications for the right of local councils or council-funded groups to organise support against central government on any issue, including privatisation, immigration, DHSS regulations, education cuts, etc.

Clause 2 of the Bill says: 'A local authority shall not publish any material which, in whole or in part, appears to be designed to affect, or can reasonably be regarded as likely to affect, public support for: a) A political party or b) A body, cause or campaign identified with, or likely to be regarded as identified with a political party.'

The legislation also prohibits a local authority from assisting any other organisation or person to publish such material.

The Local Government Information Service points out that such proposals would prohibit even local authorities threatened with abolition from making any public objection.

In theory the Bill is based on the findings of the Widdicombe Committee set up by the Tories to look at local authority publicity in the wake of last year's enormous public support for Labour authorities battling the government cuts.

Forty join protest over political fraud by Healyites

Young Socialists lobby rump AGM

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

THE ATTEMPTS of the Healyite rump to pass themselves off as the Workers Revolutionary Party and its youth section the Young Socialists continued last Saturday with the holding of a bogus 'Young Socialist Annual General Meeting'.

This group of renegades from Trotskyism were expelled from the WRP and YS last year. The bogus YS AGM was held at Hackney Town Hall, with about 300 in attendance.

Not one member of the YS editorial board elected at the YS AGM last January was present. Such formalities as carrying out the decisions of democratically-elected bodies is of no concern to the Healyites.

The real Young Socialist Annual General Meeting is being held in Bradford on March 2.

Forty angry YS and WRP members lobbied meeting, handing out leaflets. They turned up in order to protest at the fraud being perpetrated by this group of political charlatans.

There was a subdued attitude from the leading members of the rump, who had clearly been told not to talk to the lobby. Those present included



Young Socialists discussing with youth who turned up for the bogus annual general meeting in Hackney last Saturday

Sheila Torrance, Alex Mitchell, Corin Redgrave and Claire Dixon.

'Young Socialist' editor Dolly Short said:

'Members and supporters of the Young Socialists and our paper will clearly recall last year's extremely successful AGM where 1,300 youth and miners took up the fight against pit closures and cheap labour schemes for youth.

'They will also recall the unanimous election of an editorial board including myself as "Young Socialist" editor.

'At that meeting we pledged to develop the paper in the fight for Trotskyist principles and the building of a revolutionary youth movement. In carrying out that pledge, the Young Socialists were in the forefront of the struggle to expose the bureaucratic degeneration which had taken place in the Workers Revolutionary Party and the expulsion of Healy and his supporters.

'Under the domination of the Healy bureaucracy, the youth movement was stifled and unable to function as a body with any independent ideas or internal life.

'The fighting spirit of the youth will make it impossible for the rump to continue their lie. It is obvious that a group which condones and perpetrates sexual abuse of young women cannot lead any fight to defend the youth against the attacks of the Tory state.

Young Socialist national secretary Julie Hyland said:

'The bankrupt politics of this group have been clearly revealed in their calling of a so-called Annual General Meeting when they, in fact, split from the Young Socialists in October 1985 and were subsequently expelled by the Young Socialists National Committee on November 3.

'Any group which condones corrupt practices, openly abuses the Bolshevik foundations of democratic centralism and its membership and behaves with nothing short of contempt for internationalism, has no right to claim the title of the Young Socialists and parade in the history of our movement which is engrained in Trotskyist principles.

Most of the youth entering the meeting stopped and talked to the lobbying YS members.



Former WRP members Corin Redgrave (left) and Alex Mitchell (centre) arriving for Saturday's meeting



Former WRP assistant general secretary Sheila Torrance arriving at Hackney town hall with Paddy O'Regan

Now

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

IN 1964 the Young Socialists decided to elect its leadership from the youth who supported the monthly youth paper 'Keep Left'.

The Labour Party leaders wanted a youth movement which would do the donkey work during elections and passively do as they were told at other times.

Harold Wilson and Co. decided to expel the leaders of the YS when they realised that the new national committee had no intention of blindly following orders.

Expulsions

After the expulsions, the YS became the youth movement of the Socialist Labour League, which subsequently became the Workers Revolutionary Party and in 1976 the name of the youth paper was changed to the 'Young Socialist'.

Until the expulsions, the youth cut their teeth in a battle with revisionism and reformism and it was during this period that some of our best cadres were trained.

In the years which followed, however, the conditions which existed inside the party that gave rise to the recruitment of these youth changed. Some of our best members drifted away or were kicked out.

Instead of allowing the

youth to get their experience in the trade unions and other working-class and student organisations, they were turned more and more towards the task of maintaining the Healy juggernaut.

The daily paper (Workers Press 1969-1976, News Line 1976-1985), the endless marches, the huge meetings all became a substitute for the branches.

YS branches took on a more and more artificial air instead of a means of educating and training the youth. They had no real political life. As time passed the youth recruited were used as glorified paper boys or were set to work collecting money to finance the grandiose schemes of G. Healy.

As long as you could get a lot of youth to the annual conference to give the appearance of a big movement that was all that mattered. Never mind if you never saw one of them for the rest of the year. Soon any sign of dissent was ruthlessly suppressed and free discussion was replaced by the mantra 'It's a revolutionary situation'.

Healy never gave a damn for the youth. He used them to maintain his own personal comfort and was finally expelled from the WRP with the full support of the YS for his abuse of young female comrades.

We are in the process of examining our history in the most objective fashion in order to consolidate the great step

Workers Press READ IT REGULARLY!



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US combat force not ready yet

WASHINGTON — Despite increased spending and recruitment under the Reagan administration, US special commando units intended for rapid intervention raids are still 'not combat-ready', a senior Pentagon official has complained bitterly.

'We've got bands that are in a higher state of readiness than some of our special operations assets,' said Noel C. Koch. 'And that's no joke.'

With the Reagan administration openly threatening Libya and other Arab countries, officials like Koch want the special forces given greater priority and are pressing for units to be stationed in Europe ready for action.

Since the abortive US commando 'rescue' mission to Iran in 1980, which ended with the commandos themselves having to be rescued — due to faulty helicopters and nobody telling the Carter administration about desert sandstorms — both government and Congress have been keen to improve and strengthen America's 'special forces'.

Under 'Rambo'-fan Reagan, these forces, intended for counter-revolutionary aggression abroad and attacks on countries Reagan labels 'terrorist', have grown from 10,000 to 15,000 men. They are supposed to reach more than 20,000 by the end of the 1980s.

This year's budget for them is \$1.2 billion, a 20-

per-cent increase on last year. Most of it is earmarked for transport planes and helicopters.

Pentagon officials complain that military top brass and their regimental attitudes have been an obstacle to the commando units' readiness. They claim it took 17 years for the army to deliver new field radios to special operations units, because conventional army units got higher priority.

The air force tried to pass the buck for helicopter operations to the army, arguing it was normally an army job — even though the army has not yet got the long-range helicopters with night-vision needed for taking raiders deep into enemy territory.

Republican Senator William S. Cohen, one of several politicians and officials who want commando forces centralised under one agency, says dispersal among the services has meant sloppy planning.



A section of the Young Socialists who last Saturday lobbied Hackney Town Hall, venue of the Healyite bogus 'Young Socialist' annual general meeting

We can build a real YS

through the doors of Hackney town hall.

Once inside, the stewards then had the job of maintaining order among the youth, most of whom frankly told us they only came for the dance after the meeting.

As we lobbied this pathetic spectacle, the leaders of the rump tried desperately to shepherd the youth inside before they had a chance to listen to what we were saying.

Tugging at the sleeves of some young lads who were discussing with us and taking our leaflets off them, they were obviously petrified that they were going to have to answer for the huge fraud which was being perpetrated.

Numbers

This group's view of the youth is no different from that of the Wilson Labour leadership. To the rump, they have become merely numbers with potential only for exploitation.

The youth who went into Saturday's meeting will not stand for it, any more than the real YS did.

With the exposure and subsequent expulsion of Healy, the YS has proved that they have the capacity to build a youth movement whose members are capable of independent thought and will be able to take the most important initiatives when it counts.

With this under their belts, patiently and with confidence they can go forward in 1986 to learn and train other youth in revolutionary Trotskyism.

Redgraves (Corin and Vanessa) and former News Line editorial board and Central Committee member Alex Mitchell. In spite of the fact that only 12 out of the 40 central committee members went with Healy to form his little group, they now strut around calling themselves the WRP.

None of the elected 'Young Socialist' editorial board went with Healy. The only youth leader who was unable to break with Healy was

Clare Dixon who, at 27, is stretching the English language in still calling herself a youth.

This is the young lady who typed the Healy agreement.

Only two out of the 12 YS national committee members betrayed the youth and went with the rump, yet Healy is parading them as the YS and as such they organised a bogus YS annual general meeting last Saturday.

Like the jilted bride in Dickens' 'Great Expecta-

tions', who was still wearing her tattered wedding gown 30 years on and lived in a room where the untouched wedding cake was rotting on the table, the Healyite rump are reliving their own tragic past. Fortunately they are the only ones who believe in the reality of this farce.

They managed by sheer hard slog and promises of a good day out with a disco at the end to get a couple of hundred youth off the streets and



Lobbyists lining up outside Hackney town hall to leaflet ex-WRP and ex-YS members entering the bogus AGM on Saturday

forward made in the expulsion of Healy and his corrupt band. Robbed of his dynasty, Healy and his friends have now withdrawn completely into their own fantasy world.

Although Sheila Torrance (former assistant general secretary) signed an agreement with Healy in which he claimed that he would cease his abuse of the girls, she now likes to pretend that neither the agreement nor the abuses took place.

The same goes for the

Workers Revolutionary Party

MARX'S CAPITAL TODAY

1986 series of lectures

1. Friday 31st January

The capitalist crisis and the bankruptcy of the social sciences
Lecturer: Tom Kemp

2. Friday 7th February

Commodity, Value and Money
Lecturer: Geoff Pilling

3. Friday 14th February

Surplus Value and the Class Struggle
Lecturer: Tom Kemp

4. Friday 21st February

Capital and the rate of profit
Lecturer: Geoff Pilling

5. Friday 28th February

The contradictions of capitalism
Lecturer: Cyril Smith

6. Friday 7th March

Capital in the age of information technology
Lecturer: Cyril Smith

Reading: Marx, *Capital* vol 1

Marx, *Wage Labour and Capital*

Tom Kemp: *Marx's Capital Today*

Conway Hall

Red Lion Square, London WC1

Starts 8pm

Tickets 50p each lecture; complete series £2

Books

Servicemen were atom-test guinea pigs



Worker-militias in Stalingrad during the siege

Stalingrad heroism

The Road to Stalingrad. By John Eson. Grafton, £6.95.

THE HEROISM and self-sacrifice of the Soviet civilians and soldiers endured fighting on a scale unparalleled else-

where in the second world war when the German army was driven from Stalingrad. Erickson's classic military history, relying heavily on records of both the Red Army and the Wehrmacht, is a superbly honest, detailed and moving account.

Mole in India

THE LIBERAL conscience of Michael Carritt was 'slowly punctured' by his job running detention camps for 'agitators' in India in the 1930s.

Like many other Oxford graduates, he had joined the Indian civil service as a suitable career, but he quickly

A Mole in the Crown. By Michael Carritt. Distributed by Central Books. £3.95.

tired of the club life and the 'marry-go-round'. The police habitually presented a concoction of

'sus' evidence, from a procession of informers, in order to have 'trouble-makers' put away. Carritt refused to accept such cases.

He made contact with the Communist Party of India, and became a courier and occasional go-between. As District Officer responsible for orders to intercept mail, he was particularly well-placed to help with this work.

Some of the most interesting sections of a book which is generally in need of some firm editorial work are those which deal with that party's shortcomings.

Carritt himself had read little and was clearly encouraged to read little; he admits that his knowledge was picked up in the course of 'shouldering the burden of empire'.

But the fundamental weakness of the CPI was that it was subordinate to the British Communist Party. Carritt describes as 'peculiarly vacuous' the two members selected from London to oversee the Indian party.

Under such leadership, the Indian party was incapable of planning work with the masses in India demanding an end to the yoke of imperialism at a time when the Stalinists in Britain were snuggling up to the Labour Party.

'THEY DIDN'T give a damn whether we lived or died.'

The testimony of a Brisbane airman, quoted in 'Fields of Thunder', is typical of the bitter conclusion reached by many of the thousands of servicemen who took part in the 21 atmospheric nuclear tests carried out by Britain in Australia and the Pacific Islands between 1952 and 1958.

'We were used as guinea pigs,' comments the Brisbane veteran, whose job was to unscrew the radioactive filters from the wings of planes which had just flown over the site of the explosion.

The British scientists who took the filters from him wore protective clothing — but he was clad only in shorts and shirt. Wearing the same, he would then hose down the aircraft, often dowsing his head in the radioactive bilge.

He is now dying of cancer of the throat and tongue — and is suing the Australian government for negligence.

Other crews actually flew through the infamous mushroom clouds minutes after detonation to test its effects. They were so inadequately briefed about the dangers that many flew in unpressurised cabins with ordinary clothing — eating their packed lunches as they flew over at ground zero.

They, too, recall their surprise at being met by scientists with protective gear who immediately disposed of their flying equipment.

Such an appalling level of negligence convinced most of the eyewitnesses interviewed in both these two new books that they were used quite cynically by the British government to discover the as yet largely uncharted

Fields of Thunder: Testing Britain's Bomb. By Denys Blakeway and Sue Lloyd-Roberts. Unwin, £3.95.

Clouds of Deceit: The Deadly Legacy of Britain's Bomb Tests. By Joan Smith. Faber and Faber, £4.95.

effects of radiation unleashed by an atomic explosion.

Evidence given by Ministry of Defence personnel to the Australian government's Royal Commission of Inquiry last year emphasised the comparative ignorance of the nature of radioactivity in the 1950s.

Dr (now Lord) William Penney, then Chief Superintendent of Armament Research at the Ministry of Supply, could not, however, deny to the Commission that he had sought assurances about insurance cover for participants in the tests 'against radioactive hazards'.

A Ministry of Defence circular of May 1953 stated quite categorically that one aim of the tests was to 'discover the effects of various types of explosions on equipment, stores, and men with or without various types of protection' (my emphasis).

Servicemen were liberately placed within the unsafe range for initial radiation during the testing of 'low-yield' weapons. During the major atomic tests, they watched in their hundreds from beaches, from the Australian bush or on the decks of their ships, sometimes no further than seven miles from the explosion.

In a cursory gesture to safety, servicemen on board ship were told to turn away from the site of the explosion at the count of zero and to press the palms of their hands tight into their eye sockets.

One recalls: 'I pressed my hands hard to my eyes, then realised my hands were covering my eyes. This terrific light

power, or rays, were actually passing through the tarpaulin, through the towel and through my head and body.'

Many liken the flash to an X-ray which allowed them to see the bones in their hands. One remembers that half his team, stationed on shore to observe the blast, turned in terror and ran when they opened their eyes and saw dozens of rabbits blinded by the flash.

Test veterans have an abnormally high incidence of cataracts, which have appeared in men younger than the usual sufferers.

An able seaman interviewed by Blakeway and Lloyd-Roberts talks about dead fish washed up by the thousand after one explosion. The 'film-tag' he wore which (inadequately) recorded his subjection to dangerous gamma rays, was thrown away with everyone else's at the end of the operation.

He has developed a blood cancer and remarks on the attitude of doctors who seemed initially excited by the link between his disease and the atomic tests, and then suddenly indifferent.

Was this after official pressure? Many other interviewees have experienced immense difficulties when they have tried to establish a connection between their presence at the tests and illness several decades later.

Medical files have gone missing, medical tests have been refused on the grounds that they could be used against the government. One widow was even told by the Ministry of Defence that the atomic tests had not taken place!

Aborigines living near the test sites have battled against official secrecy and racist attitudes by the authorities to expose the extent of sickness and death among them.

British servicemen who discovered an Aboriginal family camping in a bomb crater were threatened with the firing squad if they revealed this. All Aborigines, according to official press releases, had been 'rounded up' and removed from the restricted areas.

In fact even now they are not out of danger. 'The dust storms of the Australian bush,' say Blakeway and Lloyd-Roberts, 'have been blowing potentially lethal carcinogens hither and thither now for nearly three decades.'

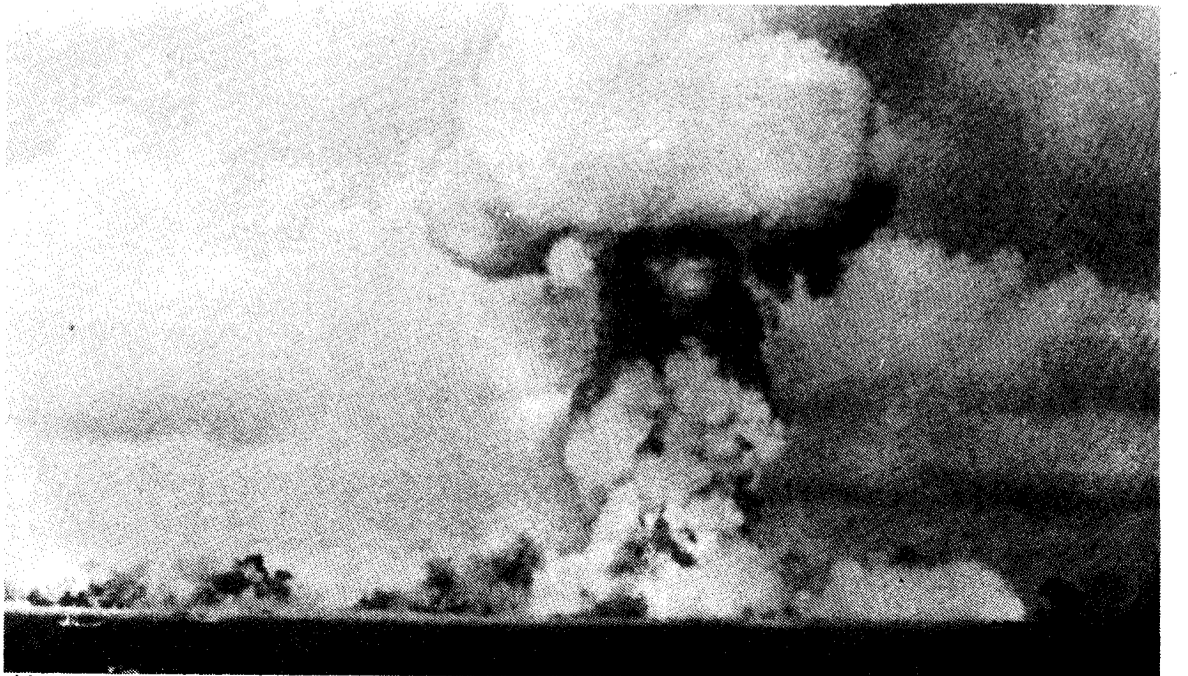
Their book details excellently how the tests of the 1950s were pushed ahead as part of the 'Cold War' against the Soviet Union by both Attlee's Labour government and Churchill's Conservative administration — and all without reference to parliament.

Joan Smith, a journalist who resigned from the 'Sunday Times' because her articles on test veterans had been blocked, refers to the ecstatic jingoism of the British press after the first atomic test, which was the source of the criminal negligence for which many are still paying with their lives.

The British government must continue to refuse test veterans' claims for compensation, Smith maintains, since to admit their case would arouse widespread concern for the fate of workers in the nuclear industry who are continually exposed to far higher radiation.

Blakeway and Lloyd-Roberts agree:

'Ministry of Defence policy, tried and tested with the veterans of two world wars, is to block and prevaricate until no survivors remain to press their case.'



Only a limited number of people wore protective clothing during the atomic tests of the 1950s

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BOOKS

PART ONE OF A LETTER BY G. ZINOVIEV

The character of our newspapers



The Executive Committee of the Communist International requests the Communist Internationals of all parties to acquaint the editors of our newspaper with the contents of this letter and to raise a discussion upon it.

THE RESOLUTION of the Third Congress of the Communist International dealing with the question of organisation, contains a special chapter devoted to the question of our communist newspapers.

The Executive Committee of the Communist International desires to supplement this resolution by this circular letter.

Newspapers play a great part in our agitation, particularly in those countries where we have one or more daily newspapers. Our organs, however, up till now have been very unsatisfactory.

Have we created a new type of communist newspaper in Europe and America? The reply to this question must undoubtedly lie in the negative.

Most of our newspapers in their exterior and in the method of conducting them are very much like the old social-democratic newspapers with the only difference that we endeavour to conduct a different point of view. This is not enough.

It is necessary that we create a new type of communist organ, the staff of which shall be composed principally of workers, and which shall grow parallel with the growth of the mass labour movement.

Examine closely our most important daily organs: 'L'Humanite', 'L'Internationale', 'Ordine Nuovo', 'Politiken', 'Rabotnicheski Vestik', or even 'Rote Fahne'.

Do these contain many letters from workers? Are these genuine popular newspapers in the best sense of the word? Does one feel in them the pulse of the present-day labour movement?

The resolution of the Third Congress of the Comintern dealing with the question of organisation quotes 'Pravda' as it was issued in 1911, 1913 and it was edited during the period intervening between the February and October Revolutions, as a classic example of a proletarian newspaper.

What was the strong point of 'Pravda' at that time? First and foremost, it devoted more than half of its space to letters from working men and women from the factories. 'Pravda' was a special type of Communist newspaper. It performed functions which no other Russian newspaper performed.

It differed even in its

exterior from all other bourgeois and social-democratic newspapers. Half the newspaper was written by working men and women, soldiers, sailors, cooks, cab-drivers and shop-assistants.

What was said in these letters, written by skilled and so-called unskilled workers of the lower professions?

These letters spoke of the everyday life in the factory or workshop, barracks or the factory districts. In simple language, the details were given of the privation and oppression to which the workers are subjected.

These letters exposed the petty tyranny of the minor officials in the factories and works. Taken as a whole, these letters drew an impressive picture of the poverty and sufferings which the masses had to undergo.

These letters better than anything else in the world expressed that growing and seething protest which afterwards burst out into the great revolution. The newspapers became the great teacher of the labouring masses and the workers themselves took a direct part in its production.

Home

It became the friend in the home in every labourer's hut and every proletarian's home, at every factory lathe, and at every workers' restaurant.

It was only necessary for a letter to appear in our paper from a particular factory or barracks for the number in which it appeared to be greedily seized at that factory or barracks.

The workers became accustomed to reading this correspondence. The publication of a letter concerning a particular factory would become quite an event for that factory. The exposure made in it would be read by party men and non-party men and the newspaper would become a terror for all the oppressors of the workers and all the 'officials'.

We shall be told that in the West the publication of such letters would be difficult and almost impossible. In countries which have an old labour movement, say some comrades, such complaints are carried to the trade unions.

In Germany, it is said that the workers are accustomed to report cases of injustice to the trade unions through their officials (Vertrauensmänner).

G. ZINOVIEV, president of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, sent out the following letter to supplement a resolution passed by the Third Congress of the Communist International in June-July 1921, which dealt in part with the character, content and role of communist newspapers in different parts of the world. He stresses the importance of the columns being opened up to letters and articles by workers. The second half of the letter will appear next Tuesday



Lenin and Trotsky (centre) with Soviet workers and soldiers, the people encouraged by the Third Congress of the Third International resolution — supplemented by G. Zinoviev (above) — to write for the communist newspaper

But are these the only customs of the workers in the West against which we have to contend? Are these the only obstacles?

Difficulties should be overcome and we must overcome them at all costs. We repeat, that we must create a new type of proletarian newspaper. A daily communist newspaper must under no circumstances concern itself solely with so-called 'high' politics.

On the contrary, three-quarters of the paper must be devoted to the ordinary 'everyday' life of the workers, to the common details that go to make up the lives of the working masses.

It is precisely because the workers up till now have been accustomed to carry their complaints to the trade unions, which in a majority of cases, as is known, are dominated by the reformist agents of capital, we communists must strive to secure that this material flows into our communist newspapers. This will be one of the best methods of cutting the ground from under the feet of the trade union bureaucracy.

Our daily newspapers must become real schools of communism. They must serve not only the political but also the economic struggle.

Our newspapers have to compete with bourgeois and other newspapers. We must give plenty of good material, well set out and readable. In one of the columns of the first page there should be a brief description of the contents of the number.

Family

We must systematically think out why the rank-and-file workers are attracted by such bourgeois newspapers as the 'Morgenpost' in Berlin and 'Le Journal' (sic) in France. We must learn from such papers as the 'Daily Herald', which strives to serve all phases of the life of the workers and his family.

But in order to successfully compete with the bourgeois and social-democratic newspapers we must introduce something that is peculiarly our own and what the bourgeois and social-democratic newspapers cannot give.

This is precisely the letters from working men and working women from the factories and works, letters from soldiers, etc.

CONTINUED ON TUESDAY

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Workers Press COMMENT

Westland and Wall Street

ACCORDING to former Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine, 'profound issues about defence procurement and Britain's future as a technologically advanced country' are involved in the row which led to his resignation. Heseltine has emerged late in the day as a born-again opponent of the Thatcher autocracy, complaining bitterly about the regime in her Cabinet where he has roosted for so many years.

Certainly the clash over the future of Westland helicopters has given an illuminating glimpse of the political relations between Thatcher and her ministers. If Heseltine's version is to be believed, her manipulation of the Cabinet is ruthless and unscrupulous. He did not contradict the reporter who put it to him at his resignation press conference that Thatcher stood accused of hypocrisy, double-dealing, duplicity and various other matters.

Behind the lurid stories of bureaucratic knife-fighting there are important issues for British capitalism, particularly concerning its relations with Big Brother across the Atlantic. These issues broke the surface during the Malvinas (Falklands) war, and surfaced again during the haggling over Reagan's 'star wars' plan.

It is not entirely an accident that the Heseltine resignation coincided with a rise in bank interest rates to 12.5 per cent and another hefty increase in unemployment. The interest rate rise and the growth of unemployment are consequences of the runaway US budget deficit. Europe, and particularly Britain, are being squeezed to pay for the deficit, as high interest rates on Wall Street draw money across the Atlantic.

The deficit is being spent on an unprecedented military build-up one of whose effects will be to render existing British and French nuclear weapon systems completely obsolete.

The key question for Heseltine and the military chiefs is the extent to which the growing domination of the American arms monopolies undermines even the limited possibilities of independent military action currently open to the British armed forces. At the press conference which followed his resignation on Thursday, Heseltine told of a 'deliberate attempt' to avoid the issues which involved the omission from the Cabinet minutes of key matters in the dispute.

Heseltine said there were three ministerial meetings chaired by Thatcher at the beginning of December at all of which she attempted to remove the recommendation of national armaments directors and thus leave the way clear for the US Sikorsky company to take over Westland. Heseltine said the meetings were ill-tempered attempts to overcome the refusal of some of the Cabinet to close off the possibility that a European consortium could take over Westland. Thatcher had cancelled a fourth meeting rather than face defeat again.

He said the Prime Minister had refused to allow discussion on the issue in Cabinet on December 13. 'I insisted that the Cabinet Secretary should record my protest in the Cabinet minutes,' he said. His protest was not recorded. Heseltine commented: 'Such an error and correction was unprecedented in my experience. The minutes, as finally issued, still did not record my protest and I have since informed the Secretary of the Cabinet that I am still not content with the way in which this discussion was recorded.'

He ridiculed the government's claim that it was acting even-handedly between Sikorsky and the European consortium. 'In practice, throughout, the attempt has been made to remove any obstacles to the offer by Sikorsky-Fiat, even to the extent of changing existing government policy'.

He said he understood that Trade Secretary Leon Brittan had told Sir Raymond Lygo, the chairman of British Aerospace, that his company's role in the European consortium was against the national interest and that British Aerospace should withdraw.

The Westland affair is the latest in a long line of similar disputes, most conducted behind the closely guarded doors of the corridors of power, as British capitalism was dragged complaining and protesting into the orbit of Wall Street.

1936 POPU MOSC



WHILE making every concession to bourgeois governments and parties to win their support, the Stalinist bureaucracy set about the physical liquidation of genuine revolutionaries — many through the so-called Moscow Trials held in the Hall of Columns (above). Trotskyists had been the first to call for a United Front to prevent the recurrence in other countries of the disastrous defeat in Germany in 1933. But they were swept aside as the powerful propaganda machine of the Stalinists apparatuses began to bellow for the Popular Front, deliberately confusing and misleading the leftward moving workers. This also necessitated physically sweeping them aside in the trials and internationally wherever the arm of the GPU could reach



FIRST OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES

FIFTY years ago, Stalinist treachery broke the back of a mass movement which could have changed the course of history.

It reached its height in the occupation of the factories in France in May-June and in the revolutionary response of the Spanish workers to Franco's coup in July.

It found its expression in other countries such as Britain, in the struggle against Mosley's fascist thugs, or in the United States in the great unionisation drive in the mass production industries.

The working class was fighting back against the threat of fascism, revealed by the historic defeat of the German movement in 1933, — and the march to war on the part of the capitalist countries which was an outcome of the World Economic Depression of the 1930s.

It was calling on its leaders to wage a united struggle in which its very existence as a class was at stake.

The reformists did their best to hold back the tide and steer it into safe, parliamentary channels, seeking to resolve the economic crisis by patching up the capitalist system.

They drew closer to their 'own' governments, calling for national unity and 'collective security' in preparation for the coming war.

Dropped

They could not have succeeded without the support of the Stalinists who, in 1935, abruptly dropped the 'third period' tactic of 'class against class' and became the strongest and most vocal advocates of a new type of class collaboration which became known as the Popular Front.

IN THIS 50th anniversary year, it is more than ever necessary to expose the fallacies of the Popular Front, to understand its source and to oppose those who still advocate it in one form or another.

While the United Front included only workers' parties, the Popular Front was extended to bourgeois parties on the basis of a programme of reforms consistent with capitalist property relations. Claimed by the Stalinists as a way to win the

middle classes away from fascism, in practice it gave new credibility to discredited politicians working in the interests of finance capital.

The Popular Front was sponsored by the Soviet bureaucracy as a way to meet the growing threat from Nazi Germany and was endorsed by the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International held in Moscow in August, 1935.

Abandoning revolution by the working class, it now sought to make pacts with capitalist states having similar interests in opposing Germany.

These were now divided into aggressive and 'peace-loving' states, notably Britain and France.

War

As Togliatti put it at the Congress (using the name of Ercoli):

'Alongside the capitalist states that are the instigators of war, there exist also bourgeois states that are interested in the preservation of peace. . .'

And he went on to say: 'We can draw into the front of the struggle for peace the masses of social-democratic toilers and wide masses of pacifists, Catholics, women, youth, national minorities that find themselves menaces, and their organisations. We can draw into the ranks of this front even those bourgeois governments which at the present moment are interested in the preservation of peace.'

Pursuing this line, the Soviet Union entered the League of Nations, described by Lenin as 'a thieves' kitchen' and made a pact with the right-wing French government of Laval in 1935.

THE MAIN concern of the French Communist Party from 1935 onwards was to support any government, no matter what its political complexion, as long as it upheld the pact with the Soviet Union.

The Stalinists became super-patriots overnight, and in the negotiations for the formation of the Popular Front, insisted that nothing in the agreed programme should give offence to the bourgeois politicians of the Radical Party.

The Soviet bureaucracy was now opposed to revolution in those capitalist coun-

LAR FRONT

OW TRIALS

1986

TICLES BY TOM KEMP

tries which were its actual or potential allies.

The foreign policy needs of Moscow thus imposed on the docile leaderships of the Communist Parties an internal policy of class collaboration and counter-revolution.

This was the key to the role which Maurice Thorez played in France in bringing to an end the mass strikes of May-June 1936. It explains the support of the Spanish Communist Party for the bourgeois republic and its opposition to organisations of dual power set up by the working class and peasantry at the time of the fascist coup of July 1936.

The bureaucracy had decreed that there was to be no revolution in those countries in order not to interfere with its aim of finding allies among the so-called 'peace-loving' imperialists.

The Communist Parties systematically pursued the aim of preparing the working class for a policy of national unity in preparation for the coming 'anti-fascist' war.

Meanwhile, to reassure his allies, Stalin had adopted a sham 'constitution', supposedly the 'most democratic in the world', while the GPU unleashed a massive purge of his real or imagined opponents beginning with the 'Old Bolsheviks'.

IT WAS NO accident that while making every concession to bourgeois governments and parties to win their support, the Stalinist bureaucracy set about the physical liquidation of genuine revolutionaries in the Soviet Union and wherever the arm of the GPU could reach.

Behind the drive towards a United Front, diverted and canalised by the Stalinists into the Popular Front, was a genuine mass movement. The small groups of Trotskyists were, in fact, the first to call for a United Front to prevent the recurrence in other countries of the disastrous defeat in Germany in 1933.

Bellow

They were swept aside as the powerful propaganda machine of the Stalinists apparatuses began to bellow for the Popular Front, deliberately confusing and misleading the leftward moving workers.

The revolutionary potential of this movement was

demonstrated in France, in Spain and in other countries in 1936-1937.

All the more reason for Stalin to set out to destroy any alternative pole of attraction, particularly the Trotskyist movement and Trotsky himself. He wanted to demonstrate to his new allies that he had broken with Bolshevism, that he had no revolutionary intentions.

He wanted to discredit the Trotskyists before the working class by claiming that they were agents of fascism, carrying out terrorist acts against the Soviet Union.

The Moscow frame-up trials of 1935-1938 were thus organically linked to the policy of the Popular Front. Hence, all over the western countries liberals and supporters of this policy convinced themselves that the trials were genuine, or tried to avert their gaze from what was going on when it was too distasteful for them.

Murder

They continued with the same attitude when the GPU murder squads pursued their activities in Spain, notably in the hunting down of Andreas Nin, Kurt Landau and other leaders of the non-Stalinist left.

Round about this time, too, preparations must have been put in hand for the assassination of Leon Trotsky with the infiltration of agents into the Trotskyist movement and the selection and training of those who were to carry it out in 1940.

THE 50TH anniversary of these events require careful study and in the course of 1986 Workers Press will carry articles on the Popular Front in France, the Revolution in Spain, the Moscow Trials and their repercussions in Britain, the United States and other countries.

In connection with these anniversaries, Trotsky's writings on France (especially 'Wither France?') and Spain (notably 'The Lessons of Spain: the Last Warning') are of special importance.

See also Felix Morrow's 'Revolution and Counter-revolution in Spain' and Tom Kemp's 'Stalinism in France'.

On the Moscow Trials, see Leon Sedov's 'The Red Book', Max Shachtman's 'Behind the Moscow Trial' and 'Moscow Trials Anthology'.



THE logic of the Popular Front in France was the Stalinists' role in ending the mass strikes of May-June 1936. The key role in this was played by Communist Party secretary Maurice Thorez, who was urged by Moscow to drop all principles to join a front with the Radical Party's Leon Blum. The same policy explains the support of the Spanish Communist Party for the bourgeois republic and its opposition to organisations of dual power set up by the working class and peasantry at the time of the fascist coup of July 1936



LETTERS to the Editor

Hypocrisy over Stalinism

IN THE December 4 edition of the bogus News Line, A. Mitchell makes great play of the fact that Cliff Slaughter shook the hand of Monty Johnstone. He thought that this, along with the fact that we were in the same room as a Stalinist, was very symbolic. He puts us with the 'Euros'.

'Johnstone was welcomed,' he says, 'because in practice the Banda-Slaughter clique have adopted the "new realism" of the Euro-Stalinists, which amounts to complete capitulation to Thatcher's Bonapartist state and support for the right-wing Kinnock-Hattersley leadership of the Labour Party.'

I was Healy's driver and security on many occasions, but one event

which sticks in my mind at the moment is the day we went to the 'Morning Star' rally at the Alexandra Pavilion, where Gordon McLennan had such a hard time trying to get heard.

Healy and I met Mitchell at the door (the front door, that is). He had some free tickets for us.

We strolled around the place before we sat down to listen to the speakers. When McLennan got up to speak scuffles broke out at the back and the bars began to do a roaring trade.

During this time a number of people walked by us and gave a little 'Hello Alex!' and some leaned across to give him a little inside information on the who's who of the Communist Party.

One of the people we were introduced to as we strolled around after the meeting was Mary Rosser. 'Hello, Mary!' said Mitchell, shaking her warmly by the hand. 'This is Gerry Healy, he's the leader of the Workers Revolutionary Party.'

'Hello, Alex,' says Mary. 'Hello, Gerry, what do you think of the rally?'

'Well,' says Healy, 'McLennan seems to be in a bit of trouble.'

Guest

'Yes,' she replied. 'Actually we were a bit concerned about his safety. After all he is a guest. We wouldn't want anything to happen to him while he was here.'

'What do you think of our coverage in the News Line,' says Healy. 'Well,' says Mary, 'the only complaint I've got is that Alex won't ask them to stop publishing that awful picture of me showing my double chin.'

'Don't be silly, you haven't got a double chin,' said the unhealthy Healy. This was too much for poor Ms Rosser, who suddenly saw somebody she

had urgently to speak to.

We strolled around for a while longer bumping into more of Mitchell's friends. Then Healy and I left, leaving Mitchell heading for the beer tent.

When the 'Tankies' (hard-line Stalinists) were being expelled at Hammersmith Town Hall, I drove Mitchell and Healy down there so that they could snoop on the proceedings. Again Mitchell was left there and I was

Yes. One who joined the WRP with a talent which I am sorry to say Healy abused.

Healy encouraged all that was rotten in the journalistic talent of Alex Mitchell. To say he is now two-faced would be to underestimate his capacity for cynicism. He has a different face for every 'punter'.

Mitchell's use of the rivers of blood quote from Trotsky was pure demag-



ROSSER

asked to pick him up later from the pub down the road from the town hall.

When I arrived there he was as comfortable as I have seen him drinking with anyone. When he left it was with a warm handshake from members of the expelled group and a 'Bye, Alex, see you later!' In the car on the way back he chided me for being hard on them.

Well, you might say, he's a journalist, isn't he.

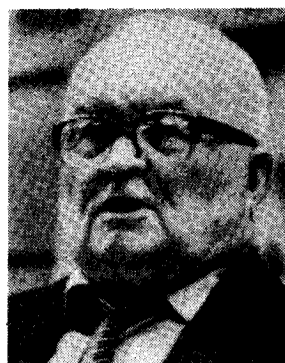


MCLENNAN

ogy. When it suits Healy, nobody will have better relations with the Stalinists, Tankies or Euros, than Mitchell.

As for us what determines our behaviour to both the Stalinists and the rump is not just the reactionary nature of these organisations, but also that they are still part of the labour movement.

I think that we will never be able to educate our membership as to their



HEALY

role if, we like the rump, refuse to listen to or answer political opposition.

The miseducation of the membership of the party over the years has had a great deal to do with the fact that anyone who raised political or philosophical opposition was very soon found to be a cop and all discussion ceased.

In private Healy has already got nods of agreement from Mitchell and the Redgraves about us all being agents of the KGB, FBI, CIA, MI5, Special Branch, SAS, Mossad, etc. The fact is that Healy wouldn't recognise a cop if he was arrested by one.

Women

When Torrance was still using Healy's abuse of young women comrades in order to blackmail him into stopping the campaign against her, he tried to get a 'Torrance is a cop' campaign off the ground.

He had the most revolting habit of stuffing food into his mouth until he could get no more in and then spitting it all over you as he spoke.

On this particular occasion he was talking to Torrance about the organisation of a demonstration. This conversation took place in the editorial department. I found out later that she told him she would liaise with the



MITCHELL

police who were marshalling the demo.

As he left the editorial department he gagged on a mouthful of orange segments and vomited mixed fruit all over the yard. The first I heard of this was when he came through to me ashen faced and asked me to sweep it up for him.

'What's wrong Gerry,' I said to him. (I was genuinely concerned for his well-being at that time.)

'Torrance just told me that she had friends in Scotland Yard,' he said. 'She's working with the police. She told me and it made me sick.'

Shortly after this, Healy and Torrance buried the hatchet at the expense of the girls and Torrance's relations with the police were forgotten.

One other small point I could not help but mention. Throughout the faction struggle and the split to date, the leading members of the rump have said that Healy is a great theoretician. And yet not one of them in all their writing could bring themselves to quote a word from the writings of this quack.

The Redgraves' footwork when asked to explain Healy's attempts to stand Hegel back on his head was the most entertaining performance I have seen since Singing in the Rain. Eat your heart out Gene Kelly.

Phil Penn, south London

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Intellectuals isolated b

IN A recent issue of the bogus News Line, twice-weekly paper of the Healy-Mitchell renegade group, Richard Price returned to the theme of the appearance of the Stalinist Monty Johnstone in the audience of the Workers Revolutionary Party's public meeting on November 28 last year.

Capital

I do not here propose to take up all the points in Price's letter. But I would like the opportunity to comment on one of its points: his allegation that I was 'instructed by the Workers Revolutionary Party Political Committee earlier this year not to participate in a series of Popular Front-type gatherings to "discuss" Marx's Capital with Euro-Stalinists such as Kinnock's "adviser" Eric Hobsbawm, along with every shade of revisionism'.

First the facts. In the early summer I received an invitation from a group of members of the Conference of Socialist Economists to speak at one of the regular Friday night sessions which they were holding on various aspects of Marx's Capital.

(I learned recently that this invitation had come as a result of requests from some of those attending who had read certain things I had written on Marx's political economy in 'Labour Review' and elsewhere.)

I accepted this invitation, believing that this could only be of benefit to the Party.

When Gerry Healy found out about the invitation, he immediately telephoned me and asked me not to appear as this would be a great blow to the Party and a source of comfort to its revisionist enemies.

Without any hesitation and certainly without any 'instruction', as have so many comrades in the past I accepted his plea and wrote to the organiser of the meetings resending my offer to speak to them. (I should add that I wrote in terms of which I am now ashamed.)

To my face, Healy expressed his warm support for my action. I now know that behind my back, at sessions of the Political Committee, he was assuring everybody that I was about to join the Stalinists.

State

To another individual party member, he said that this invitation established what he had long suspected: that ever since joining the movement I had been working for the state.

Several important

things are revealed in an incident of this kind. First is Healy's staggering hypocrisy. Healy has himself regularly attended gatherings of this sort.

He has been a frequent visitor to sessions of the Communist Party philosophy group and encouraged others, including Cyril Smith, to attend. In 1984 for instance, he attended a day school with me organised by the journal 'Radical Philosophy' which discussed aspects of the Marxist theory of knowledge.

But even more significant than Healy's hypocrisy is the attitude which he and those around him latterly took to the rhetorical questions and the fight against revisionism.

In the light of the crisis which engulfed the WRP last year, it is now possible to see that in the recent past especially Healy actively opposed any

real theoretical struggle against revisionism.

Instead of a serious effort to grasp the changing forms of revisionism and the concrete manner in which such revisionism met the objective needs of the capitalist class in this epoch, there was a combination of verbal abuse, outright slander and frame-up.

Policemen

Increasingly, revisionists were identified with policemen — a means of avoiding any confrontation with their politics.

(Not that this prevented Healy from forming the most opportunist alliances with these same revisionists when the occasion demanded.)

By a combination of coercion and blandishment the intellectuals in the Party were increasingly walled off from the possibility of a

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LETTERS

Learn lessons of past from rump paper

NO DOUBT one of the most instructive practices of comrades seeking to deepen their understanding of the break with the Healy rump is to read their bogus News Line.

Difficult though it sometimes is, it should not be done as a form of penance, as some comrades have suggested. For it is through reading this paper that we are able to grasp certain elements of our own history. It serves as a reference point enabling us to see how far we have travelled on the road back to constructing the revolutionary party in this country.

In its articles, the bogus News Line represents essentially the method of the Healyite bureaucracy which came to dominate the party in the last period.

A full analysis and appreciation of this method is necessary for all comrades. It is one of the primary tasks that we must undertake.

number who have returned to play an active role in the regeneration of the party following the defeat of the Healy bureaucracy.

We then find that the real target is an article by comrade Geoff Pilling in the December 6 issue of News Line (now Workers Press). Price begins, as is the Healy method, with some snide comments about comrade Pilling's party work. Suffice it to say that the comrade in question was a leading

Price's real line of attack is the fact that comrade Pilling advocates the fullest political discussion with Stalinism and social democracy, and rejects the cuddling up of the rump to the Labour bureaucracy, which is the way that Healy preferred.

What we recognise, which the rump seems unable to, is that 'the Stalinists are a legitimate part of the workers' movement'.

No. Not comrade Pilling but comrade Trotsky!



The WRP meeting in Friends Meeting House attended by Monty Johnstone

Trotsky goes on: 'That it is abused by its leaders for specific GPU ends is one thing, for Kremlin ends another. It is not at all different from other opposition labour bureaucracies. The powerful interests of Moscow influence the Third International, but it is not different in principle.'

'Of course the terror of the GPU control differently; we fight with all means, even bourgeois police. But the political

current of Stalinism is a current in the workers' movement. If it differs it differs advantageously... We must consider them objectively.'

Price counterposes, in his article, in a non-Marxist way, the reactionary political practice of the Stalinist Johnstone with the stand taken by Lambeth councillor Bill Bowring.

His logic must lead us to the conclusion that Stalinism is counter-revolutionary whereas social-

the working class.

In 1940 Trotsky argued that the Socialist Workers Party in the United States critically support the Stalinist presidential candidate of the time. Trotsky warned that to pursue such a policy 'would suffer the indignation of Burnham. Schactman would say: "See, I predicted it — capitulation to Stalinism." There would be considerable aversion in our own ranks. But the question is the Stalinist workers. The working

their party and fight it out?

The position of full and open discussion in the working class has always been central to the Trotskyist movement.

In 1959, on the launch of the Socialist Labour League, we wrote in 'Labour Review': 'Henceforward Labour Review will appear as the theoretical organ of the Socialist Labour League. This implies no change whatever in our policy of admitting non-Marxist and even anti-Marxist contributors to our columns, in the belief that the clash of ideas is the best way to educate people, the best way to demonstrate the validity of Marxism and the falsity of the ideas which in one way or another are engendered by obsolete social relations.'

Conspiracy

But Price's article serves another purpose for the rump. It is essential for them to 'firm up' their few remaining supporters. Not with a full publication of documents or analysis of the split or even with an explanation of Healy's activities.

Their 'analysis' we know beforehand: the deepening of the world economic and political crisis, under the pressure of imperialism, expresses itself within the revolutionary party in a right-wing conspiracy against the party, the source being the imminent revolution itself.

This can explain anything or nothing, whatever you choose. For the Healyites this 'analysis'

is necessary to suppress any political discussion or differences. The WRP must be characterised as counter-revolutionary, this necessarily springs not from objective reality, but from the subjective requirements of the rump.

We do not proceed in this way. We start from an objective Marxist viewpoint, from the class struggle as it really is.

For the rump, anything goes; thus in their New Year statement of December 28, 1985, we find demagogically as usual, 'we salute... the Republican movement in Ireland fighting to rid their country of the imperialist jackboot.'

Raids

Then, in the following issue, in January 4, 1986, not a peep on the struggle in Ireland, the raids on Sinn Fein with the detention of 17 of its councillors, the hunger strike, the introduction of more troops. None of these developments are worth a mention.

The rebirth of the Trotskyist movement both in Britain and internationally that began with the exposure of Healy's corrupt practices and his expulsion will now continue apace.

The history of our movement will be re-examined. How else could it be, in the light of what we now know.

Comrades, for the first time in many years, we are now consciously grappling with the main task for Marxists, the building of the revolutionary party. We reject completely the opportunism and sectarianism that characterises the rump that for so long played a large part in our movement.

Andrew Burgin
Camden WRP

Expelled

An excellent example of this method is to be found in the December 28 issue of their paper. It is a full-page article by Richard Price, a former Central Committee member, who was expelled along with Torrance, Mitchell and the rest.

Entitled 'A Stalinist hack finds friends in the rump', this article purports to prove that the appearance of the Stalinist Monty Johnstone at the party's public meeting on November 26, 1985, at Friends' House is the surest sign of our capitulation to Stalinism and that we are now a counter-revolutionary force.

Price begins with a lengthy and laborious attack on comrade Cyril Smith for no apparent reason, except perhaps that the comrade is one of the large and increasing



MONTY JOHNSTONE

member of our movement when Richard Price was still playing on the beach at Weymouth.

However, this way of proceeding is the hallmark of the Healy clique. The attempt to discuss serious political differences can only begin and end with 'how many papers have you sold?'

The suppression of political discussion through bureaucratic means and the drive into frantic activity.

Going on we find that

by the Healy method

real confrontation with the various opponents of Marxism in the academic world.

Yet the struggle against revisionism is not merely vital but is indispensable in the development of the Party, for revisionism is the theoretical expression, indeed the highest expression, of the real problems facing the working class which the revolutionary party must consciously overcome in its work. Without this theoretical struggle there can be no revolutionary party.

An aspect of this isolation of those comrades working in the academic field was the destruction of the student movement which took place in the 1970s.

In the 1960s, the Socialist Labour League (the predecessor of the Workers Revolutionary Party) built up a considerable student movement in the

universities. Marxist societies were established in several colleges and a student journal, 'The Marxist', was established.

In Leeds University alone a Marxist Society of some 40 members was built up and of that some 50 per cent joined the movement.

Student

The comrades we recruited were encouraged to take an active part in all the theoretical controversies then taking place in student and intellectual circles.

There is no doubt that what the comrades did was to take an active part in all the theoretical controversies then taking place in student and intellectual circles.

For instance, it was from amongst our work in Oxford that the first turn to the car workers in the Cowley plant was made.

Even more important, it was on the basis of the student movement that the youth movement was greatly strengthened, with several recruits from the student movement playing a prominent part on the national committee of the YS in the course of the struggle against the right wing inside the Labour Party youth movement.

These gains were later to be lost with the liquidation of our work amongst students. Marxist societies were replaced with Young Socialist Student Societies, in which the emphasis on the need to discuss questions of Marxist theory was lost in favour of the immediate campaigns in which the Young Socialists were involved.

The truth is that we have not had a flourishing student movement for well over a decade and we

have recruited a pitifully small number of students into the ranks of the party. The party's youth movement as a whole has undoubtedly suffered from this loss of a student movement.

Re-arm

Price's ignorant letter serves again to remind us not only that the rump of which he is part is based on the worst aspects of Healy's practices, but also indicates some of the tasks which confront the WRP as it faces up to its own history and the need to re-arm itself politically and theoretically.

Geoff Pilling

PS: I have now written to the Conference of Socialist Economists and expressed my willingness to speak to them later this year. I am pleased to say they have accepted my offer.

RELEASE THE JAILED MINERS

NORTHUMBERLAND

WILLIAM SMITH: Whittle — 2½-year sentence from February 1985. E44975, Durham Jail, Old Elvet, Durham DH13HU.

DURHAM

JOHN MATTERSON: Murton — Two years and three months youth custody from December 1985.

JOHN HEMINGWAY: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

JOHN ROBSON: Murton — One year and three months from December 1985.

ROBERT HOWE, 22, miner, affray, attempted not guilty (judge refused to allow change of plea), 21 months

ANTHONY RUTHERFORD, 24, miner, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months

JOHN ROBINSON, 21, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months jail

GARY BLACKMORE, 19, charge affray, attempted not guilty, 2 years youth custody

YORKSHIRE

ANTHONY HOWE, 19, affray, attempted not guilty, two years youth custody

WILLIAM BELL, 20, affray, attempted not guilty, 18 months youth custody

WAKEFIELD

MARTIN HODGSON: Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

NIGEL HODGSON: Wakefield — Three-year sentence from November 1985. Armley Jail, Leeds.

PAUL WRIGHT: Saville — 18-month sentence. G76424 Kirkham Jail, Freckleton road, Preston Lancs.

CLIVE THOMPSON: Frickley — Three-year sentence from April 1985. G79348, Acklington Jail, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9XF.

Not miners but sentenced in connection with the miners strike:
DAVID TEASDALE: Student — Nine-month sentence from April 1985. HMYCC, York Road, Wetherby, West Yorks LS22 5ED.

N. DERBYSHIRE

PAUL BROTHWELL: 12-month sentence.

DAVID GAUNT: Shirebrook — 2½-year sentence from December 1984. E71037, A Wing, Millers Park Youth Custody Centre, Dodington Road, Wellingborough.

KENT

TERRY FRENCH: Betteshanger — Four-year sentence from January 1985. B73383, Weald Wing, Maidstone jail, Kent

CHRIS TAZEY: Betteshanger — Three-year sentence from January 1985. A29398 Youth Detention Centre, Springfield Road, Chelmsford

SOUTH WALES

DEAN HANCOCK: Oakdale — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, nr Market Harborough, Leicesters.

RUSSELL SHANKLAND: Taff Merthyr — Eight-year sentence. Gartree maximum security prison, Leicesters.

Capitalism and the Comet

COMETS have traditionally been harbingers of disaster. However, the appearance of Halley's comet has been the signal for a number of entrepreneurs to turn a tidy profit.

The marketing experts have termed this once-in-a-lifetime chance to make a buck 'Halley fever'; and millions have been and still will be made selling everything from sophisticated telescopes to tee-shirts, spotters' books and commemorative medallions.

Even a drink called Comet Cola is hurtling off the production lines.

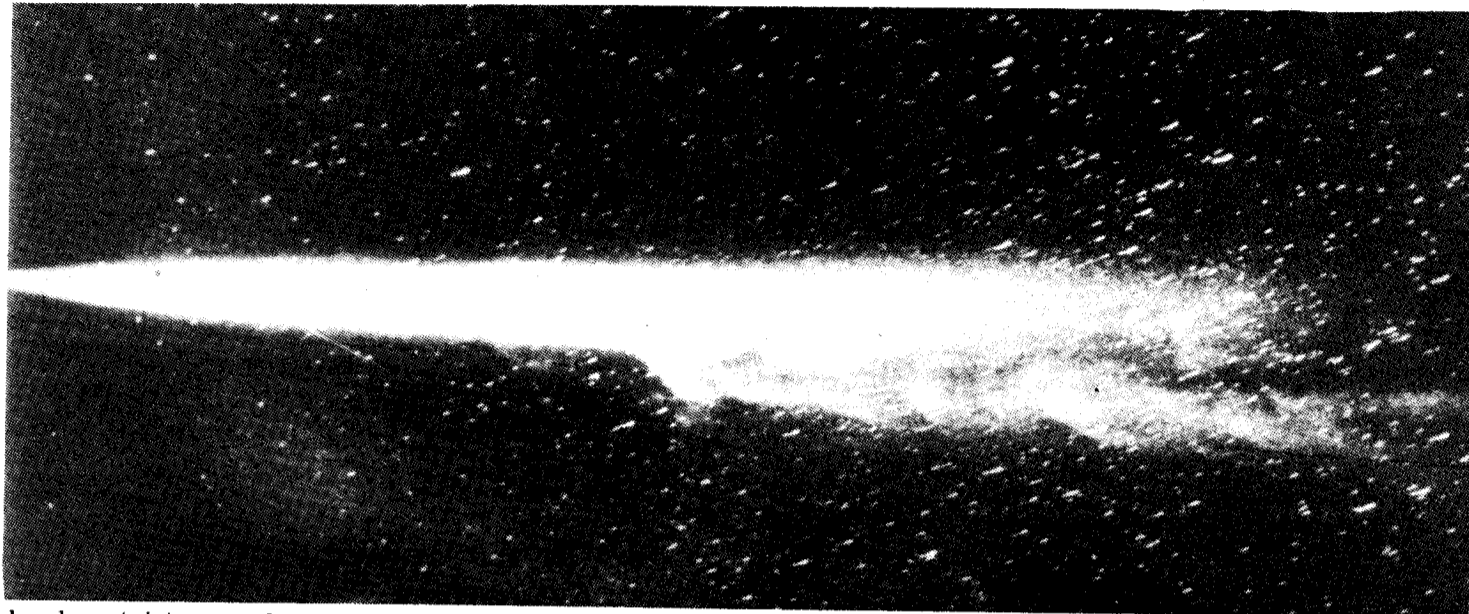
The last time the comet appeared, in 1910, enterprising Swiss hoteliers staged comet-watching dances high in the Alps and organised balloon rides for the more daring, accompanied by astronomer-lecturers.

In New York a con-man sold gas-masks to people who believed that they might be asphyxiated by the deadly fumes of the comet's tail as it swept by the earth.

The comet does, in fact, have an 'atmosphere' containing cyanide.

In Paris 'comet pills' and 'comet gowns' were sold to gullible housewives to ward off the evil effects of the dirty snowball in the sky.

Although the comet has all but vanished from the British skies, it is now too near the horizon to be seen easily and by February 9 it will be behind the sun, the Comet Show has



barely got into second gear.

The major events will be after the comet reappears from behind the sun in March April and to see it then you would need to journey to the southern hemisphere.

If you have about £2,500 you could join an eight-day astronomical safari to Botswana and Rwanda in Africa, while for a mere \$6,000 you could have a berth on a luxury cruise from Florida and

get your sighting of the comet from the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico and the Amazon forests of Brazil.

But if you are really keen, the place for you is a tent city in the central desert of Australia. The promoters of this particular venture are confidently expecting several thousand Japanese tourists and amateur astronomers for their second-to-none view of the fly-

On a more mundane level, sales of binoculars and telescopes have soared.

Tasco, a US telescope manufacturing company, is claiming the best sales in its history and suppliers in Asia have had trouble in meeting the demand although factories are going flat out. The only previous telescope shortage was ten years ago and was caused by the arrival of comet

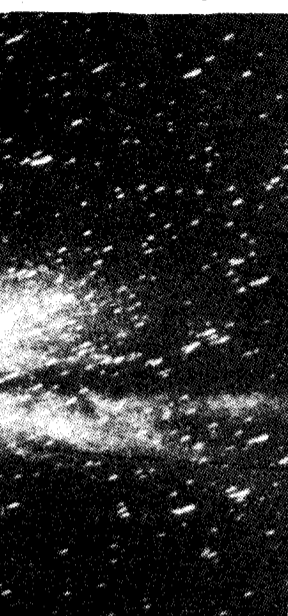
Kahouftek.

However, the prize for bare-faced cheek in the comet stakes must go to US businessman Owen Ryan.

Taking a leaf out of the book of the Los Angeles Olympic Games, which did a booming sale in 'official' souvenirs, Ryan has styled himself 'the Official Representative of Halley's Comet'.

His New York-based General Comet Industries

COMET BUSINESS
... The appearance of Halley's comet has created a whole new series of industries geared to cash in on this unique event — from T-shirts, to cola, to medallions and even a comet cereal — with a free plastic comet in each packet, presumably



have, according to Reuters, cornered the Halley comet trademark for various products and markets with his 'official' comet logo.

Not only the familiar tee-shirts, jewellery and medallions will be produced but plans have been advanced for 'Comet Cereal', 'Comet Creeper shoes', 'Comet Dolls' and plastic helmets to protect people's heads from comet debris.

For those of you who

Science today

Aids to Lassa cure

RIBAVIRIN, a virus-killing drug which is being tested as a possible remedy for Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) has been found to be an effective cure for Lassa fever.

The Lassa fever virus, which was first isolated in Northern Nigeria in 1969, is carried by rats and has a fatality rate of up to 20 per cent.

Tests carried out in Sierra Leone resulted in the recovery of several dangerously ill patients. The team of researchers from the US Centre for Disease Control recommend that the drug be used as a preventive measure where peogerously ill patients. The team of researchers from the US Centre for Disease Control recommend that the drug be used as a preventive measure where people have been exposed to the virus.

have seen the pale smudge, whether through shakey binoculars or above the clouds on a moonless December night care of British Airways, you might well wonder what all the fuss is about.

The best is yet to come, though, when the results of the close encounters are beamed back. Then, hopefully, despite the hype, it will have all been worth waiting for.

Evolution in!

AT A recent symposium organised by the American Anthropology Association evidence was presented showing that the long-running attempt by reactionary evangelical bible-thumpers to banish evolution from the US state school system may be running out of steam.

The creationist lobby has attempted over the past few years to get legislation passed through various states which would make mandatory the teaching of the biblical creation myth on an equal footing with evolution in schools.

Their lack of success for equal time for biblical nonsense can be partly attributed to campaigns waged by the American Civil Liberties Union and ad hoc bodies of pro-evolution academics and teachers such as the 'Committees of Correspondence'.

The Committees of Correspondence, in particular, have been active at a grass-roots level demolishing the creationists in public debate.

With their lack of success in the legislative arena, the creationists have concentrated their efforts on making sure that evolution is banned from school science textbooks.

The situation in the United States with regard to textbook selection needs some explanation.

Every few years the State Board of Education renews the books of a particular group of subjects.

The books chosen then become the set books for all the schools in that state. Thus there is intense competition among book publishers to have their books chosen by the larger states such as Texas and California — millions of dollars are involved.

The selection procedure often takes over a year and the Boards of Education have become the battleground for intense lobbying by religious pressure groups pushing biblical literalism and anti-evolutionism.

These pressure groups often submit blacklists of books which cover evolution and demand changes so that any coverage of evolution is effectively deleted.

As a result, many textbook publishers are afraid to cover evolution in case they lose a big order from a state where the creationists have influence.

In such cases, biology

books are produced which do not even index 'evolution' or 'Charles Darwin'.

One text-book adopted by Texas uses the phrase 'Change over the years' as a euphemism for a 15-page discussion of evolution and the only discussion of human evolution is a reference to the Pilt-down hoax.

Another produced the following pearl of wisdom 'Humans are indeed unique, but because they are organisms, many scientists believe that humans have an evolutionary history'.

However, a backlash is developing against the creationist attempts to tamper with science education.

The California State Board of Education has recently rejected 30 text-book submissions to cover biology including the above mentioned book adopted by Texas — the key reason being inadequate treatment of evolution.

The publishers of seven of the rejected books were invited to resubmit revised texts. Bill Hoggins, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, had the following comment to make: 'We must send a message to the publishing industry that we cannot tiptoe around certain subjects just because they are controversial.'



DAVE WETZEL

Bibby's occupied

OVER 100 GMBATU workers at Bibbys Edible Oils in Liverpool occupied their factory on Wednesday. The occupation was to register their discontent over management's redundancy plans.

GMBATU convenor Bobby Caxton said: 'The workforce received letters in the post explaining they would be laid off.'

'Management have selected who they deem those most suitably skilled for work at the new plant they are opening, which will mean the end of this factory.'

'There are presently 540 here, but the new plant requires only 170 workers and 30 staff.'

'The majority of the workforce were taken on as general workers. It is the managers' definition of who is skilled and who isn't.'

'New positions were offered in the new plant to some workers. Their pay will be cut from what it is now and there's changed conditions as well.'

Bus fares rise protest staged

A MAJOR campaign against Sunday's fares rises on British Rail and London's public transport was launched on Friday.

Dave Wetzel, GLC transport committee chair, and Jon Lansman, co-ordinator of the Capital Transport Campaign on Friday unveiled a new 48-sheet billboard poster which is going up on over 150 sites throughout London.

Capital Transport Campaign has organised a major press advertising campaign to draw public attention to the possible effects of fares increases.

Capital has advised its supporters in local transport action groups around London to write to their borough councillors and MPs calling for an end to fares rises and service cuts.

Average

The average fare increase of 6.5 per cent on London's buses and tubes, and 7.5 per cent on British Rail are above the rates of inflation.

But they also conceal rises of up to 30 per cent for some specific fares:

● THE child's morning peak fare (before 9.30) is to be increased from 15p to 20p — a rise of 30 per cent in one year and a rise of 100 per cent in a little over a year when the fare was 10p, hitting school-children.

● THE elimination of the 25p 'short-hop' fare outside the central area (the fare goes up to 30p) represents a 20-per-cent increase in one year and an increase of 50 per cent in little over a year when the 'short-hop' fare was only 20p.

● THE central area zone fare is going up from 40p to 50p — an increase of 25 per cent in one year and an increase of 66 per cent in a little over a year.

Lansman said: 'The government's New Year message to London's public transport users is loud and clear: Pay up or shove off.'

'This fares increase is totally unjustified. Londoners are now paying more as ratepayers and as passengers for a rapidly declining bus service, and an Underground system which has not been meeting increased demand, leading to severe overcrowding during the rush hour.'

'On top of this, British

Rail are slashing their services in May 1986 with more cuts to come in September.

'Nicholas Ridley is the only Secretary of State for Transport in living memory whose public transport policy is to drive passengers away. He should resign or be sacked immediately to get him off the backs of London's public transport users.'

Increasing

'Mr Ridley's reduction in the transport costs to ratepayers (the transport precept) of 1p in the pound must be seen in the context of him increasing the same bill last year by 35 per cent and the fares every year since he took control of LRT from the GLC in 1984.'

'This 1p rate cut is a gimmick to try and get him off the hook with passengers who are sick to the teeth with rising fares cuts in services.'

YOUR TV GUIDE



The Two Ronnies with guest Joanna Lumley on Saturday, BBC1 at 8.10pm



Albert Finney as counsel Sidney Kentridge investigating the death of black South African Stephen Biko on Sunday, Channel 4, 8.30pm

SATURDAY'S GUIDE

BBC1

8.30 Will o' the Wisp. 8.35 Hunter's Gold. 9.00 Saturday Superstore.
12.15 GRANDSTAND: Introduced by Desmond Lynam (including 12.50 News Summary; Weather News); 12.20 Football Focus; Racing from Ascot (12.55, 1.30, 2.05); Racing from Leopardstown (3.00); Boxing; (1.10 1.45); 2.15 Rugby League; 3.00 Sports Round-up; 3.10 Rugby League; 3.50 Half Times; 3.55 Boxing; Ski-ing; 4.40 Final Score
5.05 NEWS Weather News
5.15 SPORT (Regional variations)
5.20 JIM'LL FIX IT With Jimmy Savile
5.55 THE NOEL EDMONDS LATE BREAKFAST SHOW With Mike Smith
6.45 LES AND DUSTIN'S LAUGHTER SHOW With guests Roy Walker and Five Star
7.20 STRIKE IT RICH
8.10 THE TWO RONNIES With guests Phil Collins and Joanna Lumley
9.00 NEWS AND SPORT Weather News
9.15 FILM: How To Beat The High Cost Of Living (1980) Susan Saint James, Jessica Lange and Jane Curtin decide that crime is the only answer when the housekeeping runs out
11.10 FILM: THE HORROR MOVIE Captain Kronos - Vampire Hunter (1974) Young girls suddenly start dying of old age in this horror film with Horst Janson and John Cater
12.30 Weather; Closedown

BBC2

9.00 Pages from Ceefax. 10.10 Open University. 1.30 Pages from Ceefax.
1.55 DANGEROUS MISSION (1954) Murder mystery about a salesgirl who witnesses a nightclub killing with Piper Laurie, Victor Mature and Vincent Price
3.10 HORIZON Are You A Racist? 8 individuals who hold racist views or who feel they have been the victims of racism spend a week living together
4.00 THE ROYAL INSTITUTION CHRISTMAS LECTURES
5.00 WORLD DARTS First semi final
6.10 THE SKY AT NIGHT with Patrick Moore
6.30 DEUTSCH DIREKT
6.55 FRICKLEY - THE CHANGES Barry's Story Miner Barry Gill started 1985 on the picket line, but later his routine changed to housework and looking after his 4-year-old son
7.30 NEWSVIEW
8.10 FILM: The New Babylon (1929) Russian silent film depicting the heroism and tragedy of the 1871 Paris Commune
10.00 SATURDAY REVIEW The arts magazine introduced by Russell Davies
11.00 FILM INTERNATIONAL The Bodyguard (1980) A young mountain trapper, is given the task of escorting Sultan Nazar a rebel leader over rugged mountain passes to a Red Army stronghold

CHANNEL 4

1.05 SECOND TO NONE Life and work of several disabled artists including dancer Nini Salaise and singer Robert Wyatt
2.00 FILM: Captain Boycott (1947) A historical drama set in County Mayo about Irish farmers in the 1880's. With Cecil Parker, Stewart Granger and Kathleen Ryan
3.45 SEVEN SINNERS (1936) A murder mystery as a wisecracking American detective who investigates a train crash in Europe. With Constance Cummings
5.05 BROOKSIDE OMNIBUS
6.00 FAMILY TIES I Gotta Be Ming
6.30 NEWS SUMMARY Weather; followed by
WORLD TENNIS DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS
7.30 ASSEMBLED IN BRITAIN A documentary about whose ideas, technology and culture lie behind the products made in Britain
8.30 OVERDRAWN AT THE MONEY BANK A science fiction video drama set in a regimented future dominated by a number of all-powerful corporations. With Raul Julia
10.00 HILL STREET BLUES The Spy who Came In From Delgado With Daniel J Travanti as Captain Furillo
11.00 FILM: Dracula (1931) Bela Lugosi as the Vampire Count
12.25 FILM: Nosferatu (1922) A German silent horror movie
1.30 Close

LWT

9.25 No 73 Hold This. 11.00 Terrahawks. 11.30 Mr Smith. 12.00 News from ITN. 12.05 Saint & Greavsie.
12.30 WRESTLING from the Northgate Arena, Chester
1.20 AIRWOLF Santini's Millions With Jan-Michael Vincent and Ernest Borgnine
2.15 BENSON The Honeymooners with Robert Gillaume as Benson
2.45 SNOOKER Mercantile Credit Classic Final from the Spectrum Arena, Warrington, introduced by Dickie Davies
4.45 RESULTS SERVICE
5.00 ITN NEWS
5.05 BLOCKBUSTERS
5.35 THE A-TEAM
6.30 COPY CATS
7.00 BLIND DATE A lighthearted look at what happens on a blind date. With Cilla Black
7.45 PEOPLE DO THE FUNNIEST THINGS
8.30 HUNTER Pen Pals
9.30 ITN NEWS; followed by sport
9.45 ASPEL AND COMPANY
10.30 SNOOKER
12.15 LWT NEWS HEADLINES followed by:
ELVIS MEMORIES A documentary film which looks at Elvis's life
1.20 NIGHT THOUGHTS; followed by Closedown

GRANADA

9.25 NO. 73 Hold This. 11.05 The Greatest American Hero. 12.00 ITN News. 12.05 Saint & Greavsie.
12.30 WRESTLING
1.20 AIRWOLF Santini's Millions
2.15 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE
2.45 SNOOKER Mercantile Credit Classic Final from the Spectrum Arena, Warrington
4.45 RESULTS SERVICE
5.00 ITN NEWS
5.05 BLOCKBUSTERS
5.35 THE A-TEAM
6.30 COPY CATS With Bobby Davro, Gary Wilmot, Allan Stewart and Johnny More
7.00 BLIND DATE Cilla Black with a lighthearted look at what happens on a blind date
7.45 PEOPLE DO THE FUNNIEST THINGS Jeremy Beadle looks at some of television's funniest moments
8.30 HUNTER Pen Pals Return of the American detective series. With Rick Hunter and Dee Dee McCall
9.30 ITN NEWS AND SPORT
9.45 ASPEL AND COMPANY
10.30 SNOOKER Mercantile Credit Classic Final
12.15 WALK A CROOKED PATH The wives of three masters at a select boarding school for boys, are not slow in spreading scandal. With Faith Brook and Tenniel Evans
1.40 Closedown

SUNDAY'S GUIDE

BBC1

8.55 Play School. 9.15 Articles of Faith. 9.30 This is the Day. 10.00 Asian Magazine. 10.30 The Interview Game. 10.55 Deutsch Direkt. 11.20 Tele-Journal. 11.45 Blizzard's Wizard Woodwork. 12.10 See Hear! 12.35 Farming. 12.58 Weather News for Farmers. 1.00 News Headlines. 1.05 Bonanza. 1.50 Cartoon. 2.00 Eastenders. 3.00 Film Matinee *They Were Expendable* (1945) With John Wayne and Robert Montgomery.
5.10 ALICE IN WONDERLAND
5.40 THE LIVING ISLES
6.20 YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT
6.30 NEWS weather
6.40 SONGS OF PRAISE
7.15 HI-DE-HI What appears to be Mr Partridge's dead body is sighted in the swimming pool. With Paul Shane, Ruth Madoc and Jeffrey Holland
7.45 BLUEBELL Carolyn Pickles plays Dublin-born orphan Margaret Kelly who became the founder of the Bluebell dancers
8.35 MASTERMIND New Series
9.10 NEWS; Weather News
9.25 DRUGWATCH with Esther Rantzen
10.15 EVERYMAN
10.55 YOU CAN'T SEE THE WOOD David Bellamy's series about trees
11.20 WORLD DARTS
12.20-12.25 Weather; Close

BBC2

9.00 Pages from Ceefax. 10.10 Open University. 11.25 Pages from Ceefax. 12.10 Windmill. 1.10 States of Mind. 2.00 Rugby Special: Highlights. 2.30 Korda Classics *The Epic That Never Was* Dick Bogarde narrates this documentary about Alexander Korda.
3.40 MUSIC BY HAYDEN
4.05 THINKING ALOUD
4.45 WORLD DARTS
6.35 SKI SUNDAY World Cup ski-ing from the Bavarian Alps introduced by Ron Pickering
7.15 THE NATURAL WORLD The Forgotten Garden Tonights film about how an Oxfordshire garden now abandoned is repossessed by nature written and narrated by Barry Paine
8.05 COMRADES Sumgait Strikers Tonights programme looks at the football team from Lenin Pipe Rolling Mill in Sumgait an industrial town on the Caspian Sea as they struggle to wrest the local championship from their rivals at the Synthetic Rubber Factory
8.45 THE MONEY PROGRAMME
9.35 ARCHITECTURE AT THE CROSSROADS New Series
10.15 FILM: The McGuffin Charles Dance and Francis Matthews in the story of a film critic who witnesses a wealthy widow being menaced by a tall blond with a boisterous bull terrier and ends up in a real life Hitchcockian scenario
11.50 Close

CHANNEL 4

1.05 IRISH ANGLE Hands
1.30 FACE THE PRESS
2.00 TENNIS: THE WCT WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS Introduced by Simon Reed, David Lloyd and Frew McMillan
6.00 AMERICAN FOOTBALL Tonight, the second pair of Divisional play-offs - the second set of quarter-finals for the Super Bowl with Nicky Horne and John Smith
7.15 ALAN BUSH - A LIFE A television portrait in words and music of the composer, pianist and staunch Marxist, Alan Bush, who has just celebrated his 85th birthday
8.30 THE BIKO INQUEST Repeat of the television adaptation of the theatre production based on transcripts of the inquest into the death of the black South African, rights fighter Stephen Biko. With Albert Finney Mark Dignam and John Standing
10.25 FILM: The Man Who Changed His Mind (1936) A spine-chiller film about a mad misguided scientist who creates a strange apparatus by which he can transfer the mind of one person into the body of another. with Boris Karloff, Frank Cellier and Anna Lee
11.40 SNOOKER The Mercantile Credit Classic from Warrington with highlights of the best of the 25 frame final, introduced by Dickie Davies
12.45 Close

LWT

9.25 Wake up London. 9.35 Woody and Friends. 9.45 Snooper and Blapper. 10.00 Morning Worship. 11.00 Getting On. 11.30 A Heritage from Stone. 12.00 Weekend World. 1.00 Police 5. 1.15 The Smurfs. 1.30 Joanie loves Chachi. 2.00 LWT News Headlines; followed by The Human Factor.
2.30 SNOOKER The Mercantile Credit Classic Final from the Spectrum Arena Warrington. Introduced by Dickie Davies
6.00 ALBION MARKET
6.30 NEWS FROM ITN
6.40 HIGHWAY From Peterborough
7.15 CATCHPHRASE Start of a new game show introduced by Roy Walker
7.45 FILM: When Time Ran Out (1980) Adventure movie set in the South Pacific.
9.45 NEWS FROM ITN
10.00 SPITTING IMAGE The return of the ugly puppets, portraying famous people
10.30 THE SOUTH BANK SHOW John Cleese in conversation with Melvyn Bragg about his work with the Monty Python team and the creation and character of Basil Fawlty
11.30 LWT NEWS HEADLINES followed by
THE SEARCH FOR WEALTH
11.55 THE NEW SQUADRONAIRES
12.20 Night Thoughts; Closedown

GRANADA

9.25 Max the 2000 Year Old Mouse. 9.35 British Achievement. 10.00 Morning Worship. 11.00 A Heritage from Stone. 11.25 Aap Kaa Hak. 11.30 Survival. 12.00 Weekend World. 1.00 Terrahawks. 1.30 Wish you were here 2.00 Human Factor.
2.30 SNOOKER Mercantile Credit Classic Final, from the Spectrum Arena, Warrington
6.00 ALBION MARKET
6.30 NEWS
6.40 HIGHWAY from Peterborough
7.15 CATCHPHRASE Start of a new game series
7.45 FILM: When Time Ran Out A volcano erupts alongside the site of a new luxury hotel causing havoc among the guests. Set in the South Pacific. with Paul Newman and Jacqueline Bisset, William Holden and Ernest Borgnine
9.45 NEWS FROM ITN
10.00 SPITTING IMAGE The return of the ugly puppet show portraying famous people
10.30 THE SOUTH BANK SHOW John Cleese in conversation with Melvyn Bragg about his work with the Monty Python team and the creation and character of Basil Fawlty
11.30 THE CHAMPIONS The Silent Enemy The Champions go to sea on a trip to reconstruct the voyage of a doomed submarine
12.30 Closedown

SPORTS NEWS

SPORTING WEEK

WEDNESDAY, Jan 1: Tottenham's Graham Roberts is in hot water again. The former England defender counts his blessings after one of the most crudest tackles seen at Highbury for years.

His victim is Arsenal's Charlie Nicholas in the New Year's day derby match. Out on the sideline, and right next to the dugouts, Roberts cynically fouls the darling of Highbury and almost ends up on the terraces. After being booked later in the game, Roberts now faces the 11th suspension of his career.

THE Australian rebels touring the South African racist state draw their unofficial 'Test' in Cape Town.

THURSDAY, Jan 2: The first leg of the England 'B' cricket tour to Bangladesh is cancelled because four of the team have played cricket in South Africa. The final part of the tour to Zimbabwe is also in doubt now because of their links with the racist state.

IN THE morning British heavyweight prospect Frank Bruno signs to meet white South African Gerry Coetzee in a World Boxing Association final eliminator. Efforts are already mounted to have this despicable match called off.

ALSO on the same day, Wigan Rugby League club announce that white South African Springbok Raymond Mordeit will make his debut for the club against Swindon at the weekend. APEX, the union which represents the players, doesn't lift a finger to stop it.

FRIDAY, Jan 3: Fleet Street is 'outraged' at the late cancellation of the Bangladesh leg of the cricket tour. Tough. The Bangladesh government are to be admired for the stand they have taken against apartheid. Zimbabwe seem set to cancel their leg of the tour now.

IN SOUTH Africa, Kim Hughes, skipper of the rebel Australians, becomes more obnoxious by the minute. Referring to a statement by Bishop Tutu condemning the tour he says: 'I'd like him (Tutu) to come and watch us play — but if he wants to talk politics he should go somewhere else.'

SATURDAY, Jan 4: The big guns enter the FA Cup — and three of them bite the dust straight away. Biggest upset is the defeat of Newcastle at home by Brighton. Bristol Rovers pulverise Leicester City 3-1 while Coventry go down by the same score at home to Watford.

Charlie Nicholas is in the news again, this time for scoring a hat-trick for the Gunners in their exciting 4-3 victory at Grimsby.

SUNDAY, Jan 5: Nottingham Forest's outspoken manager Brian Clough has a go at the royal family. Clough is upset at the fact that the ruling class take their youngsters fox-hunting where they experience at first hand the cruelty of bloodsports.

Live soccer returns to the small screen with



GRAHAM ROBERTS . . . In trouble again

West Ham winning an enthralling FA Cup tie 1-0 at Selhurst Park against Charlton Athletic. Frank McAvennie is the arch-destroyer, although Tony Cottee claims the goal.

THE Anti-Apartheid Movement promises to launch a major campaign to have the Bruno-Coetzee fight called off.

IN FRONT of his adoring fans in Dusseldorf, Boris Becker retains his Young Masters' title with a scintillating performance against Mat Wilander. Becker won 6-1, 7-6.

MONDAY, Jan 6: Chelsea get home advantage in the FA Cup fourth round's top tie against Liverpool. Fourth Division win their replay at Second Division Oldham. THE Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) comes under fire for the

cancellation of the cricket tour. Bangladesh officials criticise the TCCB for not revealing all the facts. They had told the TCCB weeks earlier that they would not allow several players into their country because of their links with racist South Africa.

TUESDAY, Jan 7: Canon pull out of their sponsorship deal with the Football League. The Japanese company claims that the three-year deal, which ends in June, has been 'too successful'.

THE bad weather leads to the cancellation of several Cup matches, including replays, and the inevitable backlog begins to mount up — and that spells bad news for England boss Bobby Robson as he prepares for the World Cup Finals in May



BRIAN CLOUGH . . . Attacking royalty

KELLY CHASES NEW SPONSOR

BY SHAUN PHILLIPS

FOOTBALL League secretary Graham Kelly is confident that a new sponsor should not be too hard to find for the competition.

'It has been demonstrated the tremendous marketing value of football sponsorship and the unique opportunity that sponsorship of the League Championship offers,' Kelly said optimistically on Tuesday evening after Canon had decided to call it a day.

'Indeed, we have already had tentative inquiries, although our first obligation was naturally to Canon,' added Kelly. 'Every sponsorship has a limited life and sadly we must part company with Canon at the end of the season, but we do so with a high level of respect for each other and on the best possible terms.'

The Football League know that any company prepared to repeat the copper and camera firm's £3 million pay-out will demand full television exposure.



GRAHAM KELLY . . . Amicable parting with Canon

Canon stressed that this season's small screen blackout had not been a factor. But significantly they stressed that television had 'done its job for them in the first two seasons'.

The League, after their success in landing pools and stores company Littlewoods to take over the Milk Cup, will carry out their own search for a successor. At the same time, their summer will be spent seeking a full

place the £1 million interim deal agreed with the BBC and ITV last month.

The public are fed up with cliff-hanger negotiations, so secretary Kelly will hope to get an early agreement on both matters, although stressing that they are not linked.

Any new sponsor will also hope to have more co-operation from the clubs on the amount of 'projection' their product receives on perimeter

television contract to references and in match programmes.

This was carefully spelt out in the original Canon agreement, but there was a reluctance by a number of clubs, which led to an amendment of some payments and also sparked the first suggestion that the contract would not be renewed.

The League will want another three-year agreement if possible to take them through their centenary year, 1988-1989, and will once again refuse to consider tobacco or hard liquor connections.

The size of the fee demanded means it will have to be a major company, British or foreign, and the success of the last agreement for Canon in a commercial sense will arouse the interest of some big commercial names.

While crowd trouble, falling gates and television wrangling were put forward in some quarters as a reason for Canon's pull-out, their spokesman was unflinching in the view that the decision was a commercial one.

Scene north of the border

Scottish break is on

SCOTLAND'S nine 'rebel' clubs are set to carry out their threat to create a new breakaway League next season.

And it now seems likely that the country's top sides will take their proposals to the Scottish Football Association for official approval within the next few weeks.

The new turn in developments came on Tuesday after a last-ditch peace initiative by the Scottish League received a lukewarm response from the rebels.

League president Ian Gellatly presented a fresh package to the nine clubs who want a greater say in the restructuring of the game north of the border.

The League management committee's hopes of reaching a compromise were dashed, however, when the rebels' spokesman, Wallace Mercer of Hearts, said that Gellatly's proposals were 'not acceptable'.

The Hearts chairman commented: 'Ian Gellatly tried to take the position a step forward but it could be a case of too little, too late. No-one wishes to see the League structure break

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

up, but we are only trying to protect the professional game in Scotland and a new set-up could be like a breath of fresh air.'

Mercer admitted that the 90-minute meeting of the management committee in Glasgow had taken the matter forward 'only that in

Soviets voice Olympic worries

THE SOVIET Union have stated that they may boycott the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, unless North Korea are allowed to share the Games.

The Soviets entered the debate at the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) executive meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, earlier this week. The North Koreans were there putting their case to the IOC.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister

Mikhail Kapista said his country would only take part in the 1988 Games if the events were shared between North and South Korea.

In Lausanne, the North Koreans made it clear that they would not be satisfied with staging some preliminary rounds of the team events and instead wanted to share the Games, with the teams of the two countries parading together under one flag and anthem throughout the Games.

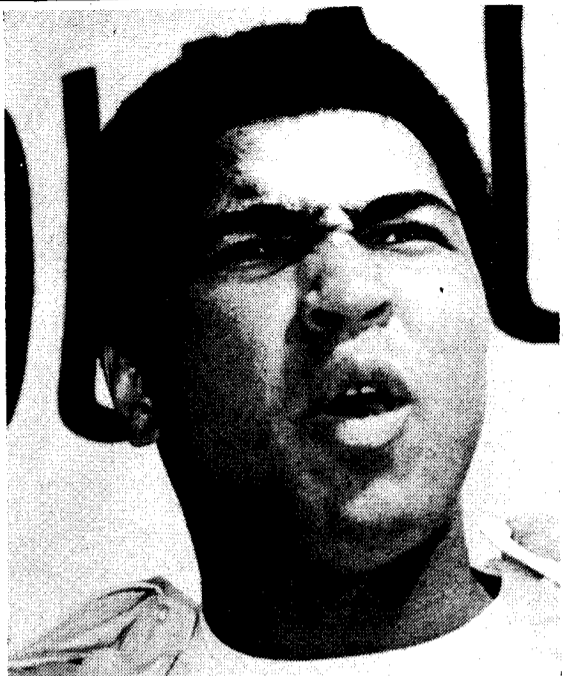
we are still talking.' He said: 'It is the 11th hour and it is important to maintain dialogue and not have a climate of inactivity.'

Now the nine disident clubs, including Celtic, Rangers and Aberdeen, will put the next phase of their breakaway plan into operation.

Mercer added: 'At present I can see no delay in submitting details of our proposals to the SFA. There are only four-and-a-half months until the end of the season so this will have to be done quickly — certainly within the next week or so.'

Meanwhile, the League management committee still believe that conciliation can be achieved in time to prevent the proposed revolution. The 28 First and Second Division clubs will be the next to discuss the issue at another meeting next week.

The Scottish League continue to maintain a discreet silence, but Gellatly said: 'We have had initial discussions and there will be further talks later this week. After that the management committee may be able to take a decision.'



MUHAMMAD ALI . . . The last of the great heavyweights!

Dons make Swedish return

ABERDEEN will return to the scene of their greatest triumph in March as they search for a place in the semi-finals of the European Champions' Cup for the first time.

The Scottish champions were drawn against IFK Gothenborg this week in the quarter-finals, which will be played on March 5 and 19.

The second leg will take them back to the Ullevi stadium where they beat Real Madrid to win the European Cup Winners' Cup three years ago.

Aberdeen have fond memories of their one and only visit to Sweden for a European tie — and manager Alex Ferguson has two good reasons for wanting to return to Gothenborg.

The Swedish season is currently midway through its winter shut-down and Gothenborg must play their quarter-final tie without the benefit of a warm-up programme.

Ferguson had fervently hoped to avoid the 'big guns' at the quarter-final stage — holders Juventus and Terry Venables' Barcelona.

The Scottish international boss got his wish — and an added bonus, for the Italians have been drawn to meet the Spaniards in the next round while Bayern Munich must tackle the talented Belgians of Anderlecht, two more extremely dangerous opponents.

Gothenborg, like Aberdeen, were not altogether convincing in reaching the last eight of the Champions' Cup. The Swedes beat Fenerbahce of Turkey 4-0 at home in the last round but went down 2-1 in the return leg.

The Swedes beat Trakia Plodiv of Bulgaria 5-3 on aggregate in the first round, winning 3-2 at home and 2-1 away.

● ENGLAND, the holders, have been drawn against Denmark in the quarter-finals of the European Under-21 Championship.

It promises to be a tough test for the English youngsters, because the Danes have several players who are rated by manager Sepp Piontek as potential members of his hugely-talented senior team. The Danes will have home advantage in the first leg.

Middleweights

BY OUR BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE MOST fashionable fights these days no longer involve the heavyweights. There was a time the rest of boxing held on to their shirt-tails, but the fact is that the big men are a fairly nondescript lot since the departure of Muhammad Ali.

Larry Holmes versus Gerry Cooney was the last blockbuster, and that was as long ago as June 1982. The names of Pinklon Thomas, Tony Tubbs and Michael Spinks do not send the pulses racing.

It is the middleweights who hold centre stage now. Anyone against Marvin Hagler is big business and the forthcoming Hagler-John Mugabe fight for the undisputed middleweight title is second only to the more distant Hagler-Don Curry clash.

This has yet to be made, but it is certain to come to pass barring a serious accident along the way. The fact that Curry was last seen defending his WBA welterweight title against Milton McCrory's WBC championship makes the proposition look faintly ridiculous.

Welterweights weigh 147 pounds, and middleweights 160. No-one in his right mind gives away this sort of poundage at this level, and even the great light-middleweight Thomas Hearns was destroyed when he tried it on with Hagler last year.

But Curry still retains the strength and class to deal with all-comers — including Britain's Colin Jones in Birmingham a year ago — and his two rounds defeat of McCrory

Workers Press FEATURE

on December 6 indicates just what a threat he could be if he had no weight worries at all.

In normal circumstances, the idea of conceding any sort of weight to Hagler is enough to curdle the blood, but maybe the great man is on the brink of beginning to fade.

Peak

He has been the champion since 1980, he is approaching 32 and has been a professional for 13 years. Curry, on the other hand, is at his peak, is really a light middleweight.

There is such an aura surrounding a match between these two that it would generate the sort of sum normally associated with the national debt.

Hagler, meanwhile, has to fend off Mugabe in March, in a title defence

postponed when a sparring partner had the temerity to break his nose. Mugabe is known as 'The Animal', because that is what he is, and, like Hearns before him, he is a light middle, but lacking Curry's class.

If, as is likely, Hagler survives, he faces a mandatory defence against Hearns or James Kinchen, and then the way will be open for Curry to step forward and make his fortune.

Traditionally, fighters rarely succeed outside their own weight divisions, but this could be the exception. Enough people will think so to make this a real prime attraction.

Hagler risks his title. Curry risks his apparent invincibility and reputation as the best in the world pound for pound. The prospect is irresistible.



DON CURRY . . . A match for Marvin Hagler

Owls looking for a big lift

● FROM PAGE 16

Adding to his problems is the fact that John Byrne, who has scored seven goals, wants to get out of London and back to his native north.

Everton have lost just once at Goodison over the past eight months and Rangers don't look the side to upset that record this weekend.

Chelsea are also at home, taking on Luton Town in what looks like the most appealing match of the First Division programme.

Currently in eighth position, the Hatters have defied their critics this season by staying in the top half of the table and playing some of the most exciting football.

At least three of David Pleat's present side have caught Bobby Robson's attention in recent weeks as he makes a final assessment before choosing his World Cup finals squad.

Brian Stein and Ricky Hill, who have both been capped, are desperately trying to re-establish themselves at international level while Mick Harford, although missing today after a knee operation, has shown that he could well lead a challenge for the central striking role in Mexico.

Opposing Luton today will be Kerry Dixon who is the man in control of that position at the moment — and he will be faced by Steve Foster, discarded by Ron Greenwood before the last World Cup finals in Spain.

Foster has been another reason for Luton's surprising form this season and his clash with Dixon this afternoon should be very interesting. Luton also give a debut to their midweek signing from Wigan, Mick Newell, in place of the injured Harford.

Newell will be hoping to repeat his goalscoring

feats when he last played at Stamford Bridge. That was just over a year ago, for Wigan, in the third round of the FA Cup when the Third Division side took a shock 2-0 lead through Luton's new striker before being pegged back to 2-2.

West Ham, who have slipped to fifth in the table, have a chance to get back among the top four when they take on Leicester at Filbert Street.

The Midlands club, who are not fully out of the relegation area yet, were unceremoniously dumped out of the FA Cup last weekend by Third Division Bristol Rovers and will be trying to make amends by collecting the points against the Hammers this afternoon.

The Midlands is quite a depressing area right now for First Division football with West Brom holding down bottom place all season — and

hot favourites for the drop — at home to Newcastle today.

Coventry (17th) and Aston Villa (18th) clash at Highfield Road in a game neither club can afford to lose. Villa will hope to introduce their new defender, Danish Under-21 international Kurt Bakholt, while Coventry must say adieu to leading goalscorer Terry Gibson and midfielder David Bowman after this game as they begin a two-match suspension.

Birmingham are the other Midlands club in trouble. They have the longest run in Division One without a win — 15 matches — and admitted this week that they have a £2 million debt.

Liverpool travel to Watford for a live televised match on Sunday and they will be hoping to get back on the winning road after failing to win any of their previous League outings.



PETER REID



POOLS CHECK

DIVISION I

- 1 Birmingham v Ipswich ...
- Chelsea v Luton
- 2 Coventry v A. Villa
- 3 Everton v QPR
- 4 Leicester v West Ham ...
- 5 Man City v Southampton
- 6 Oxford v Man Utd
- 7 Shef Wed v. Arsenal.....
- 8 Tottenham v Nottm For
- 10 West Brom v Newcastle

DIVISION II

- 11 Blackburn v Brighton
- 12 Carisle v Grimsby
- 13 C Palace v Charlton.....
- 14 Huddersfield v Sheff Utd
- Hull v Bradford
- Millwall v Stoke.....
- 15 Norwich v Middlesbro ...
- 16 Oldham v Wimbledon
- 17 Portsmouth v Fulham
- 18 Shr'sbury v Barnsley
- 19 Sunderland v Leeds

DIVISION III

- 20 Bolton v Gillingham
- 21 Brentford v Wigan.....
- 22 Bristol C v Rotherham ...
- 23 Chesterfield v Walsall....
- 24 Derby v Bristol R.....
- Lincoln v Bury.....
- 25 Newport v Bournemouth
- 26 Notts Co v Plymouth.....
- 27 Reading v Cardiff.....
- Swansea v Blackpool
- York v Wolves

DIVISION IV

- 28 Burnley v Aldershot
 - 29 Cambridge v Hereford
 - Chester v Tranmere
 - Colchester v Torquay
 - 30 Crewe v Wrexham.....
 - 31 Exeter v Stockport.....
 - 32 Mansfield v Northampton.....
 - 33 Orient v Hartlepool
 - 34 Preston v Halifax
 - 35 Rochdale v Port Vale.....
 - 36 Scunthorpe v Peterboro
- SOUTHERN PREMIER**
- 37 Folkestone v Gravesend
 - 38 Gosport v Worcester
 - 39 RS Soton v Chelmsford
 - 40 Shepshed v Kings Lynn
- SCOTTISH PREMIER**
- 41 Celtic v Aberdeen
 - 42 Clydebank v Rangers
 - 43 Dundee v Hibs.....
 - 44 Hearts v Dundee Utd.....
 - 45 St Mirren v Motherwell
- SCOTTISH DIVISION I**
- 46 Alloa v Kilmarnock.....
 - 47 Ayr v Clyde.....
 - 48 Dumbarton v Airdrie
 - 49 East Fife v Brechin
 - 50 Forfar v Montrose.....
 - 51 Hamilton v Falkirk.....
 - 52 Morton v Partick
 - 53 Albion v Stenhousemuir
 - 54 Arbroath v Berwick
 - 55 Dunf'mline v Queens Pk
 - E Stirling v Stranraer
 - M'dowbank v Stirling
 - Queen of S v St Johnstone
 - Raith v Cowdenbeath

SMASH SPORTING LINKS

COMMENT By Matthew Nugent

THE cancellation of the Bangladesh and Zimbabwe legs of the English cricket tour this week proved to be a massive boost for those who are fighting to isolate racist South Africa and her supporters in the world of sport.

The sporting bodies of Bangladesh and Zimbabwe must be commended for their efforts. They have struck a great blow against apartheid at the start of the year. Now the struggle must be intensified over the coming months — nowhere more so than here in Britain.

Over the next few weeks South African Zola Budd returns from the Afrikaans outback of the Orange Free State to run indoors at Cosford while Londoner Frank Bruno fights white South African Gerry Coetzee in a final eliminator for a crack at the WBC version of the world heavyweight title.

And after the introduction of Springbok Raymond Mordt to the Rugby League code, efforts are now being made to import many more South African Rug-

by Union players into the professional game.

A campaign must be launched immediately to send Zola Budd packing for good; get Bruno to pull out of his fight against Coetzee; and tell these Springboks that Rugby League doesn't need — or want — them.

Budd has the backing of the Tory Party. It was the then Home Secretary Leon Brittan who got her a British passport in just ten days back in March 1984.

This allowed her to cut through the red tape and formalities with immigration officials. Others have to wait years to be granted a British

passport while Budd, who has NEVER condemned the barbarous regime in her native land, is given preferential treatment.

The governing bodies of athletics here and internationally also bent over backwards to accommodate Budd. The British Amateur Athletics Board could not do enough for her, while the International Amateur Athletics Federation shut their eyes to several infringements of the rules to let her compete in the Los Angeles Olympics.

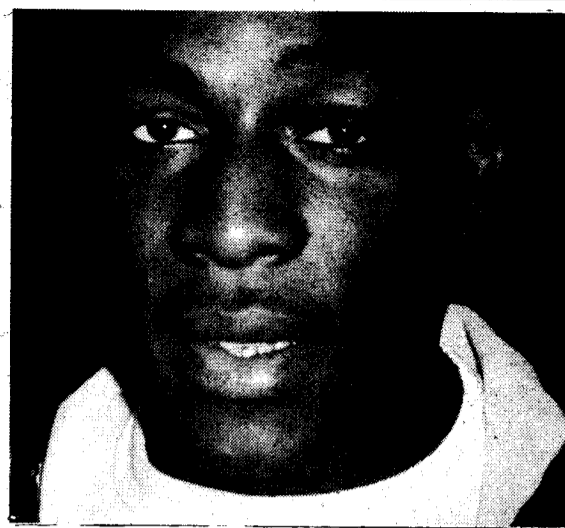
Frank Bruno should know better. The amiable giant has won a place in the hearts of all British sporting fans with his per-

sonality and will to bring a world heavyweight title back to Britain.

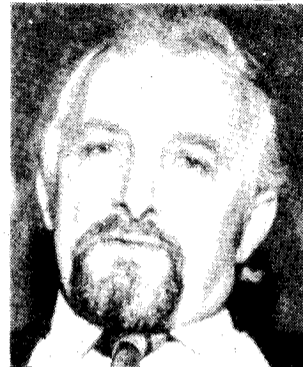
But he will become an outcast in the black community if he does fight Coetzee — and he must not listen to the remarks made by those who run the sport in the past few days.

Already there has been a backlash against the proposed fight.

On Thursday evening Yidnekatchew Tessema, president of the African Sports Confederations, told Workers Press from his home in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 'If this fight goes ahead, many members of the Commonwealth must show deter-



FRANK BRUNO . . . He must call off his fight



RAY CLARK



MICKEY BARRETT . . . The fight goes on!

mination and boycott the Commonwealth Games.'

The inevitable riposte came from the fight promoter Mickey Barrett and Ray Clarke, the outgoing secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control.

'Quite frankly, this man (Tessema) is a blackmailer. The fight will go on. Make no mistake about that,' screamed Barrett.

'Does this man (Tessema again) want to ban every South African sportsman from going anywhere?' was Clarke's immediate retort. There is a clear and principled answer to his question. Yes, until apartheid has

been smashed and driven into the ground forever.

Sportsmen and women — amateur and professional — must let their indignation be heard NOW. Trade unionists and the rest of the working class in Britain must join them in saying no to sporting links of any kind with South Africa.

Let us make 1986 the year when British sports, for so long tainted by its links with South Africa, finally severs the umbilical cord.

The Workers Revolutionary Party and its paper Workers Press will be in the forefront of this fight.

Owls looking for a big lift

LEE CHAPMAN hopes to lift Sheffield Wednesday's flagging League Championship aspirations when they entertain Arsenal, his former club, at Hillsborough on Saturday.

Chapman had an unhappy time at Highbury — scoring just four goals in 23 appearances over two seasons before being rescued by Wednesday.

'It was a real nightmare at Arsenal,' Chapman recalled this week. 'I lost all my confidence and although they tried their hardest I thought I'd never get away.'

The blond striker will have two aims at Hillsborough, to put one over on his former teammates and help rekindle Wednesday's title challenge.

Wednesday had poor Christmas and New Year results, picking up just two points from three games and have now dropped to sixth in the table.

Arsenal, on the other hand, have not been beaten in five games which includes victories

BY SHAUN PHILLIPS

over Manchester United (at Old Trafford) and Liverpool.

'The Gunners are in form right now and they will be a tough nut to crack,' added Chapman, who sees Charlie Nicholas as the player they must watch most closely in the top match of the day.

League leaders Manchester United travel to struggling Oxford where defender Dave Langan issued a warning earlier this week.

Oxford, finding their first season in Division One to be a traumatic affair, have dug their heels in recently and are now fighting for those precious points to lift them out of the relegation zone.

'If United come down here and think that we will be some kind of pushover then they are badly mistaken,' said Langan. 'On our day, and in front of our own fans, we are quite capable of overcoming United.'

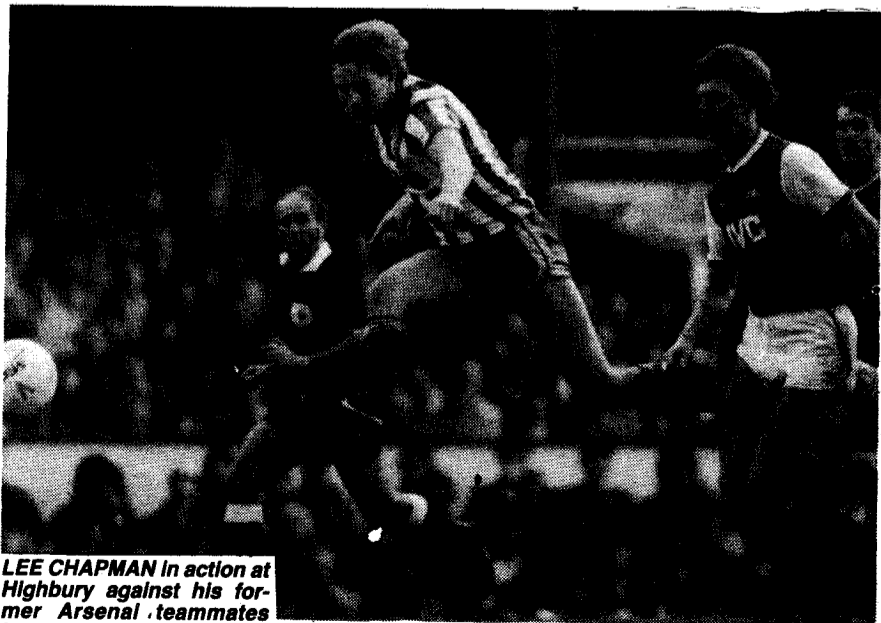
It will be something of a nostalgic trip for United boss Ron Atkinson, taking

his side to the Manor Ground where he first played League football.

Second-placed Everton look to have an easier task at home to Queen's Park Rangers. Four wins in their last five games has pushed the League Champions to within five points of United, along with their Merseyside rivals Liverpool and Londoners Chelsea.

For a while this season it seemed as if Everton would not be able to mount a concerted effort to retain their title. But with Peter Reid, their most influential midfielder 12 months ago, and defender Derek Mountfield back in full training, the Merseysiders seem set to put up a tenacious fight to hold onto their title in the coming months.

Rangers have an abysmal away record this season. Manager Jim Smith has been trying to land new blood — Liverpool's unsettled striker Paul Walsh was linked with them during the week — but has yet to get anybody to put pen to paper.



LEE CHAPMAN in action at Highbury against his former Arsenal teammates last season. He will be hoping to put one over on them for Wednesday at Hillsborough