

**BIG  
BUSINESS  
ADMITS  
IT**

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**IN GERMANY** five groups

**BY STEPHEN JOHNS**

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The call here too is for deflationary measures against the working class and an independent float of the mark which will hit Germany's foreign competitors, including Britain.

**IN BRITAIN** the situation is most serious of all. The economy is on the brink of a £1,000m trade debt and the continued inflationary increase in the monetary supply is threatening to make this worse.

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Their other strategy is to pass laws to favour their own exports, so accelerating the pace of the trade war.

Two important conclusions must flow from this latest evidence. One is that the inflationary crisis is world-wide and hits workers from Tokyo to New York. And they will all come under the same fierce attacks as each government grapples with the problem of stabilizing shaky economies.

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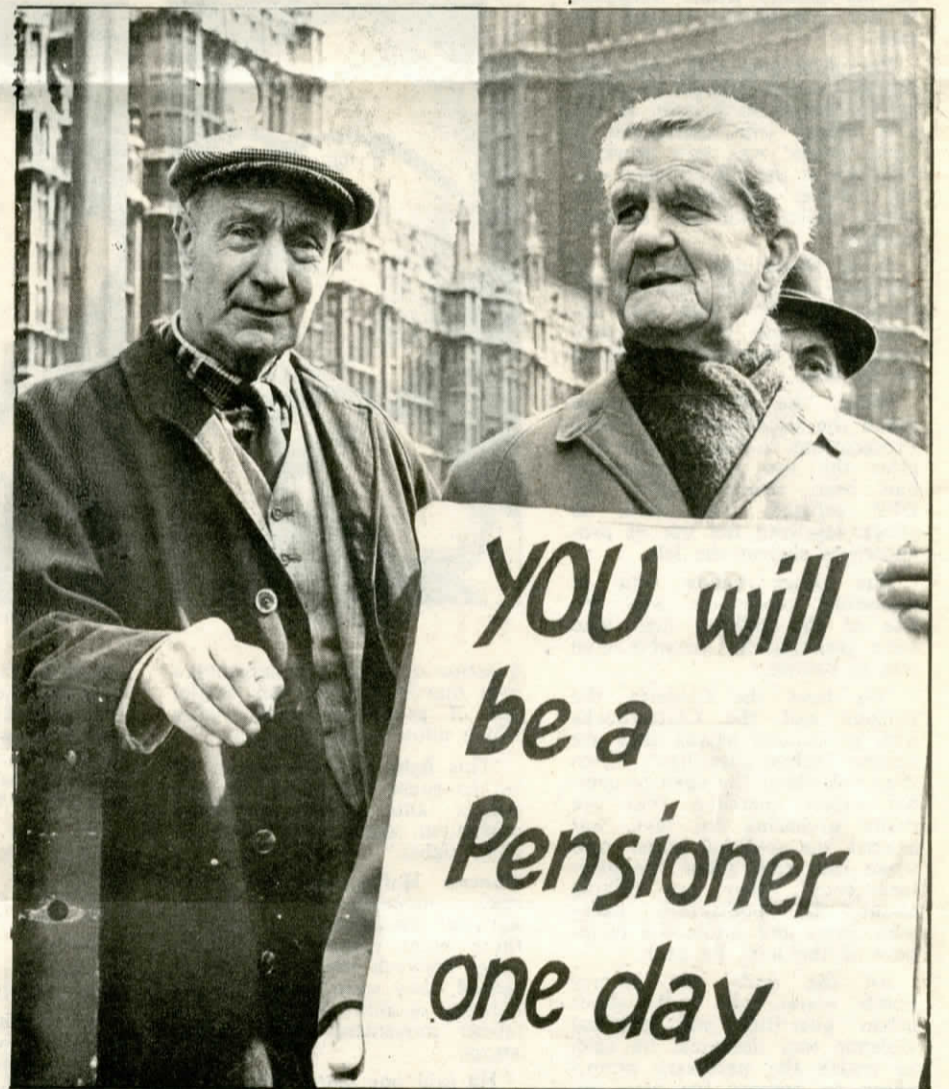
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Inflation will be with us until capitalism is expropriated by the working class and socialist planning introduced.

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The construction of a revolutionary party in every capitalist country is now the most urgent task before the working class.



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The letter, written early in January to the chairman of the National Dock Labour Board, is expected to arouse considerable anger in the ports.

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**BY DAVID MAUDE OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT**

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undermine their job security under the 1947 Dock Labour Scheme.

Macmillan's letter, written on January 12 to NDLB chairman P. G. H. Lewison, followed consultations with both the National Association of Port Employers and the Transport and General Workers' Union.

It forecast that the dockers' response to Jones-Aldington severance scheme would 'greatly exceed our expectations'—in fact

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**£100,000  
PARTY  
BUILDING  
FUND**

**GOOD news.** Socialist Labour League branches in Willesden donated £5; Tottenham £27; Brixton £1.25; Leeds £6.50; Todmorden £1.12; Luton £6.50; Ebbw Vale £10.41.

Readers S.C.H. £50; P. £10 and anonymous £2 brings the total to £2,101.78. So we qualify for the £2,000 donation.

We are very pleased with the response over the past few days. Keep it up. Post all donations to:

Party Building Fund  
186a Clapham High Street  
London SW4 7UG

**Pensioners  
lobby to  
support Bill**

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# workers press

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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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## 800 at joint meeting in London

**THE CAMPAIGN** to defend members of the left and labour movement against police attack and oppression by the state began before a capacity audience in London on Monday.

Well over 800 people packed the Conway Hall to hear speakers from the International Marxist Group, the International Socialists and the Socialist Labour League call for the defence of democratic rights.

The joint meeting follows the rapid escalation of police and Special Branch activity directed against the left and particularly the raids all over Britain against Irish people and members of the IMG last Friday.

**OPENING** the meeting Gerry Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League, said that the SLL had been concerned with the increase of police and state activity for some time.

The Workers Press had initiated a campaign against this on January 20 aimed at warning the left and the working class of the great dangers of oppression ahead.

He said the basis of this mass intimidation was the deep economic crisis faced by the capitalist system.

'The question of basic democratic rights is now an urgent one for the Tory government and the capitalist class. They have to deprive the working class of all their rights. The legislation of this government, the Industrial Relations Act, the wage laws and the laws banning picketing have made 20 million workers into potential criminals,' he said.

But it was not just a question of law. Behind the new legislation an enormous industry of repression had developed. This involved telephone-tapping, the secret police, special armed patrol groups, raids, the planting of weapons and trials that were no more than frame-ups.

'There is not a trade union office or a political organization in this country whose telephone is not continually tapped,' he said.

The American CIA was also taking a closer interest in political repression in Britain. A top CIA official who specialized in 'dirty tricks' was now working full time at the US Embassy giving advice and help to the secret police and the security squads.

Gerry Healy said that one of the most important cases was the recent Soar Eire trial. This revealed the use of agents provocateur to incriminate activists on the left.

When the defence counsel asked the Department of Public Prosecutions to take up the case after the use of provocateurs had been clearly shown, the DPP refused. This had, in effect, legalized the use of provocateurs against the left.

The other major sign of mounting repression was the rise of the military men who were planning for possible civil war in Britain.

'We have the Calverts, the Kitsons and the Clutterbucks who go around saying they are against "urban guerrillas". When they talk about the need to combat urban guerrillas they are really preparing for civil war against the working class. And when they talk about "counter-insurgency", they are talking about the infiltration gangs who frame and intimidate members of the left,' he said.

All the raids, the phoney bomb scares, the talk about urban guerrillas and political violence was designed, he said, to create the necessary atmosphere to prepare for mass repression against the working class.

He said the groups involved in the meeting had deeply-held differences. This was not a bad thing since they represented the movement of class forces, and in representing the movement of class forces, each group had a responsibility.

But the responsibility to wage the ideological battle in order to develop a revolutionary consciousness within the working class had to be protected against police and state repression. That was why joint defence was necessary.

'When we are talking about democratic rights, we are talking about the democratic rights of the working class. It is not a



# Defend democratic rights meeting success



Gerry Healy



Duncan Hallas



Tariq Ali

A section of the 800-strong audience which packed the Conway Hall, London, on Monday to hear IMG, IS and SLL speakers.

question of gaining an advantage over one another in this battle, but of protecting these rights which allow us to function.

'This fight must be waged by us, to rouse the masses to the danger and develop a mass movement around the issue of basic rights.'

Duncan Hallas, national committee member of the International Socialists, said though there were considerable differences between the groups represented, they were united on the defence of militants within the labour movement facing police attack.

He said one major area of increasing repression was in industry, highlighted recently with the virtual banning of picketing.

He said this could only be answered by mass picket, as seen in the miners' strike, to defend workers in struggle.

Duncan Hallas went on to describe the series of raids launched against IS members last year. These, he said, had the aim of intimidating people on the left and adding to the Special Branch's store of information on left-wing groups. He said it had to be recognized that the working class had suffered a defeat in the battle against the wage freeze, but not a decisive defeat.

'It is in these circumstances that the possibility of police re-

pression increases. It is very hard for them to come out with the brass knuckle and the hobnail boot when the mass movement is at a peak. But it is considerably easier when the movement is in recession,' he said.

He said there was also a growth of collusion between the police, the Special Branch and employers to victimize workers who were members of political groups.

Two IS shop stewards had been victimized in this way.

'It is absolutely vital to put pressure on the Communist Party on this issue. Their record is not good, despite the fact that their own members are and increasingly will be subject to this kind of repression. We must also pressure the Labour Party,' he said.

'Democratic rights were not handed by the government as the newspapers would have us believe, but they were fought for and taken by the working class. We are now entering into a situation where the ruling class is trying to chip away at the edge of these rights.

'We must not fall into the error of believing the battle is already lost. The fact is that the strength of the working class is unimpaired. We can and we will win.'

Tariq Ali, national secretary of the International Marxist Group,

said that the bourgeoisie, who continually harped on the division within the movement in the hope that it would remain divided when under attack, would be disappointed.

He said the move towards greater and greater repression came from the extremely serious structural crisis of capitalism and the serious crisis of social and economic relations within the system.

This had not only led to the growth of political repression, but the rise of the forces of the extreme right—witnessed in its most virulent form in Italy, with the development of a large 'neofascist' movement.

Part of the repression was to use splits within the working class to isolate militants and workers in struggle and then using the state against them.

We had seen this in the Soar Eire case, where hysteria over the IRA had been whipped up, and also in a strike of coloured workers in Newport, where raids had been launched against militants allegedly in search of 'illegal immigrants'.

'An essential part of this repression is to probe how much the working class will tolerate from the organs of the state, the police, the judges, etc.,' said Tariq Ali.

'The central aim eventually is to inflict a defeat on the work-

ing-class movement and to try and change the balance of forces to increase the rate of exploitation and surplus value which has halved over recent years,' he said.

'This meeting is extremely important. It has brought a number of organizations together, but this should only be a beginning. We should join with the working class in joint action against the agents of repression.

'We shall show that our forces, small though they may be, can lead to big developments in the working-class movement in the struggle against the capitalist system.'

In the discussion after the speakers appeals for solidarity with groups of people already facing jail or trial for their political activities were made.

Jim Kemp, a spokesman for the Militant group and a member of the London Joint Sites Committee, called for a maximum turnout on April 25 in defence of the building workers on trial at Shrewsbury for picketing. He said coaches were leaving London at 6 a.m., Charing Cross Embankment.

'Let us make this defence of a basic right the first step of forcing this government to resign he said.'

Other appeals were heard to defend the Belfast ten — the people arrested after the recent London bomb explosions. (See page 3.)

The speaker said a solidarity picket was held outside Brixton jail, London, every Saturday at 2 p.m.

Another speaker announced a demonstration in support of the Stoke Newington Four—jailed in the 'Angry Brigade Trial'—on May 12 at Lincoln's Inn Fields, 3 p.m.

A collection of £73.73 was raised for the cost of the meeting.

# BSC allowed to ignore Phase Two Steel prices up

**THE BRITISH Steel Corporation yesterday announced price rises averaging 9.5 per cent.**

As a member of the European Coal and Steel Community, BSC is not controlled by Phase Two.

The price rises on individual items will range from 5 to 15 per cent.

The increases mean that British steel prices will continue to trail behind those

of European steelmakers by up to 6 per cent.

In its announcement BSC said that in recent years prices had fallen steadily below 'the competitive international level'.

A spokesman said: 'Even with the present price increase the Corporation's prices will remain below this level.'

BSC has forecast further rises to coincide with the end of Phase Two.

Reports say the new tariff will add an immediate 1 per cent to industry's costs, but steep rises can be expected

once businessmen complete recalculating their production charges.

Meanwhile the engineers' union has agreed to back steelworkers in their fight to keep obsolete open-hearth steelworks open and save 50,000 jobs.

Many steelmen are pinning their hopes on decisions taken today at the first Iron and Steel Trades Confederation conference since the war and at the next meeting of the AUEW steel committee.

But speakers at the AUEW conference in Torquay gave little hope that

they intended to do any more than take the 'toughest possible line' in negotiations aimed at limiting hardship and 'softening the blow of the redundancies.'

In fact AUEW leader John Boyd told conference: 'In every country a degree of modernization is necessary and inevitable.'

The policy slowly emerging in the trade union and labour movement appears to be aimed at persuading the BSC to phase out the old works gently and provide maximum opportunities for steel men to secure alternative employment.

# Bomb blast charges: Ten still held in custody

**THE SEVEN men and three girls charged after the bomb blasts in London on March 8 were again remanded in custody for a week at Lambeth court yesterday.**

It was their third appearance before the court. Chief Supt Roy Habershon, applying for a remand, said the papers were now in the hands of the Attorney-General.

He understood a date had been provisionally fixed for the hearing.

As with the previous appearances of the ten, there were strict security precautions outside and inside the court.

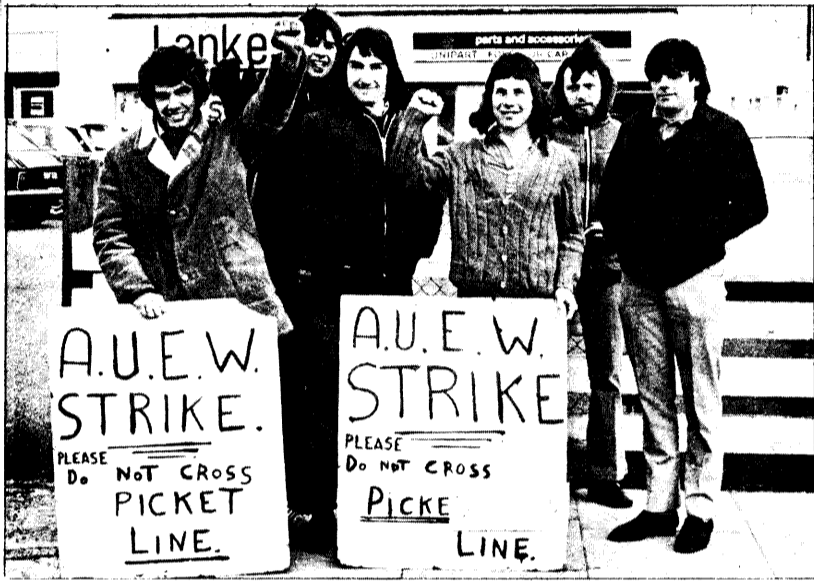
Cars were banned from the streets and people approaching the area and entering the courtroom were stopped and searched.

The ten are accused of conspiring together and with others to cause explosions likely to endanger life or to cause serious injury to property.

They were arrested as they were about to board planes at Heathrow airport bound for Ireland.

**PRESS SHOP** workers at Ford's Dagenham have walked out because the management has suspended five men without pay for refusing to stop a work to rule. Two men were suspended on the night shift on Monday and three on the early shift yesterday. The entire 900 men at the press shop have walked out and their action affects 10,000 other day and night shift workers. Stewards at the body plant were meeting at 5 p.m. yesterday.

## Lankesters' strikers may return for negotiations



**STRIKERS at Lankesters' Kingston-on-Thames garage have accepted union advice to return to work on the day the company agrees to negotiate on their pay demands.**

For two weeks the 26 strikers have been picketing the garage — Kingston's main British-Leyland dealer — demanding recognition of the engineers' union in talks on the stabilization of pay rates and increases in apprentices' earnings.

Two of the strikers face obstruction charges after being arrested on the picket line.

Lankesters have now agreed to recognize the union, bring forward discussions on the apprentices' pay, which averages only 24p an hour, and start talks on the pay stabilization.

No date for these talks had been fixed yesterday morning and the strikers were continuing to picket the garage. Shop stewards stressed that there would be no return to work until they had a firm date.

The strikers agreed to return only after a lengthy meeting with AUEW district secretary Andy Wilson, who insisted no support would be forthcoming from other factories in the area unless they agreed to go back and negotiate.

But yesterday there was still a strong feeling that the union should have backed their right to negotiate while on strike.

They stressed that their stewards must have full control over the negotiations when these take place.

## Hull chocolate workers continue reinstatement fight

**STRIKERS at the Hull chocolate firm of Needlers voted 94-33 on Monday night to continue their ten-day-old stoppage. They are demanding the reinstatement of Ken Chapman, who was sacked the day after he had been nominated shop steward. The management claims his job application form contained inaccuracies.**

The management has proposed a return to work with Chapman suspended on full pay, pending a Department of Employment inquiry.

But the strikers reject this. They claim General and Municipal Workers' Union officials, who have publicly supported this idea, did in fact originally suggest it to the management.

Pickets claim: 'The officials were asked not to discuss the sackings issue behind our backs, but they had talks on the issue when in London negotiating a national pay rise for workers in cocoa and confectionary industries.'

'Officials claim they cannot make it official, because it has

to be agreed by the regional office.

'But since they are for a return to work, it is hard to see this happening.'

Production at the factory has been badly hit. Night-shift women workers have had to be laid off.

The strikers claim that in some departments, women who have not joined the strike are having to do men's work, but that in the milling room they are refusing to work because of the heat.

Supply lorries are being stopped, but the firm's own drivers, Transport and General Workers' Union members, have returned to work after originally supporting the strike.

## Scottish TUC ducks registered unions question

**SCOTTISH TUC** leaders, whose conference opened yesterday, have ducked the issue of affiliated unions which have registered under the Tory Industrial Relations Act.

Six affiliated Scottish unions are still registered, the largest being the Educational Institute of Scotland with 32,000 members.

The others are the Scottish Union of Bakers, British Actors' Equity Association, the Confederation of Health Service Employees, the National Union of

Seamen, and the Scottish Further Education Association.

These five have a combined affiliated membership to the Scottish TUC of over 30,000.

Instead of moving the expulsion of these unions, the Scottish General Council has proposed that they be given a further three months to remove themselves from the register.

This is expected to be put to a private session of the Congress tomorrow morning. The suggestion is that if the unions concerned have not de-registered by July 31, they will automatically be excluded from the Congress.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AND SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

# MAY DAY

**DEMONSTRATE TUES. MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>**



**DEFEND BASIC DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS**

**BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**

**Watch this space for more details**



# SURVEILLANCE: A WEAPON FOR CIVIL WAR

Dear Editor,  
After reading your recent\* book review, 'Three million police files and more to come', I thought the article in the 'Sunday Mirror' would be of interest to you.

In it, the former deputy assistant commissioner at Scotland Yard, Commander John du Rose, proposes that all people in this country should be fingerprinted.

An article in another capitalist paper not long ago raised the question of compulsory identity cards. In both it was

repression is being laid.

There can be little doubt that for every move made in this direction publicly, several more are being made under cover.

I think the point should be made that legislation of this type is, by itself, of little use to the Tories. Unless action can be taken against the working class, mere surveillance does little damage. The result of the jailing of the trade unionists last summer make it clear that the Tories would be running a serious political risk if they attempted the like again.

That is not to say there will not be a confrontation. As soon as the point is reached where neither side can make concessions, there must be a clash between workers and the government.

The international monetary crisis dictates that that time cannot be too far away.

In the event of a victory for the working class and the election of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies, abolition of all instruments of repression must be on the list of priorities.

On the other hand, if the workers' movement is defeated, the police files would be very useful in rounding up militants, just as they would be in the event of a military takeover.

Thus, in organization and propaganda, the capitalist class is preparing for civil war and every socialist and trade unionist must view with suspicion all moves made by the capitalists and anyone who supports them.

**Fraternally  
A Reader  
Southampton  
(Name and address  
supplied)**

\* Monday April 9, 1973



Det Chief Insp Derek Sutcliffe of West Yorkshire police aims his 0.38 Webley at the torso target.

## TRAINED TO KILL

The extent to which the police are equipped for the use of firearms has come part way into the open following the killing of a bank raider and the slaughter of two Pakistani boys carrying plastic revolvers at India House.

What is even less well known is the degree of police training in the use of these weapons, in which very large numbers of police are involved.

For as long as three-and-a-half years the west Yorkshire constabulary, for instance, has been running five-day residential courses in the use of firearms at Ripon.

And by the end of 1971 they were already boasting that

one in ten policemen in the constabulary were proficient in the art of shooting to kill.

Since the admitted failure rate was 10 per cent this means that even then 11 out of every 100 police were being given firearms training.

Now the proportion is even higher.

The training, mostly in the use of the 0.38 Webley pistol, but sometimes the 0.303 rifle, takes various forms—firing wax bullets at instructors, shooting holes in paper screens.

One part of the course consists of conditioning policemen to react automatically to situations involving 'armed criminals'.

Colour slides showing the different situations are flashed

up on a screen for three seconds, in which the policeman concerned has to make up his mind whether he can shoot and actually fire.

After he has fired the slide is flashed back on the screen so that he can see if he has hit the gunman or one of the people standing near him.

The aim is to turn out policemen who will react completely automatically in situations where firearms—or as at India House what looked like firearms—are in use, and shoot accurately.

Police are not being trained to this level in these numbers just to deal with the occasional armed robbery. The powers that be clearly have a much more sinister use for them in mind.



Robert Mark, Police Commissioner.

suggested that only the criminally-minded would object.

As the Phase Two laws make all trade unionists potential criminals, perhaps the suggestion is right!

Seen with the 'hanging lobby', the law-and-order slant of Tory policy is becoming very evident. Naturally the public, while being wooed into acceptance of tighter controls, is being reassured by references to the British love of freedom.

Your article, however, makes it plain that while the debate goes on, the ground work for

## THREAT OF EVICTION

The Labour-controlled Oldham council is to take action against its 1,333 rent strike rebels.

The council wants to recover £20,000 in back rent owed by tenants who are refusing to pay the 90p increases under the Tories' Housing Finance Act.

At its recent meeting the council decided that corporation officials should take 'necessary action' to recover the arrears. But councillors insisted they did not want 'mass evictions'.

The motion put forward by housing committee chairman Cllr Wilfred Clover, called for 'simultaneous action against

each tenant'. But it placed on record 'complete opposition for humane and financial reasons to the eviction of tenants'.

Following this 'Pontius Pilate-like' resolution, letters will be sent to the rent strikers asking them for the arrears to be paid up. If they fail to do so, the council will make application to the county courts.

Cllr Clover said later: 'By law tenants who don't pay can be evicted, but then again by law they can ask to be rehoused. That could put us in the ridiculous position of putting evicted families back in houses from which we have just evicted them.'

## MANAGEMENT WON'T SHARE

The retreat of the entire trade union leadership before the Tory pay laws has led Scottish shop stewards into a novel, but retrogressive deal.

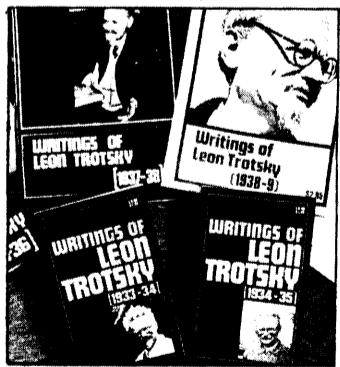
Unable to win a substantial pay rise for their members,

union leaders at the Allis Shipyard, Troon, advised them to share the government's £1 plus 4 per cent equally among themselves.

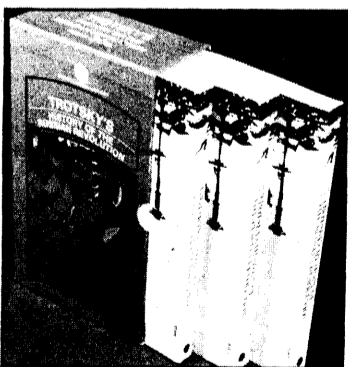
Now 350 workers are on strike because 16 management staff refused to agree to the arrangement.

A union spokesman said: 'It is the management who are against the Heath policy, while we are prepared to be guided by it.'

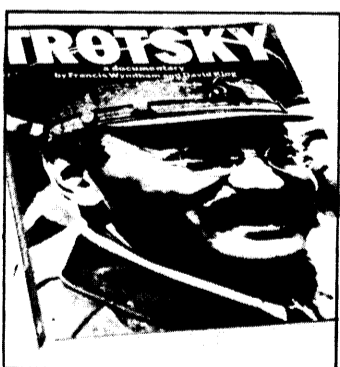
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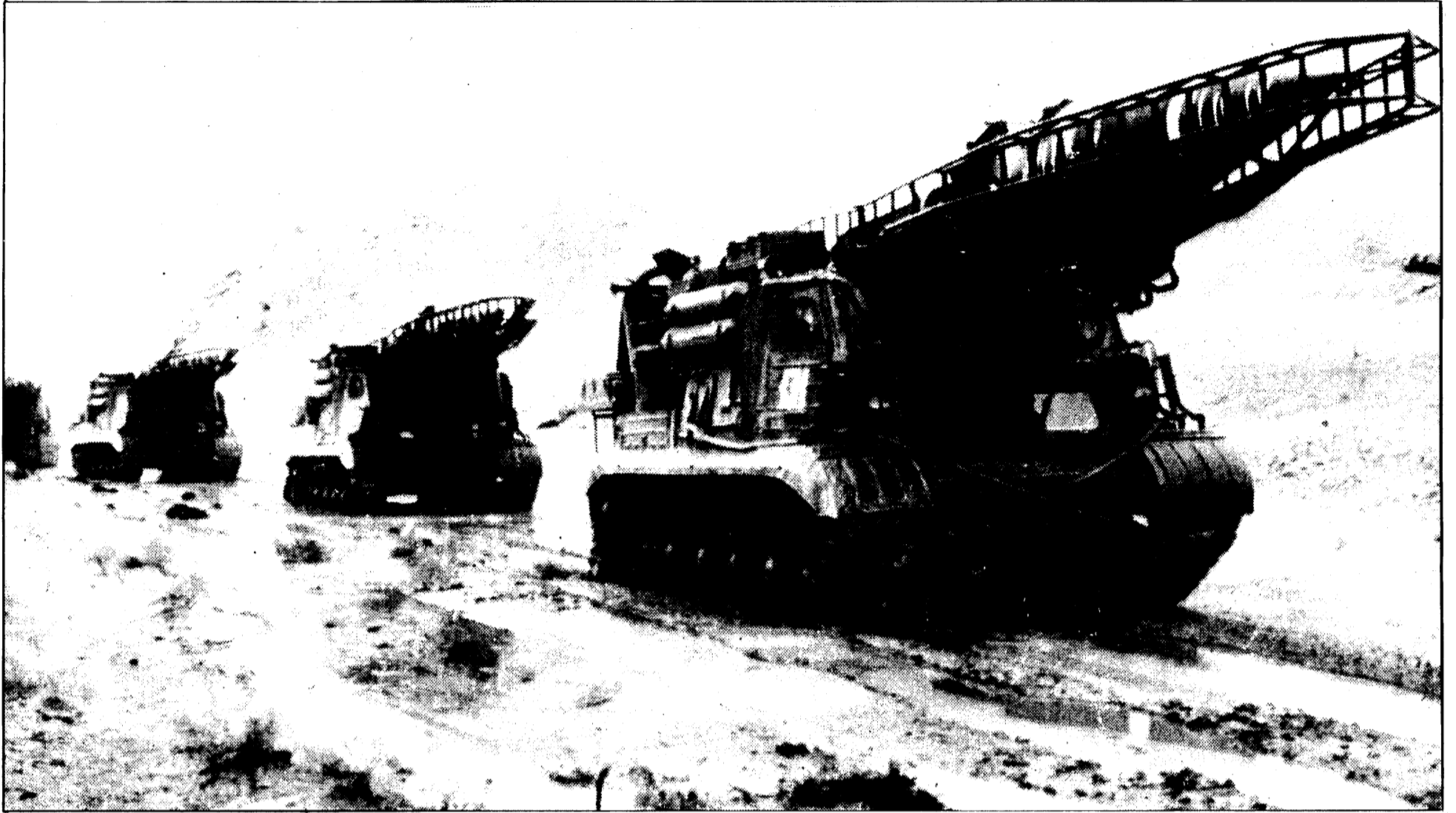
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## HOW MUCH DOES RUSSIA SPEND ON ARMS?

BY JOHN SPENCER

A claim that half the Soviet national income goes on defence is made in an unofficial study by two Leningrad economists writing under a pseudonym.

Their report, in typescript form, has been circulated among dissident intellectuals in the past year. It calculates that defence spending must be four or five times greater than is officially admitted.

Western economists who have probed Soviet statistics have never put the level of arms spending anything like as high. The figure of 40 per cent was used by the well-known oppositionist, Andrei Sakharov, in a letter to Communist Party secretary Leonid Brezhnev last year.

The official figure for the defence budget has not varied for the past five years. It would make it about 7 per cent of the national income in 1969, the year to which

the unofficial estimates relate. Defence costs are always difficult to estimate because some expenses are kept secret or appear under headings such as research or industrial investment. This is particularly so in the case of the Soviet Union.

The anonymous Leningrad economists also claim that the dollar value of Soviet national income has been over-estimated by more than 100 per cent.

They appear to represent a 'liberal-democratic' wing of the opposition which is critical of excessive military expenditure. The report concludes:

'Gigantic military expenditures are not necessary for the defence of the country. Moreover, in the long run, they have a negative influence on military potential by slowing down economic growth. They are useful only for obtaining short-term political and strategic results, and they reflect a desire to play an even



Russian soldiers—part of a well-equipped army. Above: Rocket launchers. The air force has a heavy armoury of missiles and planes.

greater role in the world arena.'

While this report in all probability exaggerates the size of the Soviet Union's arms programme as a proportion of national income, it is certain that the bureaucracy deliberately conceals and plays down its real extent.

In recent years it has built up a powerful navy which it boasts of being equipped with nuclear submarines with long-range rockets and homing torpedoes and modern warships with rockets, quick-firing guns and the latest radio-electronic

systems. Building and equipping this fleet not only requires enormous industrial resources, but also is highly-trained and technically-efficient crews who could be making a contribution to production.

This is in addition to a large, well-equipped army with modern weapons and an air force with a heavy armoury of ballistic missiles as well as conventional planes.

All these armaments constitute a burden on the Soviet economy by diverting industrial capacity and scarce man-

power from productive investment and the consumer goods sector.

The bureaucracy obviously takes great pride in the weapons which it has at its disposal. In fact, the only use to which the Red Army has been put in recent years was to crush the Hungarian Revolution in 1956 and to invade Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Instead of being an instrument of revolution it has been used by the bureaucracy for counter-revolutionary ends against the workers of eastern Europe.

Because the bureaucracy can only see the defence of the Soviet Union in military and diplomatic terms, it is compelled by the pressure of imperialism to maintain a huge military establishment which aggravates all the problems of the Soviet economy.

The only way out which it can see is to make a deal with imperialism on the lines of 'peaceful co-existence' which will make possible mutual reduction of armaments by agreement with the capitalist powers. For this the imperialists are demanding big concessions, including the opening up of natural resources to the big capitalist corporations.

In fact, despite its huge armaments, the bureaucracy exposes the first workers' state to tremendous dangers. It can only be safeguarded by the spread of revolution to the advanced capitalist countries and by the political revolution of the workers in the Soviet Union itself.

## SLOW PERUVIAN JUSTICE

The Peruvian government is still trying to bring to trial a wealthy banking family accused of multi-million dollar frauds.

At the end of 1969 officials of the General Bank Superintendency were visited by Mariano Prado Heudebert, one of the richest men in Peru, who informed them that his financial empire, the 'Banco Popular', was about to go broke.

He also said that Nelson Rockefeller, through the Chase Manhattan, was ready to buy the bank. Rockefeller, it was subsequently claimed, was prepared to do this without fil-

ing suit over a little matter of a \$45m swindle.

For several years, the Peruvian authorities allege, Mariano Prado Heudebert and his son Mariano Prado Sosa, had granted astronomical sums in loans to 47 companies owned by them.

The operations had seemed legal at the time since the firms mostly in textiles and real estate, were in the name of figureheads—in many cases, members of the bank's Board of Directors.

On June 12, 1970, the Banco Popular was placed under government trusteeship. Mariano Prado Sosa immediately fled to Spain, while his father went sick and retired to a private clinic.

On March 19, 1972, an examining magistrate reported that both Prados and 11 former directors of the bank were guilty of fraud.

On April 28, 1972, the Prados and six minor executives were charged.

But Prado senior could not be placed on trial because he was 'sick' and Prado junior could not be placed on trial because the Spanish authorities refused to extradite him.

Now, some three and a half years after the affair came out into the open, the Peruvian military government has ruled that a court tribunal can question Prado senior in hospital.

The wheels of justice creak on.

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# YOUNG SOCIALISTS FIGHT ON FOR REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS

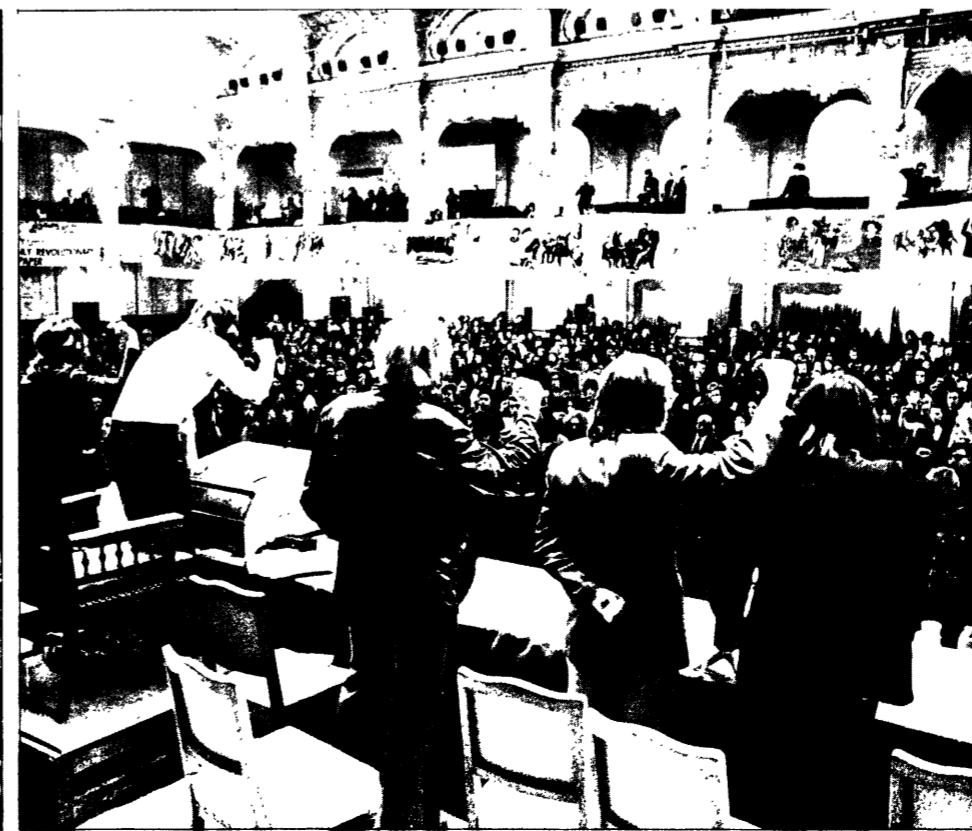
Britain's biggest socialist youth movement in session (above right) at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, venue of last year's Labour Party conference.

The Young Socialists are a living repudiation of the Wilson-Jenkins clique who dominate the Labour Party. These leaders expelled the YS from the Labour Party in 1964 but now, nearly a decade later, the movement goes on fighting for revolutionary politics in Britain.

The delegates and visitors came 1,700 strong—900 from the London region alone—to discuss and vote for a full programme to lead the working class to socialism. The first priority was to force the Tory government to resign and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

Youth from all over the world gave greetings at the conference. Right: a member of the American Young Socialists who are sympathetic to the YS. Centre: singing the Fourth International at the close of the conference. Far right: the Young Socialist Dance on Saturday evening.

Above: John Simmance, national secretary of the YS, receives a presentation to mark his third year in this office. The YS will elect a new national secretary soon.





The platform at the TUC's last conference, in Blackpool, 1972.

# UTOPIAN SCHEMES CONCEAL SUPPORT FOR CAPITALISM

BY ROYSTON BULL

**There is overwhelming evidence that the massive inflation now undermining the western economies is completely beyond the control of the capitalists themselves.**

The anarchy and panic fluctuations on the gold and money markets are an integral part of the free enterprise currency and credit set-ups.

The inability of anybody to 'solve' the financial crisis arises out of the blind forces of capitalism itself. The market economy system is, by its very nature, unplannable and anarchic.

Yet despite almost two centuries of booms, slumps, crises, crashes, trade wars and shooting wars, the TUC leaders are, nevertheless, still calling on the capitalists to put their own house in order.

In its latest document, the TUC is asking the Tory government to exercise greater control over interest rates, credit expansion, and money market operations generally.

In a 'Press Statement by Mr Victor Feather', the TUC declares: 'A reversion to greater government control over the banks and the big financial institutions, that's the conclusion of the TUC Economic Committee's study of high interest rates.'

This is the kind of Utopian nonsense Marx and Engels first exposed over 120 years ago.

It is not that the bourgeoisie lack exhortations to put things right. They meet at international monetary conference after international monetary conference precisely to do that. Their newspapers stress the urgency of a solution. The rival capitalist politicians tell each other how it should be done.

The point is not that the capitalists refuse to end the

chaos out of wilfulness or ignorance. The point is that they cannot end it because the system controls them and not they the system.

Therefore the TUC's whole document calling on the Tory government to restore order is totally Utopian—it could never happen.

The rest of Feather's statement is so unscientific as to arouse suspicions that the TUC economic committee has lost all touch with reality.

'Since the introduction of the government's new policy of competition in credit control in September 1971, interest rates have soared and bank lending to the property companies has more than tripled,' it goes on.

The attempt to break the clearing banks' cartel agreement on common lending and borrowing rates has absolutely nothing whatever to do with the current soaring cost of interest. Equally it has not the remotest connection with the

amount of bank-lending that now goes for land speculation.

Interest rates are soaring as a direct result of inflation itself, the annual depreciation in the value of money resulting from the long-term expansion of credit and money supply by the United States far beyond what was realistically called for by real US economic growth.

The resort to the printing presses by America over the last 29 years has been done for political purposes. They wanted to back up bankrupt anti-communist regimes and pave the way for US economic and political influence all over the world by stoking up a permanent boom through use of the money supply.

As a result, the western world, principally western Europe, has now accumulated millions of dollars which the US will no longer convert or take back and which are rapidly becoming valueless as America's economic position declines and its currency gets repeatedly devalued.

## Depreciation

But these millions of dollars circulate freely with all other currencies in Europe. Therefore, as they depreciate, so all currencies depreciate in value.

In other words, all money

begins to purchase less and less. This is inflation.

The vastly overflated stock of paper money is still being added to at a phenomenal rate as the various capitalist states try to fight off politically disastrous developments, such as mass unemployment, by 'reflating', or printing more money.

When inflation, or the depreciation in the value of all money, is running at, say, 5 per cent a year, it is obvious that people in the money-lending business, such as banks, etc, must charge very high interest rates if they are to lend at a profit. They will want 5 per cent for their normal interest charges, plus a further 5 per cent to cover the depreciation of whatever sum they lend.

Interest rates of 10 per cent, therefore, are the inexorable result of 29 years of capitalist anarchy, the full burdens of which are only just beginning to be felt.

The money going into land speculation is the same rake's progress at work, but in a different direction. With profitable industrial production and trading undermined by uneven development of capitalism, a relative surplus of capital, and other factors, investors want to make a profit somewhere.

With currencies being so rapidly undermined, all smart capitalists are getting out of





Victor Feather outside 10 Downing St. His statement calls for 'a reversion to greater government control' over the economy.

money and into tangible assets as quickly as they can, such as jewellery, gold, houses, land, paintings and almost any commodity that has real value in it.

The competition between Natwest, Barclays and Lloyds for supremacy on the High Street, while unnecessary, is not responsible for this state of affairs and could not affect it if it were stopped.

The TUC statement goes on: 'The government must control the overall level of bank-lending and make sure that the manufacturing and investment sectors are given top priority.'

Very pious, but, again, utterly Utopian. It is a scientific fact that unless a capitalist gets the best return possible on his capital, then he will not remain a capitalist for very long.

Banks will lend where they have to in order to make their profits. And conversely, industrialists will not borrow money and lay out new capital unless there is a profit in it. 'Control' of investment without the total abolition of capitalism is just a nonsense.

Even controlling the overall level of bank-lending is beyond the powers of the capitalist state, despite frequent attempts to do so. Not the least reason is the international nature of capital.

However many exchange controls are applied, capital funds in private hands will always find a way of crossing

frontiers to find the best rate of profit available. They risk extinction if they don't.

The TUC turns to one of the uncontrollable factors affecting the flows of 'hot money' and other funds in a later paragraph.

'There must be far greater public intervention in the financial markets, not only to control short-term Euro-dollar markets, but also to ensure that funds are available for necessary economic and social investment by means of a public investment agency.'

## Nationalization

More gibberish. The TUC admits that it hasn't a clue how to start controlling the Euro-dollar market and cannot point to a single example of any capitalist state that has yet been able to introduce effective exchange controls.

Recently, for example, the strongest economy in Europe, West Germany, was forced to finally agree to a US devaluation by an avalanche of Euro-dollars coming into its banks and forcing up the rate of the Deutschmark.

The only public intervention to secure social investment that could have any effect would be the outright nationalization of all private capital in the banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions. The TUC did not

even discuss this possibility.

Public intervention in a reformist piece meal way can never work because social investment is never the best source of profit immediately available to the owners of capital.

These same arguments apply to the rest of the TUC document advocating control of the land and housing markets. After the total failure of six previous Labour governments to do anything to prevent the eventual arrival in 1968 to 1973 of the greatest and most damaging period of property speculation in British history, the need for outright nationalization of all land and property other than owner-occupied should be self-evident to all trade unionists.

But not, apparently, to the TUC Economic Committee which includes several 'lefts'.

There is more to it, however, than simple ignorance. The reformist bureaucrats of the labour movement have a definite role to play in the survival of the capitalist system, of which they are an established part.

Their policies lead nowhere because they were never intended to lead anywhere.

Their privileged status would be swept away by the social revolution. They have every interest in keeping the capitalist system going.

# WORKERS NOTEBOOK

## TRIVIAL

While the price of food soars and wages are cut by the state pay laws, millions of working-class families are having to prune their shopping bills and eat less expensive food. In other words people are eating less food and less nourishing food.

Spare a thought, therefore, for the problems of Lee Langley, the lady journalist. She writes in the 'Liverpool Post':

'I have been having a week away from it all. Complete rest at a health farm.

'Hours of exquisite, unruffled boredom. Days spent without deadline or an alarm clock to quicken the pulse. Without a telephone call, a confrontation or a problem. Not even a decision to make. Suddenly there is time to spare: time to fall into mindless contemplation of a tree or a flower; to study the texture of a leaf, to watch the buds fattening on the branch and the thrushes fattening on the buds.'

She concludes her article by saying: 'Tomorrow it's back to the world of anger and television.'

Such is the hazardous life of the middle class as they flog one article after another to the capitalist Press and swim from one reception to the next to write about all that is trivial. It's a hard life. . .

## SPECULATION

We've heard of property speculation, but this is ridiculous. Land prices for burial plots in County Clare in the Republic of Ireland have soared to £2,000 an acre.

## SPYING

The 'Glasgow Herald' has just completed an investigation into state surveillance and bugging. After revealing the widespread use of this sophisticated equipment, journalist Dorothy-Grace Elder said:

'Most active communists in Britain are spied on to some degree by the state, although Mr Alex Murray, secretary of the Communist Party in Scotland, says he couldn't care less.

"All our activities are above board and honest, MI5, MI6 or anybody else can hear what they like," he told me.'

## TO BE SETTLED

Interesting item in the 'Sunday Press', published out of Dublin. One of the paper's senior political correspondents, Michael Hand, has an article entitled 'My night out with O'Leary in Brussels'.

In it Hand describes meeting the coalition's new Minister for Labour, Michael O'Leary, and going on the town with him in the Common Market capital. Now read on. . .

Michael O'Leary, at 36, is the youngest member of the Cabinet and one of two bachelors in the government (Mr Tom O'Donnell, Minister for Gaeltacht, is the other).

He was obviously pleased with his first official contacts with the European Commission. He had a long discussion with Dr Hillery, the Social Affairs Commissioner. His talks with George Thomson were regarded as a bonus.

Michael O'Leary had known Chef de Cabinet, Gwyn Morgan, from his University days. At the dinner party with us he had brought along Maurice Foley, the former Labour MP, who is now the Director General at the Commission, for Development and Aid.

The last time I had met Maurice was at Westminster. He was one of the best informed parliamentarians on the north. And, of course, he had been a good friend of Michael O'Leary and his Labour colleagues.

After dinner this clique of right-wingers adjourned to an Irish pub in the centre of Brussels. There O'Leary started the other drinkers by singing three songs—'The Rocks of Bawn', 'Flower of Sweet Strabane' and 'Trathnona Bear aireir'.

Foley then couldn't be restrained. He broke into 'The Rose of Tralee'.

'We had something to sing about,' reported Hand. Entry into the EEC was secured by the votes of these right-wingers. They might be carousing in Brussels now, but the working class and the trade union movement has a long and bitter memory.

Political accounts are still to be settled with Thomson, Foley, Gwyn Morgan and the rest.

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**WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday April 18, 8 p.m.** 'The Bell', Hoe Street. 'TUC must call a General Strike'.

**FULHAM: Thursday April 19, 8 p.m.** 'The Swan', Fulham Broadway, S.W.6. 'No collaboration with the Pay Board'.

**LEEDS: Thursday, April 19, 8 p.m.** Cobourg Tavern, Woodhouse Lane. Speakers from hospital workers and clothing industry.

**MIDDLETON, Thursday April 19, 8 p.m.** 'Assheton Arms', near the Middleton Gardens.

**TODMORDEN: Thursday, April 19, 8 p.m.** The Weavers' Institute, Burnley Road. 'The Questions of May Day, 1973'.

**FELTHAM: Thursday April 19, 8 p.m.** 'Three Horse Shoes', High Street. 'TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

**SLOUGH: Wednesday April 25, 8 p.m.** Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

**CROYDON: Thursday April 26, 8 p.m.** Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

**WILLESDEN: Thursday April 26, 8 p.m.** Brent Labour and Trades Hall, Willesden High Road, N.W.10. 'Build Councils of Action'.

**HOLLOWAY: Thursday April 26, 8 p.m.** Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'The economic crisis and the rising cost of living'.

## TODAY'S TV

### REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Hogan's heroes. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.30 This is your life. 12.00 Epilogue. News, weather.

**WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 9.30 London. 11.05 Vision USA. 11.35 Dr Simon Locke. 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 12.00 News, weather. 12.03 Songs.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 11.00 Yoga. 11.25 Gilbert and Sullivan. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 7.00 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. Guide-line.

**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 11.00 Press call. 11.25 Paco Pena. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 2.55 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Cuckoo in the nest. 7.00 London. 10.30 Time was. . . 11.00 London. 12.00 European journey. 12.30 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales as above except:** 4.20 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.15 Y dydd.

**HTV West as above except:** 6.15-6.30 Report West.

**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 10.40 Mr Piper. 11.05 Galloping gourmet. 11.35 Joe. 9.0. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 London. 8.30 Protectors. 9.00 London. 12.00 Music.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 11.00 Film: 'Impact'. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 London. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 10.30 Citizens' rights. 11.00 London. 11.30 Baron. Weather.

**ULSTER:** 9.30 London. 11.25 Paco Pena. 12.05 London. 1.29 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 12.00 Epilogue.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 11.02 Whicker. 11.30 Rovers. 12.05 London. 2.30 Jobs around the house. 3.00 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 10.30 Protectors. 11.00 London. 12.00 You and your golf. 12.30 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 10.35 Galloping gourmet. 11.00 Scotland Yard casebook. 11.30 Primus. 11.50 Hammy Hamster. 12.05 London. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. What's on. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 12.00 Evil touch.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 11.00 Press call. 11.25 Paco Pena. 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.00 It's all in life. 8.30 London. 10.30 Odd couple. 11.00 London. 12.00 Late call. 12.05 STUC.

**GRAMPIAN:** 9.30 London. 11.40 Julia. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 5.15 Wildlife theatre. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 STUC. 6.35 London. 12.00 Meditation.

### BBC 1

10.00 Magic roundabout. 10.05 Banana splits. 10.35 Star-sport. 10.50 Captain Pugwash. 11.00 Nai zindagi naya jeevan. 11.25 Film: 'Mr 880'. Burt Lancaster. Treasury agents track a counterfeiter. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Barnaby. 1.45 Made in Britain. 2.00 I like it here. 2.30 Great zoos. 3.00 Where is your God? 3.55 Television top of the form. 4.00 Huckleberry hound. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Boss cat. 5.15 Event. 5.40 Sir Prancelot. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. 6.45 ASK THE FAMILY. 7.05 TOMORROW'S WORLD. 7.30 ARE YOU BEING SERVED? Diamonds are a Man's Best Friend.

8.00 COLDITZ. Welcome to Colditz. 8.50 SIX FROM COLDITZ. Major Reid, the first escape officer at Colditz and adviser for the BBC series, interviews men who were in Colditz.

9.00 NEWS. Weather. 9.25 SPORTSNIGHT. Bantamweight Championship of Europe. Greyhound racing. World ice hockey championships.

10.15 MOIRA IN PERSON. Moira Anderson with guest Shari Lewis. 10.45 MIDWEEK. Including Jimmy Hoffa Comes Back.

11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS. 11.35 MAN AT WORK. When You're 65. . . . 12.00 BEYOND PERSONALITY. 12.05 Weather.

### ITV

9.30 Out of school. 11.00 Homes of history. 11.15 Galloping gourmet. 11.40 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Cuddles and co. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Scotch corner. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon. 2.55 Whose baby? 3.25 Hine. 4.20 Sooty show. 4.50 Jensen code. 5.20 University challenge. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.35 CROSSROADS. 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 SHUT THAT DOOR! Larry Grayson with guest Max Bygraves. 8.30 THE BEST OF FATHER, DEAR FATHER. The Last of the Red-Hot Mommas. 9.00 SPECIAL BRANCH. Inquisition. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 A PLACE IN THE COUNTRY. Hardwick Hall. 11.00 BOB MONKHOUSE SHOW. 11.30 ARMCHAIR 30. Alfred Potter's Story. With Arthur Lowe. 12.00 NIGHT GALLERY. House with a Ghost; Doctor Stringfellow. 12.50 PRAYER.

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## LETTER

# Disgusted with docks report

The recent National Ports Council report on the future of unregistered docks has left dockers working in the major scheme ports deeply dissatisfied. Registered dockers want the unregistered labour in the non-scheme ports to be brought within the wages and conditions provision of the National Dock Labour Board scheme. A docker from Hull writes to Workers Press:

DEAR EDITOR,

I am disgusted with the National Ports Council Report. Many dockers don't appreciate the situation since the report. Hull docks only know about the Trent ports, but all the unregistered ports are just drawing on a pool of cheap labour.

There has been nothing from the union to explain the report. Dockers will have to draw their own conclusions about what Jack Jones has done. The mass voice of dockers must be heard on the report, but the union won't call a meeting.

The trouble is now that dockers are more isolated work-

ing in smaller groups. The strength of the dockers in the past was that they lived together and worked in a close community.

News was always transmitted round fast. Dock work as it used to be in the past is now finished.

Soon there will be more tally men checking the numbers on containers than labourers.

Jack Jones let the situation slip away without a real fight. Perhaps he couldn't do anything else. There was a lot of political pressure on him. The dockers have always been non-political. This goes back into history, but politics are coming in more now.

The state and the police are coming into it now. We've still got the scars from Neap House

Wharf. I am very bitter about that. Really it was futile to take that sort of action, but we had to do something. Now the stories about violent picketing are being used against us. Even in the report.

It's always been the state. In the dockers' tanner strike in 1894 and in 1911, and of course you had the General Strike in 1926 as well.

All our actions are tied up with the economy. Pickets are made out to be disruptors of the economy. The Industrial Relations Act put us outside the law. What is lacking is a mass circulation working-class paper to answer these points.

Dave Marson, secretary T&GWU 10/17 branch in a personal capacity.

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## Carr to hear Cheng appeals

**APPEALS** on behalf of Taiwan architect Tzu Tsai-cheng will be considered before Home Secretary Robert Carr decides whether to sign an order for his extradition to America, it was disclosed yesterday.

The Law Lords ruled by a 3-2 majority on Monday that Cheng must be extradited.

He is wanted in America for complicity in the attempted assassination of Nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek's son.

But yesterday Labour peer Lord Brockway said the Home Office had told him 'that a decision will not be reached in the case of Mr Cheng before my appeal and that of Members of Parliament has been considered'.



Brockway . . . Contacted Home Office.

Lord Brockway believed that Cheng should be given the opportunity to go to another country rather than to America.

He said he had won a precedent for such action many years ago in the case of a Spanish deserter from the Spanish navy.

A Home Office spokesman said: 'Lord Brockway has been in touch with us.'

A Press Association diplomatic correspondent writes: 'It is understood that the Home Secretary will, before signing the order for Mr Cheng's surrender, spend several weeks looking at all representations made on his behalf.'

All trade union branches and members of the labour movement must demand Cheng be given asylum in Britain. Resolutions and letters should be sent to the Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W.1.

● See tomorrow's Workers Press centre pages for a background story on the Cheng case.

# Ulster Assembly Bill gets its second reading

BY IAN YEATS

**THE NORTHERN** Ireland Assembly Bill was given a second reading in the House of Commons on Monday night without a vote being taken.

Elections are fixed for June 28 and, aside from objections to the exclusion of Sinn Fein candidates, the Bill was welcomed by MPs on both sides of the House.

Tory Ulster chief William Whitelaw is expected to rule tonight, during the second reading of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, on whether the ban on Sinn Fein will be lifted.

Only one Labour MP, Mr James Wellbeloved, showed signs of radical disagreement with the Assembly Bill. When he tried to force a division, no other MP could be found to come forward and join him as a teller.

Mr Wellbeloved wanted the powers of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to be subject to an affirmative vote because of their wide-ranging character.

He also wanted elections to the new Ulster Assembly to take precedence over the local government elections due to take place on May 30.

The parties who will contest the election for the 78 seats are



Bernadette Devlin . . . nothing new from meetings.

still in disarray and Mid-Ulster MP Miss Bernadette Devlin told me yesterday nothing had come of meetings to consider ways of preventing the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Labour Party portraying themselves as the anti-Unionist opposition in the six counties.

In addition to Miss Devlin,

both wings of Sinn Fein and the nationalist party were represented at these meetings.

It is thought unlikely in official government circles that Whitelaw will lift the proscription of Provisional Sinn Fein to allow them to contest the elections.

In Monday's debate, Labour shadow spokesman on Northern

## With no opposition from the Labour Party

Ireland Mr Merlyn Rees reiterated the party's view that a way ought to be found of allowing Sinn Fein candidates to stand.

Labour 'left' Mr Stanley Orme, said: 'We are completely opposed to people who use the gun. But at the same time, we think that, if the people who represent the political wing of such an organization can test their strength at the ballot box, this may be a more effective way of defusing that gun than the very precarious methods having to be used by the security forces now.'

● Sixteen English detectives are to join the Royal Ulster Constabulary to assist in security operations.

## Ill-feeling as hospitals go back

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

**WORKERS** in hospitals covered by the Wessex Regional Hospital Board are continuing their overtime ban and a policy of non-co-operation. They have placed a ban on private patients and are vetting the rate of supplies to the central sterile department.

The workers are demanding a full investigation into the activities of the North Hampshire Management Board, which brought in volunteers when the ancillary workers walked out.

They are also demanding the right of shop stewards to sit in on meetings of Management Committees and Regional Hospital Boards.

The hospitals affected are in the Portsmouth, Southampton and North Hampshire areas and National Union of Public Employees officials met hospital representatives in Winchester yesterday afternoon to try to make arrangements for a full return.

THREE large Liverpool hospitals were expected to return to normal working at midnight last night. A large meeting, mainly of women workers, last Friday turned down a stewards' recommendation not to proceed with the strike in view of the imminent settlement.

WORKERS at 14 Glasgow hospital laundries were also expected to return to normal working at midnight.

UNION officials were yesterday attempting to persuade workers at the Central Sterile Supplies department in East Birmingham to return to work.

On Monday workers at the unit, which serves about 50 hospitals in the area, had refused to return to work.

UNION officials were also trying yesterday to secure a return to work at Ashington Hospital, Northumberland, where laundry workers and drivers were still on strike.

Union chiefs agreed on Sunday to accept the offer of £2 for men and £2.60 for women (arrived at by bringing forward an 80p 'equal pay' rise from October) and to go to the Tory Pay Board.

## Heath 'interested in mini-TUC'

**PRIME MINISTER** Edward Heath has expressed interest in a 'mini-TUC' formed of unions registered under the Industrial Relations Act.

An organizer of the Federation of Registered Trade Unions, which is being established in Coventry, said the Prime Minister had written expressing interest.

The letter said the government would be pleased to hear the views of unions which had sought to make the Act work.

Federation organizers hope to recruit over 200 unions—with a membership of 1.5 million—to the body.

## 6,000 price complaints are thrown out

**TORY** Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs Mr Geoffrey Howe has announced that of 12,300 price complaints between

November 6 and March 31, half were found to be 'not related' to the so-called price freeze.

Investigations had taken place, Howe announced, into 5,700 cases. Some 5,225 of them were found to be 'not substantiated'.

## Miners want strike over pit closure

**THE EXECUTIVE** meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers at the end of the month will have to decide whether to back the call from the Yorkshire area NUM for official strike action by the region's 65,000 miners against the threatened closure of the St John's colliery, Norman-ton, with the loss of 660 jobs.

The National Coal Board says it wants to close the pit because the coal is exhausted.

The NUM disputes this. The fate of the St John's mine has already been fought through the appeals machinery for the industry.

If the NUM executive approves the strike, the Yorkshire area will then have to ballot its members under rule.

**IN THE** Midlands yesterday, NCB chairman Derek Ezra tried to spread confidence in the future of the industry under a Tory government by announcing plans for a £3m exploration programme over the next two years to discover new reserves of coal near existing collieries and at new sites.

Ezra based his remarks on the dubious assumption that the present phoney boom is going to last. 'The British coal industry must be ready to meet the challenges and major opportunities that lie ahead,' he said.

## Perkins men seek parity

**THE** 1,400 assembly workers at Perkins diesel engines, Peterborough, who were laid off on Monday, were back at work yesterday, but the dispute over pay continues.

A union-management joint council meeting will look at it again tomorrow.

The workers have been banning weekend overtime working

for the past three weeks.

They want parity with Coventry car assembly rates, but Perkins have only offered a Phase Two level deal.

The 1,400 were laid off while essential maintenance was done normally carried out at weekends. The management has suspended the guaranteed week for all workers.

**SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETINGS**  
Make Scanlon retract!  
No collaboration with the Industrial Relations Act!  
No acceptance of Phase Two!  
Force the Tories to resign!  
Build the revolutionary party!

**South London**  
TUESDAY APRIL 24, 8 p.m.  
Clapham Manor Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4

**North London**  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 25 8 p.m.  
Woodlands Hall, Crown Street, Acton, W.3.

**East London**  
SUNDAY APRIL 29 7.30 p.m.  
Abbey Hall, Axe Street (behind the Town Hall)

**Liverpool**  
Transform the SLL into the revolutionary party  
MONDAY APRIL 23, 7.30 p.m.  
'The Mona', James St (Entrance at back in Moor St)

**SLL LECTURE SERIES**

The revolutionary party and the history of the British working class

**Merthyr Tydfil**  
Caedraw School Merthyr Tydfil 7.30 p.m.  
Wednesday April 18 (Note date change)  
Lectures given by Peter Jeffries

The Unions and the working class in Britain.  
The Revolutionary Past of the British working class—and its future.  
The Transformation of the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.

**READING**  
Trotsky, Where is Britain Going? Problems of the British Revolution.  
Perspectives for Transforming the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.  
Marxist Analysis of the Crisis.

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NOW £405.87  
ONLY 13  
DAYS LEFT**

IT IS much, much too slow. If we do not push up our total today, we could find ourselves in difficulties in making our £1,750 this month.

It certainly is not a time to relax. The Tories never sit back for a moment. As the economic situation continues to get worse, they step up their attacks against the working class. Prices continue to rocket up whilst wages are deliberately kept down.

Workers Press is vital today. Only our paper warns of the real nature of this economic crisis and that there can be no return to the conditions of boom. It is decisive, therefore, that we use our paper to build a revolutionary leadership to politically prepare for this situation ahead.

We cannot waste another moment in the campaign to raise April's Fund. There are now only 13 days to reach our target. It must be into action immediately to change the situation straight away. Rush every donation to:

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

## Phnom Penh 'on the verge of collapse'

# Panic reports flow out of Cambodia

BY MICHAEL BANDA

'THE GOVERNMENT is really not functional at this time. It appears to be on the verge of collapse.' This is the verdict of the US Senate study mission report on the doomed Lon Nol dictatorship in Cambodia which Nixon is trying to sustain with massive last-minute B52 bombing.

So serious is the plight of the Lon Nol regime that it cannot even obtain enough intelligence to direct the bombing. As a result the bombing is being directed from the US Embassy in Phnom Penh!

One western diplomat in the city described the panic of the US command succinctly:

'The Americans are throwing air support around like a mad

woman. They don't know what effect it's having.' ('Herald Tribune', April 17, 1973).

If the US generals don't know the casualties, civilians certainly do. Casualties of the bombing are huge—and growing daily as the volume and intensity of US air strikes escalate into the new familiar pattern seen in the Vietnam war.

US fighter-bomber pilots based on Thailand are flying an average of 250 sorties a day while the area around Phnom Penh alone is receiving an average of 1,800 tons of high explosive daily.

The genocidal bombing has not stopped the insurgent forces, although it has transformed half of Cambodia's 6.5 million population into homeless refugees.

Almost 500,000 of these face starvation because of the break-

down of transport and food shortages.

The communist forces are now firmly dug in ten to 20 miles to the south east of the capital along the marshy banks of the Bassac river.

Neighbouring provincial capitals to the south—Takeo and Tram Khnar—were heavily attacked on Monday night by the Khmer Rouge guerrillas who infiltrated the central market place. Government sources described the position here as 'highly critical'. A similar phrase was used to describe the situation in the seaside resort of Kep.

Government attacks on communist forces blocking the access to rice fields north of the capital have been repulsed while severe casualties were suffered by Lon Nol's men when they tried to reopen the Saigon-

Phnom Penh highway to the east.

At the same time South Vietnamese attempts to relieve the besieged capital have proved abortive, thus emphasizing the complete isolation of the city.

What worries Nixon and the US Pacific Command—feliculously situated in Honolulu—is not the future of Phnom Penh, but the prospect of communist forces reopening the port of Sihanoukville—renamed Kompong Som—and establishing a major logistics base for the NLF in South Vietnam.

The overthrow of Sihanouk and the US invasion of Cambodia was carried out mainly in order to deprive the NLF of this strategic port.

Control of Sihanoukville, the rice-basket of Cambodia, and the Mekong waterway would enable the Hanoi and NLF forces to launch powerful offensives in the south and smash President Thieu.

In order to forestall such moves and maintain his puppet regimes in Saigon and Phnom Penh, Nixon has not only escalated the air and ground war, but is also using every form of diplomatic leverage to secure the support of the USSR and China.

Presidential adviser, Dr Henry Kissinger has already made urgent approaches to the Russian and Chinese Stalinists warning them that disarmament talks and trade concessions would be jeopardized if support by Moscow and Peking is extended to the Cambodian liberation forces.

Since Moscow already recognizes the Lon Nol regime and supplies it with goods and weapons, there is every reason to believe that Kissinger will get a favourable response.

Peking, however, is host to Prince Sihanouk's government in exile and has actively encouraged his cause against Moscow in the hope of making a 'neutral' Cambodia into a Peking sphere of influence.

But having betrayed the cause of Vietnamese unity and independence to get trade concessions from the west, the Peking bureaucrats will, without difficulty, swallow the Cambodian canary as well.

Only the international working class can defend the Cambodian revolution and help it to victory.

Stalinism, once again, will prove to be its grave-digger.

# Brewery workers ignore Pay Board threat

THE THREAT of intervention by the Pay Board in their strike was ignored yesterday by workers at Watney Mann's Whitechapel brewery, east London.

A mass meeting applauded the extension of the strike to Isleworth and Mortlake breweries. Shop stewards received an encouraging response to their call for more workers to come forward for picketing duties.

More than 800 workers are now involved in the strike, which is over Watney's alleged attempt to breach an agreement on pay and productivity signed last year.

The agreement phases out guaranteed overtime, ends compensation pay for the changeover to shift work and provides for the introduction of Measured-Day Work for transport workers.

In return a working party was to be set up to negotiate shift pay. Discussions were also promised on extra holidays.

After much dragging of feet a £2.40 across-the-board payment was agreed in settlement of the shifts issue, but Watney's refused to implement it on the grounds that it was above the limit allowed by Phase Two of the pay laws.

## Reference

Over the weekend the company referred the issue to the Pay Board.

Yesterday's Whitechapel meeting heard a report from steward Hughie Wilson on the supporting action taken by craft union members at Isleworth and Mortlake.

This meant that these breweries would be closed down in a matter of days, he said.

From the Royal group of docks, Transport and General Workers' steward Tony Delaney brought a pledge of backing for the brewery strikers if needed.

After the meeting brewery steward Mick Herrin said the strike leaders had not discussed their policy on any action by the Pay Board.

For its part, the Pay Board is examining the issues in the dispute and may be making a move tomorrow or on Friday.

By then another 1,000 workers could have joined the 900 already laid off by the strike.

● TRUMAN'S transport drivers have been in dispute with Grand Metropolitan Hotels, which owns Watney Mann, for three weeks over a plan which they say would cut their earnings by £10 a week.



The Watney men at their meeting yesterday.

## Tories have anti- 'guerrilla' plans

THE TORY government admitted yesterday that it had contingency plans to deal with 'urban guerrillas'.

In answer to a question about special 'anti-terrorist units in the army to combat 'urban guerrillas' the parliamentary under Secretary for Defence, Peter Blaker, said:

'As far as the army is concerned, there have been no proposals for a special anti-terrorist unit as such, but there has been a good deal of contingency plan-

ning with which my department has been associated.'

Patrick Duffey, Labour MP for Attercliffe, spoke of the vital

importance of the army not departing from established frontiers of civil and military relations.

The engineers, who have already paid £60,000 to the court in fines and costs, want the TUC to set up a joint fund to meet financial penalties suffered by any union for its defiance of the anti-union laws.

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The TUC will be urged to organize 'concerted acts of defiance' against the laws.

## 'Casual' dockers

FROM PAGE 1

shortages by recruitment to supplementary registers.

'I hope this suggestion will commend itself to the board.'

Macmillan's suggestion in case of any 'difficulty' in implementing such recruitment was that the board should come and see him for further discussions.

● A Hull docker writes, page 10.

A MASSIVE queue of lorries built up at Liverpool docks yesterday as drivers faced with redundancy began a picketing campaign.

The congestion was worst at the new £50m Seaforth container terminal north of the old port.

Drivers, who are under notice turned away vehicles with goods for vessels in the P&O group of which the haulage firm, Ulster Ferry Link Line, is a subsidiary.

A closure decision by Link Line has led to 60 drivers and fitters and 20 office staff being given notice.

Harold Verinder, the union commercial services section secretary, said they were calling for a full inquiry into the closure.