

INFLATION SHATTERS US 'BOOM'

THE RAPID inflation that grips the world economy is devastating plans in the United States for stability and economic growth.

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

A special report by the United Nations shows an unprecedented rise in prices across the world. But the situation is worst in the US, now facing a runaway inflation that has already dashed President Nixon's hopes of controlling the economy.

Prices in America—still the centre of the world capitalist system—are rising faster than in the frantic inflation of the Korean war period. The latest figures show prices are climbing at an annual rate of 9.6 per cent, with food leading at an incredible 30 per cent a year.

Nixon, who rules the country in the interests of American big business, has abandoned his bid to keep inflation down to 2.5 per cent.

Like the Tories in Britain, the American leaders are making the workers pay for the inflationary crisis with laws controlling wages. But in America a big clash is looming.

Union bosses have been forced to drop their support for Nixon after a wave of price demonstrations. George Meany, head of the AFL-CIO (American TUC) has said: 'Go out and get all you can.'

This crisis, which comes when Nixon is reeling over the Watergate affair, opens a real opportunity for workers to deal a fatal blow to the corrupt gang in the White House and to build a true Labour Party to represent their interests.

But the world inflation and the position of American labour also have great significance for British workers.

The international character of inflation and price rises exposes as a Tory lie the claim that wages 'cause' inflation.

Inflation is a sickness rooted deep in the capitalist economy. It can only be 'cured' by planned economic

growth and the abolition of world-wide speculation in currency, land and commodities.

Every capitalist in every capitalist country wants the worker to pay for the crisis of the system.

But, above all, the news from the economic front is a warning.

It shows that the so-called 'boom' has meant uncontrollable price rises. This will result inevitably in a recession when governments are forced to put on the brakes.

This, in turn, will lead to a collapse of business confidence.

The present crisis proves there is no way to stabilize capitalism as the reformists in the trade unions and the Labour Party would suggest.

Workers will not get boom but war. Behind the façade of inflationary growth they are facing the most severe attacks of the century on their rights.

In all their struggles, on jobs, pay or the right to organize in unions they clash directly with government policy.

The question of power therefore is posed every day. Either they remove the Tory government by mass political and industrial action, or their rights will be destroyed.

BREAD BOMBS? Tight security on Belfast 10 court

BRITAIN'S new-style police force was in action yesterday when ten people appeared in a London court in what promises to be a bigger political show trial than the so-called 'Angry Brigade' hearings.

The ten, three girls and seven men, were remanded in custody on charges which followed the London bomb explosions on March 8.

Over 50 police threw a security net around the court and sealed off a Lambeth street where the magistrates court stood. All cars were stopped and searched. (More pictures page 12.)

Downing Street had been sealed off for security reasons after the London bombings last month, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

They were commenting on a letter in 'The Times' suggesting that the road had been 'arbitrarily closed by the Prime Minister's personal fiat'.



**£100,000
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MINERS' ATUA MEETINGS

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DONCASTER Monday April 30, 8 p.m. White Bear Hotel, Hallgate. Speaker: Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee).
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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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THE BIG ?

Over Tricky Dicky's head

PRESIDENT NIXON himself is for the first time directly and personally implicated in the Watergate bugging affair as criminal charges are prepared against his top cabinet members.

Senate sources have said that Nixon knew all about the bugging plot as long ago as last June, within days of the discovery of Republican burglars in the Democratic headquarters.

His Press office yesterday refused to deny detailed charges in the 'Washington Post' accusing the President of helping to cover up the scandal and protect his closest aides.

The 'Post' said Nixon had repeatedly been warned that his staff, among them former Attorney-General John Mitchell and White House counsel John Dean were deeply implicated in the bugging affair.

The scandal is shaking the entire administration from top to bottom. Scarcely a member of Nixon's closest circle of advisers is left untouched by the evidence which is flooding out of Washington.

Particularly implicated are the following men:

- Former Attorney-General and campaign manager John Mitchell.

- Former commerce secretary and chief fund-raiser Maurice Stans.

- White House chief of staff H. R. Haldeman.

- Presidential counsel John Dean.

The Federal Grand Jury investigating the Watergate affair is expected to bring in criminal charges against these men and others in the near future.

Two mystery witnesses—

one of them a top aide of President Nixon—were summoned to the Grand Jury yesterday. They were expected to confirm the damaging allegations against the President.

Nixon has tried and failed to keep aloof from the affair. Last week when he knew his staff could face criminal charges he finally broke a lengthy silence to say that he would sack any White House staff who proved to be involved.

The situation in the White House is so tense that normal operations have almost completely ground to a halt. Two warring factions, one grouped around Mitchell and one around chief of staff H. R. Haldeman, have emerged.

'The Haldeman-Erlichman side of the White House is in open warfare with the Mitchell-Dean side,' a senior adviser said. 'It is a brutal battle.' The general motto is 'every man for himself'.

The charges and counter-charges are now flying thick and fast as each member of the inner cabinet tries to extricate himself now that presidential protection has been withdrawn and they have been told they must testify.

Sackings within the top levels of the administration are inevitable. But the biggest question of all is the future of Nixon himself.

Can he brazen out the allegations against him and retain any credibility to continue as President for the next four years?

Nixon has concentrated more power in his own hands than perhaps any other President in history. He has tried hard to reduce the elected Congress to a cypher, operating through a super-secretariat of his personal cronies.

He tried to bury the 'Tricky Dicky' image, using Madison Avenue public relations techniques to project himself as a reliable and impeccably honest figure. No one will believe this now.

The Watergate scandal has broken at a time of unprecedented inflation in the United States with a movement building up inside the unions to do battle against the Nixon wage controls.

It can bring down the Nixon administration.

It reveals the utter contempt in the top circles of the ruling class for the 'democratic process'—the presidential election is shown to be a fraud, won by wholesale manipulation and crime.

The building of a Labour Party, based not on bourgeois-democratic illusions but on revolutionary politics, is now the most urgent task in front of the US working class.



Threadbare Cambodian cover for US policy

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

IN A desperate effort to save the tottering Cambodian military dictatorship, the United States has cobbled together a coalition regime which held its first cabinet meeting yesterday.

Lon Nol himself, whose corrupt and isolated government is kept going solely by American air power, remains in the cabinet. He is joined by three other stooges of American imperialism who are supposed to 'broaden' the regime.

In Tam, leader of the so-called Democratic Party, billed in the western Press as the 'main opposition' to Lon Nol, is one of the discarded 'white hopes' of American policy in Cambodia and very close to the Central Intelligence Agency.

The second recruit to Lon Nol's new cabinet, Cheng Heng, is the former governor of Phnom Penh Central Prison, which speaks for itself.

And Sirik Matak, the third, was co-author with Lon Nol of the 1970 coup which brought Cambodia into the Indo-China war. The new cabinet is a very threadbare cover for Washington's dictatorship.

Deposed Prince Sihanouk—now in Peking—said in a recent television interview that without the intervention of the US air force, Lon Nol could not have survived.

'We would have been able to take Phnom Penh since many months,' he said. But he warned that 'we are prepared to fight for ten or 20 years'.

Sihanouk recently visited liberated areas of Cambodia, travelling 600 miles in the country under armed escort without coming into contact with any of Lon Nol's troops.

Stalinists pull teachers into line with Tory policies

What we think

WHY DOES the Communist Party say 'Back May Day', while its delegates sit silent at the National Union of Teachers' conference at Scarborough?

Why does the 'Morning Star' give Tuesday's front page to 'squalor in schools', while the vital account of how the right wing scotched teachers' involvement in May Day is relegated—without comment—to page 5?

Why is it that while the Communist Party claims to oppose the Tory state pay laws its delegates voted on Friday to go to the Pay Board?

Why is it that while the Communist Party claims to oppose the Industrial Relations Act not one of its delegates spoke out against rule changes which brought the union into line with the Act?

Yesterday it only remained to be seen—would the Communist Party come to the aid of the militant young teachers by condemning the break-up of their organization?

Instead of mobilizing all their delegates AGAINST the pay laws and FOR May Day, the Stalinists either voted with the right wing or opened the door for their policies by remaining silent.

This is their shameful and unforgettable record at the most crucial ever teachers' conference. This is the remorseless logic of the 'peaceful road' stripped bare for all to see. This is the point where the Stalinist policy of 'left unity' is transformed in practice into unity with Tory policies.

Leading 'Star' reporter Mick Costello unconsciously explained his Party's approach in an article on April 13. He wrote: 'The pay laws cannot be forced on the working class for any time whatsoever unless its leaders decide to play ball with the Tories.'

Hear, hear, Mr. Costello. But this is precisely the effect of all that the Stalinists have done at Scarborough. They have consciously and treacherously played on the confusion and conservatism of the 2,000 teachers at Scarborough to swing the union into line behind the Tories corporate state policies.

Stalinist president Max Morris' appeal for rank-and-file unity in these dangerous

times went hand in hand with a vicious witch-hunt of the 'lunatic left' and an attack on 'left adventurism'.

The Stalinists deliberately played on the economic and educational fears and uncertainties of the largely middle-aged delegates to rally the silent majority against the militants.

Morris cleverly equated the new ideas in education which have produced widespread uncertainty among teachers with the 'left' and 'anarchists'.

Besieged by a puzzling plethora of educational and political philosophies, Morris told teachers to close ranks and fight together for the things in which they were alone interested—pay and conditions.

But the fight he proposed was a fight without a centre and without a meaningful political perspective. It amounted to no more than a rhetorical exposure of the wickedness of Toryism—of which the British working class have a long and well remembered experience.

Instead of mobilizing the fight against this reactionary Tory government, the Stalinists and their supporters concentrated all their fire on how seriously education would suffer as a result of the Tory 'ten-year disaster plan'. (The White Paper.) Presumably they will soon be getting up a petition to Tory education chief Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

While doing their utmost to trample down all signs of militancy on the one hand the Stalinists tacitly argue that if teachers have accepted Tory policies and refused to back May Day, it's because there is no fight in them.

In a seven-paragraph report of the NUT's acceptance of the Tory pay

deal in Saturday's 'Star', David Turner quoted without comment NUT general secretary Edward Britton's assessment: 'The opposition [to acceptance] was not strong.'

In other words the Stalinists use their old device of blaming the working class for their own conscious refusal to stand up and give a political lead. Having voted for the Pay Board on Friday, they resorted on Saturday to the insidious but now familiar tactics of trying to retain some vestige of credibility by proposing a resolution calling for a new militant campaign on pay. A campaign in which the Communist Party-controlled Brent Association, which proposed the resolution, knows very well that, after the fiasco of the London allowance, teachers will be reluctant to take part.

The full and deadly insidiousness of their policy for teachers and for the working class was exposed for all to see in the 'Star's' editorial yesterday. First it said there must be unity (that double-edged word). Secondly there must be more militancy.

The aim of all this would be 'for each individual section to put up the strongest and most resolute fight in its own interests, for each section in struggle to be given real solidarity backing by other sections and for the whole trade union and labour movement to take part in concerted action, as on May Day, to defeat policies of restricting wages and trade union rights'.

And if unity and militancy are not forthcoming, it is the working class

which is to blame. So said the editorial.

'The lesson of the hospital workers' struggle was not that militancy did not work, but that there was not enough of it forthcoming.'

This lunatic but deliberate policy of single-section action against a government bent not merely on 'restricting' but on destroying trade union rights and imposing total control over pay can only divide the working class and lead it to a disaster unparalleled in the history of the labour movement. This emphasis on more and more militancy can only wear workers down to the point where they are so disillusioned with persistent failure to achieve their aims that they are reluctant to take any action at all. Even among the more conservative layers of headmasters and head-teachers assembled at Scarborough the truth is exactly the reverse of the picture the Stalinists paint.

Teachers want to fight. They have to. Wages and prices are a BURNING issue.

The pay clamour which broke out at the Labour Party meeting on Sunday addressed by Roy Hattersley bears witness to that.

The rejection of a key amendment scotching any new campaign on wages bears witness to that.

But faced with the stubborn intractability of this government, which has ended 'at a stroke' all the old methods of improving pay and conditions, teachers do not know how to fight.

The Stalinists intend that they should never find out. The spotlight in the NUT is now firmly on the question of leadership.

Only a perspective aimed at creating the conditions in which the Tories can be kicked out and a Labour government returned, forced by mass action to carry out genuine socialist policies, will now succeed.

The All Trades Unions Alliance and the Socialist Labour League are the only organizations in the labour movement which take up this fight.

RUBERY, OWEN

Darlaston, Staffs, workers out four weeks in first strike

LEADERS of the 2,500 Rubery Owen workers at Darlaston, Staffordshire, are to meet today to review the progress of the first official strike in the firm's history.

The strike started four weeks ago in opposition to a bid to introduce a Measured Day Work-type system throughout the factory. Workers say this will lead to wage-cuts for many of the men.

Their bitter fight has broken a long tradition of paternalism between management and workers at Rubery's and has brought the men into defiance of the Tory state pay laws.

In a special investigation workers told Workers Press of the issues behind the Rubery Owen dispute.

Doug Peech has worked at Rubery's for 30 years. Over the last 17 of them he has been Transport and General Workers' Union convenor at the factory. He told us:

'We have never had a real strike at Rubery Owen's before. There was a day in 1954 and two days in 1966 and that's been it as far as I can remember.'

During the post-war 'boom' years there appeared to develop within Rubery Owen's a paternalistic attitude between the Owen family and the workforce. Old Sir Alfred Owen got the name of a benevolent employer, a sort of father of the Black Country.

Now this strike has changed all that.

In a letter sent to all employees on Thursday, April 19, Rubery Owen said:

'It has been repeatedly stated that we have lost £4m over the last seven years.'

This loss is the real reason for the explosion of the myth and the strikers' determination. As one young welder told Workers Press:

No glory

'Owen says he is going to implement the high base rate structure [a Measured Day Work-type payments system]. He won't negotiate because he needs wage-cuts and this we won't tolerate.'

'Owen still thinks he can rule in the old way, when it seemed as if workers would do anything for the Owen Empire. But the younger workers don't want glory—they want cash on the nail.'

The strike—now made official by both the transport union and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers—is over the firm's attempt to end the piecework system in its Seven Acre and Kings Hill plants. But although made official, it is really a strike against a union pay deal.

For it has its beginnings in the infamous engineers' package deal negotiated by AUEW leader Hugh Scanlon. It is this deal which has paved the way for the attack on the piecework system and its replacement by MDW-type agreements.

Since 1968 the Communist Party has covered up for Scanlon by saying that 'good shop stewards can drive a coach load of horses through that agreement'; or, as the International Socialists say: 'You can't fight it. Workers will always go for the extra money offered, so get the best you can out of it.'

Wage-cuts

Five years later these arguments are shown to be what they always were—weapons to assist the employers getting the MDW schemes under way. For at Rubery Owen's in 1973 it is not negotiations and wage increases—it's implementation of wage-cuts.

Between 1968 and 1971 the company did manage to persuade about half the pieceworkers to change over to a high base rate system (MDW) by offering them extra cash. But today the development of the world economic crisis makes that sort of offer impossible.

And in the interim period anyway, many Rubery Owen workers have discovered the pitfalls of MDW-type agreements.

A T&GWU shop steward already on the high basic rate told Workers Press:

T&GWU shop stewards' chairman Brian Bennett addresses last Friday's meeting of strikers.

State pay law fight reviewed today



Pickets at the Booth Street gate of Rubery Owen's.

'Owen thought because he first split the camp with about half the workers already on the new system, he would have an easy victory in forcing the remaining pieceworkers on the new system.'

'The trouble with the new system is that you have to rely on Owen for your money. On piecework you can decide what your money will be.'

Since the present wage claim has been under discussion, the union negotiating committee members have resisted any extension of the high base rate system into the rest of the piecework sections and this has now brought them and the union structure in Rubery Owen's under attack.

The management letter of April 19 says:

'Almost all the present Negotiating Committee are high earning pieceworkers. Employees who have honoured the 1968-1971 agreements also want representation on the Negotiating Committee.'

This paragraph clearly shows that the company feels that in order to enforce the present

change in the payments system it must first weaken trade union organization within the plants by dividing one section from the others.

At last Friday's mass meeting, Harry Littlehales, T&GWU Wolverhampton organizer, told the strikers:

Official

'The T&GWU and the AUEW are 100 per cent behind you in this strike. We will not accept the principle that this firm can reduce wages by £10 or £12 a week.'

Convenor Doug Peech told us that he was 'very happy that the strike had been made official' and that this showed that both union national executives were behind their stand at Rubery Owen's.

Commenting on the firm's attack on the Negotiating Committee, he said: 'No man has the right to vote for another man to take a wage reduction. No man has that right.'

That, in a nutshell, is the fight at Rubery Owen—the fight to

prevent wage-cuts. This is recognized very much by the strikers, as reflected in a statement by a subframe worker to Workers Press:

'Owen wants to cut our wages, but what about prices in the shops. They are going up every week. At one time we got cheap food from Australia and New Zealand, but now with entry into the Common Market, prices are going up. We soon won't be able to afford to live on our present wages, never mind taking a cut as well.'

In the sense that it's a fight against wage-cuts, Rubery Owen workers stand in the front line of the Tory government's attacks on the living standards of every single worker in this country.

In this sense the fight at Rubery Owen's can only really be won by the removal of the Tory government and the return of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

This task requires the building of a new leadership in the working class—a leadership that will face the problems involved with this perspective.

Rubery Owen workers meet again on Friday to consider the progress so far.

The company is the major supplier of chassis frames, axles, wheels and petrol tanks.

Rovers at Solihull and Reliant at Tamworth are already building cars without wheels.

No wheels

A lack of wheels has also been the reason for Massey Ferguson's closing down tractor production in Coventry and laying off 600 workers. Also in Coventry, about 100 men are laid off at the Daimler bus works.

Mini production at Austin Morris Longbridge, Birmingham, is halted with 1,500 workers laid off. At Rover, Solihull, 300 are laid off, with another 1,500 on short time.

In Coventry, workers at Jaguar, Chrysler, Standard Triumph and Carbodies are under lay-off threats when they return today from the Easter holiday.

Contest

A company spokesman told Workers Press that they contest the union's version of the dispute. They say they are guaranteeing no loss of earnings, that some piecework will remain, that there were negotiations before the men walked out, and that their one attempt to go over the unions' heads with a lump sum payment to lower-paid workers was abandoned as soon as the men went on strike.

General Strike call

ELLESMERE Port 6/760 branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union has passed a resolution calling for a General Strike to bring down the Tory government.

The resolution states:

'This branch calls for a General Strike to create the industrial and political climate to force the present government out of office and to return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.'

CONFEDERATION of British Industry Council has approved the nomination of Mr Ralph M. Bateman, chairman of Turner & Newall Limited, for election to deputy President of the CBI at the AGM on May 16.

STALINISTS BECOME POLICEMEN FOR THE RIGHT-WING'

LETTER FROM A TEACHER

Dear Editor,
A clear indication that the Communist Party leads the task of fitting the strait jacket of the Tory pay laws was shown in Brent National Union of Teachers' last week when leading Stalinist teacher John Poole moved acceptance of the Phase Two offer to teachers.

Poole, assistant editor of the Communist Party journal 'Education, Today and Tomorrow', described the £127 as a 'tactical victory for the lower paid!'

Teachers calling for strike action on May 1 in this Stalinist-led branch were asked by its officers 'Wasn't this strike illegal?' When it was pointed out that strike action had been decided on by four London Associations, the retort was: 'Well, if these people get into trouble it's all to the good—they're the ones disrupting the union.' This remark was greeted with uproar from the membership and was not in anyway repudiated by Poole.

In other words, the course set by the witch-hunt initiated by NUT president-elect and CP member Max Morris after the Central Hall, Westminster, meeting, which rejected the union's protest policy, is the foundation of Stalinist policy in the union.

As teachers begin to break through their leaders' treach-

erous collaboration with the so-called 'national interest' and demand unity with the working class, Stalinism declares this 'illegal'—not to point out the dangers of Tory laws, but to accuse those who challenge them as 'disrupters'.

While Stalinist practice moves to the right, Stalinist double-talk remains the same. In the Easter edition of 'Education, Today and Tomorrow', Poole writes: No one union is going to defeat this



Max Morris, president-elect of the NUT and CP member.

government. It is obviously a task for joint action with other unions.' Talk about joint action; in practice the witch-hunt against those who actively campaign for such action.

Stalinism has given the go-ahead to a calculated bid by the right-wing NUT leaders and bureaucracy in Hamilton House to clamp down on union democracy. Delegates at the Special Salaries and Annual Conference at Scarborough at the weekend faced an executive motion to prevent local NUT Associations and individuals from striking without executive agreement.

In practice both the 1969 interim pay strikes and the recent London allowance campaign were initiated by local associations. This motion is an attack not only on militant teachers, but on the democratic rights of the whole membership and their need to defend their living standards.

What the Stalinists and the right wing dread is the growing political understanding of teachers as well as the militancy expressed in recent years in the affiliation to the TUC and the vote against registration under the Industrial Relations Act.

In the Brent NUT Poole did not even pay lip-service to the attack on living standards which the offer represents, for fear of stimulating revolt.

It was a question now, he said, of going on to 'the next stage' of the salaries fight. This meant support for the resolution of the Brent Stalinist-influenced NUT branch calling for a 'rationalization' of salary points.

In the past the right wing has carefully used the 'left' cover provided by the Stalinists.

They could be relied on for barbed jabs at Thatcher and—more vital still—for calls for 'unity' when members opposed betrayals.

Now they take up an even more reactionary role—they act as policemen for the right wing inside the union.

A North London Teacher. (Name and address supplied)



ARMY'S RECORD IN BELFAST

Youth in the New Lodge, Belfast, face continual harassment by troops. It is impossible to walk anywhere without being stopped by the army, searched and often arrested for hours.

The army deliberately 'sets up' confrontations between Catholic and Protestant youth.

One incident is typical. On a Friday evening recently a foot patrol moved down Meadow Street with guns pointing at everybody. The street is near the Protestant Duncairn Gardens and residents report that they had many friends there and there was much inter-visiting until a few years ago.

On this Friday evening the troops stopped and searched three youths who were simply walking along. They then marched one off down the street like a criminal and took him away to the nearby Protestant area to a waiting Saracen.

This arrest drew the Catholic people out and the commotion drew the Protestant youth out. Stone-throwing started. The army withdrew as soon as it could and left the crowds facing each other.

One of the youth afterwards told what had happened to him:

Photographed

'Since I have been released from Borstal, I have been continually stopped, asked for identification and asked the same old questions. Once I was stopped twice within five minutes.

'It finally culminated in my arrest and being taken over to Tiger's Bay.

'I was placed in the back of a Saracen and told that I was being arrested under the Special Powers Act. I was then taken to the military barracks.

'I was taken to a briefing room where I was made to face the wall for 30 minutes.

During this time two other soldiers who were standing guard over me were making threatening remarks in the background. They said they were going to fill me in, and teach me a lesson. One soldier maintained he could beat every single man in the New Lodge.

'During this time they photographed me. I was then taken for interrogation and questioned about various Republican activities in the area.

'The Special Branch man threatened that I would be worked over if I did not answer his questions.

'I was then taken back to the briefing room where one or two soldiers punched and kicked me. They brought me back and asked the same questions once again. I again replied that I knew nothing.

'The Special Branch man kept considering a sheet on the table before him. He then took me out to reception and told them to release me.'

Anger is rising at the unceasing brutality of the Paratroop Regiment. In Beleek, one youth — Martin Walsh — miraculously lived after being shot in the back of the head.

Walsh has told in detail what happened.

He had been watched from an army helicopter while walking from a field some distance away from where a landmine had exploded under a British army vehicle.

He was then picked up by a foot patrol, dragged along the ground and beaten. He was taken to a muddy lake only yards away from his home. After more beatings he was told to climb over a fence. As he did so, he was shot in the back of the head.

Walsh's mother claims that even after the shooting of her son the Paras still harassed the family. Martin's younger brother was beaten by Paras when they interrogated him at Newtownhamilton.

A helicopter also swooped down outside the family's home to check the house only days after the boy had been shot. But no charges were made against him.

In Beleek, nearly every youth has been picked up by the Paras at one time or another.

One boy said that when he was arrested 'the soldier told me that I was not walking fast enough and to march on the double; when I did he told me that I was walking too fast and he kicked me on the legs.'

He and several other youths were pushed into a Saracen and forced to lie down. 'A soldier told me that if I blinked or breathed, they would shoot me,' he said.

In Armagh town black flags hung from windows following the shootings last week in which two youths were killed and another seriously injured. Eye-witnesses say that Peter James McGerrigan, who was killed, and his companion John Nixon — neither of whom was armed — were shot down by Paras who jumped into a Saracen and drove away, leaving them bleeding in the street.

In the Ardoyne, people are making the following allegations against the Third Battalion of the Parachute Regiment:

Unarmed

March 12: A 30-year-old man, Edward Sharpe of Cranbrook Gardens, was shot dead while he was unarmed and not taking part in any illegal activities.

March 17: Patrick McCabe, aged 17, of Dunedin Park, was also shot dead. He was unarmed.

March 20: Paratroopers burst into a disco attended by about 150 children and terrorized the youngsters while beating others.

March 21: An 11-year-old boy was stopped by Paratroopers as he returned home from school. The soldiers threatened to shoot the child.

March 22: A man returning home from work was stopped by soldiers and badly beaten.

April 5: Four teenagers were stopped by Paras and threatened with beatings. Twenty-five men taken from a local club and forced to lie down on the floors of a Saracen while they were interrogated.

A 16-year-old boy — Terry Rice — from the Derrybeg area in Newry, has been smuggled across the border disguised as a woman after he had been threatened publicly several times by Paras on foot patrol.

Two youths from the same area who had been arrested by soldiers, dragged by the hair into a Saracen and beaten, say the Paras showed them a coloured picture of Rice and said they were determined to 'get' him.

Rice is now living with relatives in Co Wexford.

Two other youths, brothers from Killeen, have also taken refuge across the border after Para threats.

LESSONS OF UCS

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Soviet Union

The trade agreement signed in Moscow by the Occidental Petroleum Company is only the biggest so far of many similar deals which the Soviet bureaucracy hopes to enter into with big capitalist corporations this year.

The rapid development of foreign trade is seen as a means to overcome the growing crisis in the Soviet economy in the 'decisive third year' of the Ninth Five-Year Plan. In the first ten months after Nixon's visit to Moscow last May, over 2,500 representatives of American firms alone had made the pilgrimage in the hope of turning an honest dollar.

Trade with the Soviet Union, once abhorred as strengthening the 'red enemy', is now a sought after prize as the trade war steps up. Many American firms have already set up special staffs to handle business with the Soviet Union. Their counterparts from the other capitalist countries are doing likewise.

Specialized Soviet journals are regularly carrying articles about trade with the United States. For example, the January number of 'Ekonomika, Politika, Ideologika' contained a lengthy review of Soviet-American trade relations and their impact by Ya S. Shershnev which was obviously intended for the information and instruction of Party cadres.

The writer said that the Nixon talks went far beyond the framework of bilateral relations and opened an important new stage in the development of Soviet-American economic relations. He noted that in October the Joint Consultative Committee set up after the Nixon visit had brought about the granting of most favoured nation treatment to Soviet imports into the USA which resulted, in practice, in reducing tariffs on many Soviet goods by 50 to 75 per cent.

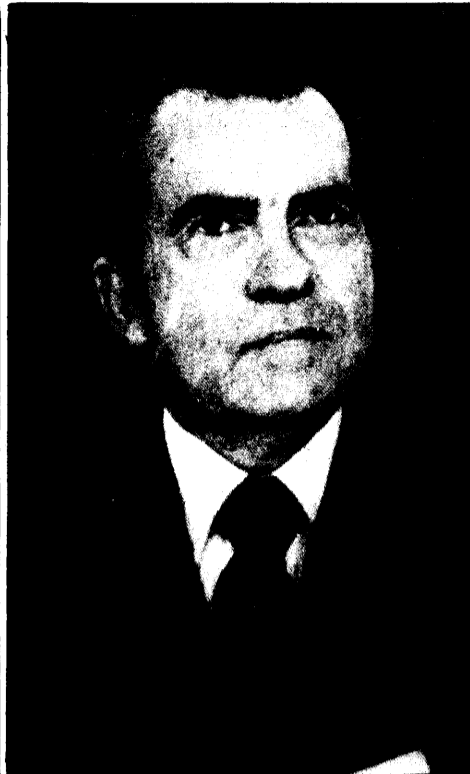
The object of this important committee is to encourage the establishment of effective business ties between the two countries' organizations and firms, taking into account their resources and requirements in raw materials, equipment and technique.

The Occidental deal means that the American firm will supply plant to equip factories

MOSCOW'S DEAL WITH OCCIDENTAL



Left: Building a pipeline for natural gas in Siberia. Right: Nixon whose talks with Brezhnev opened ground for trade deals.



manufacturing ammonia and urea, a nitrogenous compound used in fertilizers. It will also construct a pipeline to carry the fertilizer to ocean ports. Occidental will also supply badly needed superphosphates also used for fertilizers.

In other words, the deal is closely linked to the Soviet agricultural crisis which resulted last year in the purchase of huge quantities of cereals from the US and other countries.

In return, Occidental will have access to Soviet raw materials as well as chemicals made in these plants, which it hopes to sell profitably in the world market. Apparently, most of the finance will come from Occidental itself.

This is the sort of deal which is envisaged in the Shershnev article referred to above. It is hoped to raise US-Soviet trade to at least \$500-600m by 1974. But, as he says, 'without financial co-operation, the development of ties on any significant basis is very difficult'.

That means, as the deal with Occidental indicates, that the bureaucracy is hoping to obtain generous credit terms from its capitalist trading partners. But what it is mainly trading in will, of course, be valuable and irreplaceable natural resources, particularly of natural gas and petroleum.

Unable to develop industry to the required technical pitch or to make available from the Soviet Union's tight economy the investment funds necessary to open up the vast deposits of Siberia and other regions, the bureaucracy is now putting them up for sale to the highest capitalist bidder.

Both the United States and Japan have serious energy problems looming up in the near future. The bureaucracy hopes that this will be the spur for the conclusion of deals which it regards as being favourable to its interests.

As the Shershnev article puts it, if the US corporations will supply the equipment, the technical services and the credit we will supply the gas. 'Such a contract,' it says, 'would mean the implementation of projects on an immense scale and would enable the Soviet Union to realize vast export earnings.'

In other words, by opening up the natural resources of the workers' state to the imperialist plunderers, the bureaucracy hopes to find some way of overcoming its growing crisis by obtaining the foreign exchange to import more consumer goods and industrial equipment. It is opening up the country to the colonizers, the advance guard of which is already on the spot in its hundreds.

This turn in Soviet trade policy is quite different from the old plea for greater East-West trade. It now represents a direct menace to the nationalized basis of the economy and the plan itself. It opens the way for a breach in the monopoly of foreign trade and for the exploitation not only of Soviet resources, but also of the Soviet working class by foreign capital.

It is a direct reflection of the choice which the bureaucracy has made between working-class revolution and co-existence with imperialism which is carried into every Communist Party in the shape of policies which have shifted sharply to the right since the Nixon visit.

A number of capitalist concerns are now operating on Soviet soil in conjunction with the projects of the Ninth Five-Year plan. The firm of Swindell-Dressler is helping to build the Kama motor vehicle plant. Joy Manufacturing is supplying scientific and technical co-operation in the coal-mining industry. Occidental, even before the latest deal, was supplying metal-finishing equipment and technical know-how in return for raw nickel.

The roster of other American firms alone already on the spot include General Electric, Westinghouse Electric and

Hewlett-Packard. Other monopoly corporations, their appetites whetted, are preparing to move in to grasp the hand extended by the bureaucracy.

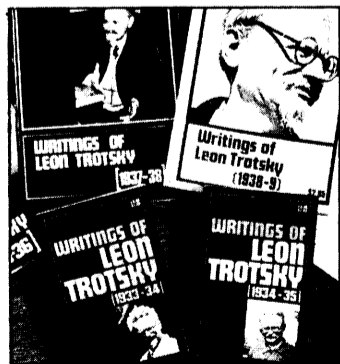
Of course, in its own interest the bureaucracy tries to sell what it has to offer on the best possible terms. It wants most favoured nation treatment to be extended and urges the USA in particular to abolish all barriers to Soviet imports.

It seeks favourable credit terms so that it will not have to use scarce foreign exchange or sell its goods at whatever price they can fetch in order to pay for imports.

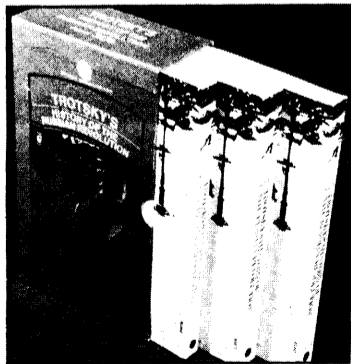
It holds out for access to the latest technology and scientific information and right to make use of foreign patents and licences. It calls all the time for 'improved forms of co-operation' and 'diversified forms of economic relations'. In short it wants desperately to be treated as an equal partner by the big corporations and imperialist governments.

It cloaks its capitulation in the usual terminology about peaceful co-existence not extending to political and ideological differences. These prostrations have an increasingly hollow ring, being made only for form's sake, while there is a steadfast pursuit of the most open forms of collaboration with capitalism.

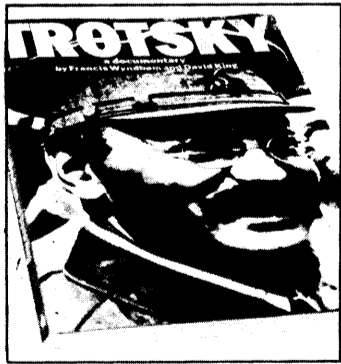
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India

200 MILLION FACE STARVATION

India is in the grip of its worst drought for ten years with up to 200 million people on the brink of starvation and death.

Eight hundred thousand people died in the Bengal famine of 1837-1838. Thirty years later, a million are said to have perished in Orissa and perhaps even more in 1876-1878 when the drought was widespread across many parts of the country.

In 1943, the famine that struck Bengal when the war prevented imports is estimated to have killed anywhere from 2.5 million to 3.5 million people.

Today the worst-affected areas are the states of Maharashtra, now in its third year of drought, Gujarat Rajasthan, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

There is no under-estimating the gravity of the problem. Supplies available through the

government-run fair price shops are frequently well below the promised five or six kilos (12 to 15 pounds) of grain a month.

The government has imported 1,650,000 tons of grain and drawn heavily on stocks to feed the hungry as well as putting some six million people on relief work.

Relief workers earn only two to three rupees—10p to 15p sterling—and prices in the open market are sky high.

Mrs Indira Gandhi's government is trying to take the entire wholesale wheat trade but nationalization is being resisted.

The wheat crop, which is just beginning to be harvested, is expected to be a record and this will help tide over the next few months.

The nagging worry is that the monsoon could fail again. If the rains do not arrive on time in June then the spectre of large-scale famine which will force the government to spend hundreds of millions of dollars more on imports becomes real.

Children under five are suffering from malnutrition and some old people are dying a little earlier through being weakened by lack of a proper diet.

THE MAD-HOUSE FOR THOSE WHO RESIST

BY JACK GALE

The practice of declaring dissenters to be insane and confining them for indefinite periods to special psychiatric 'hospitals' was started in the Soviet Union by Stalin in the 1930s.

More recent examples of the practice by Stalin's successors have been recorded by the underground bi-monthly newsletter 'Chronicle of Current Events'.

The practice hit the headlines in the west when Vladimir Bukovsky spoke of his experience in special 'hospitals' in an interview filmed and taped in Moscow and broadcast in the United States on July 28, 1970.

But courageous fighters against the abuse had made themselves known before this.

In January 1953, after the notorious Tass communiqué concerning a 'plot' by nine doctors (mostly Jews) to poison Party leaders, S. P. Pisarev, a Party official, sent a report to Joseph Stalin on the misdeeds of the security organs and called for an independent verification of the charges against the 'poisoners'.

Pisarev was arrested and, after diagnosis by the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry (the main centre for 'diagnosis' of political offenders), was confined for nearly two years in psychiatric hospitals.

When he was finally offered release, he insisted on a further two months' stay in hospital in order to have the diagnosis of schizophrenia and paranoid psychotherapy disproved by the Gannushkin Scientific Research Institute for Psychiatry.

On his release Pisarev again wrote to the CPSU Central Committee as a result of which a special commission was appointed in 1955 under A. I. Kuznetsov.

Kuznetsov's report corroborated the facts presented by Pisarev, particularly in relation to the Serbsky Institute and one of its senior staff D. R. Lunts. The report called for the separation of prison and hospital functions.

But no action was taken—except that Kuznetsov and all his colleagues on the Commission were removed from the Central Committee.

Lunts was promoted to Professor.

One well-known political 'patient' Major-General Grigorenko wrote in the 'Chronicle of Current Events' (December 1969):

'I myself on more than one occasion have seen Professor Lunts, the head of the department diagnosing me, arrive at work in the uniform of a KGB [Security Police] colonel. I have also seen other doctors of this institute in KGB uniform.'

Not only have the oldest 'special' psychiatric hospitals

—at Leningrad and Kazan—been retained, but others have been opened in recent years.

In 1965 one was opened at Sychyovka, Smolensk Province, and another at Chernyakhovsk, Kaliningrad Province. In 1966 one was opened at Minsk and in 1968 one at Dnepropetrovsk, in the Ukraine.

In April 1970, the courageous Pisarev outlined all the facts in a letter to the Praesidium of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences pleading with them to investigate the matter—but with no apparent result.

Issues of the 'Chronicle of Current Events' have described what happens in these 'hospitals'.

TORTURE INJECTIONS

All these 'special' psychiatric hospitals have the following features in common—political prisoners, although of sound mind, are kept in the same wards as seriously-disturbed psychiatric patients (who may have committed such crimes as murder, rape, thuggery); if they will not renounce their convictions they are subjected, on the pretext of treatment, to physical torture, to injections of large doses of 'aminazine' and 'sufazine', which cause depressive shock reaction and serious physical disorders ('Chronicle', June 1969.)

Sulfazine causes the temperature to rise to 40°C (104°F) with weakness, rheumatism of the joints, headaches, pains in the buttocks where the injections are given.

This condition lasts for a day or two after one dose. Aminazine is administered by intramuscular injection, in such a way that the injected aminazine is not absorbed but forms malignant tumours which have to be removed later by operation. ('Chronicle', October 1969.)

Another form of punishment is the roll-up, described by Bukovsky and Fainberg, in which the patient is rolled from head to foot in wet canvas so tightly that it is difficult for him to breathe. As the canvas begins to dry it gets even tighter. However, a medical attendant is present while this is taking place and if the patient's pulse weakens the canvas is eased. Or, as at Kazan, 'patients are strapped into their beds for three days, sometimes more; and with this form of punishment the rules of sanitation are ignored: the patients are not allowed to go to the lavatory and bed-pans are not provided.' ('Chronicle', October 1969.)

The regime is the same as for closed prisons, with one hour's exercise a day. Sometimes before interrogation sodium amine, a strong narcotic, is administered by injection. The staff consists of



Top: The Chernyakhovsk prison hospital. Above: Soviet oppositionists Major-General Grigorenko, Vladimir Bukovsky, Natalia Gorbunova.

orderlies recruited from MVD forces [police], their uniforms concealed by white overalls, male nurses chosen from among the criminal prisoner-patients, also in white overalls, and the senior and junior medical personnel, many with officers' shoulder-straps beneath their white overalls. The brick walls surrounding these prison hospitals are even more impressive than those of other kinds of prison. The most terrifying arbitrary regime prevails at the Sychyovka and Chernyakhovsk hospitals, where the sick patients as well as the politicals are the victims of daily beatings and sadistic humiliations on the part of the supervisory personnel and the nurses, whose rights are absolutely unlimited. Here, in the spring of 1969 the patient Popov was beaten to death, though it was officially reported he died of a 'brain haemorrhage'. ('Chronicle' June 1969.)

In addition to the 'special' psychiatric hospitals, normal psychiatric hospitals may have one wing under the control of the KGB. In Moscow, for example, this is the case with No. 1 wing of the Kashchenko psycho-neurological hospital, No. 4 wing of the Gannushkin Psychiatric Hospital, No. 3 wing of the psycho-neurological hospital and several others.

Under Russian civil law, a person can be placed in a psychiatric hospital without his or his relatives' or guardians' consent on the verdict of a panel of three doctors. He can be kept in hospital indefinitely for obligatory treatment.

This was the procedure used against the poet-mathematician Esenin-Volpin in 1968 and against the biologist Zhores Medvedev in 1970.

Criminal law can also be used. A person can be arrested for some activity, such as taking part in a demonstration, issuing a leaflet or making a speech. If, for some reason, the KGB wishes to avoid a public trial, which might involve self-defence and public demonstrations, it can say he committed the act in 'a state of legal non-accountability'.

NO PUBLIC TRIAL

In this case, he is sent for diagnosis—usually to the Serbsky Institute. In consultation with the arresting officers of the KGB, Professor Lunts and his colleagues can recommend indefinite compulsory treatment. This is duly endorsed without question by a court which the defendant has no right to attend.

What often happens then has been described by

Major-General Grigorenko:

'I was especially saddened by the tragic case of engineer Pyotr Alekseyevich Lysak. Because he had spoken at a student meeting against the expulsion for political reasons of a number of students, he had landed in a psychiatric hospital and, at the time of my arrival, had already been there for seven years. Bitter anger at this wild injustice, at his ruined life, had permeated his being, and he would write complaints daily, which, naturally, never reached their destinations, but found their way into his hospital file and were used as an excuse for further 'treatment'.

People who do not admit their illness are not usually discharged from psychiatric hospitals. I tried to drum this truth into his head. During one such conversation, I said in irritation: 'Your reasoning is so unreal that I'm beginning to doubt your normality.' He stopped all of a sudden, looked at me with an expression I shall remember to the day of my death, and asked in a barely audible voice and a tone of bitter reproach: 'Do you really think that a man can spend seven years in here and still remain normal?'

(P. G. Grigorenko: 'On the Special Psychiatric Hospitals', a section of N. Gorbanev-



Top: The Chernyakhovsk prison hospital. Above: Soviet oppositonists Major-General Grigorenko, Vladimir Bukovsky, Natalia Gorbanevskaya, Alexander Solzhenitsyn. A. Amalrik and Zhores Medvedev.



ukovsky, Natalia Gorbanevskaya, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, A. Amalrik and Zhores Medvedev.

skaya's book 'Midday' appearing in the 'Chronicle' of December 1969. 'Midday' was published in Russian in Frankfurt, 1970.)

The case of Major-General Pyotr Grigorenko, an active and devoted member of the Communist Party and champion of the Crimean Tartars, has been dealt with before in Workers Press. He first clashed with authority in 1940 when he criticized the lack of preparedness of the armed forces at the time of Hitler's invasion.

In 1961 he was sacked from his post at the Frunze Military Academy for speaking out against the excessive privileges of Party leaders. He fought against the trials of Daniel and Sinyavsky and opposed the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968—this, despite an earlier sentence of 15 months' imprisonment, most of which had been spent in the special psychiatric hospital in Leningrad.

In 1969 he was arrested again and although found of sound mind by independent psychiatrists, was diagnosed at Serbsky (after one 20-minute session) as suffering from 'a pathological paranoid development of the personality with the presence of reformist ideas that have appeared in his personality with psychopathic features of the

character'.

The findings of the non-KGB psychiatrists—four of whom had interviewed him for nine times as long as the psychiatrists at Serbsky—were overturned on the grounds that they had not discovered his condition 'owing to his outwardly well-adjusted behaviour, formally coherent utterances and retention of knowledge and manners—all of which are characteristic of a pathological development of the personality' (!).

This was signed by G. V. Morozov, V. M. Morozov, P. R. Lunts, Z. G. Trubova and M. M. Maltseva.

Grigorenko was sent to Chernyakhovsk where he was kept in a cell of six square metres with one other person—a man in a constant state of delirium who had stabbed a woman to death.

Another case concerns 34-year-old writer and translator Natalia Gorbanevskaya who was arrested in August 1968 for demonstrating in Red Square against the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

On November 19, 1969, a psychiatric commission under the chief psychiatrist of Moscow, I. K. Yanushevsky, found her sane.

Five months later she was sent for diagnosis at the Serbsky Institute.

Like Grigorenko she was de-

clared to be 'outwardly correctly orientated', but was nevertheless said to be suffering from schizophrenia.

At her trial, from which she was excluded, Lunts declared that her form of schizophrenia 'has no clear symptoms' and that her mental state 'from the theoretical point of view, cannot be considered an improvement, though externally it resembles this'.

Gorbanevskaya was confined to the mental wing of Butyrka prison, Moscow, from where she was transferred to Kazan prison hospital for drug treatment.

A case recorded in the 'Chronicle of Current Events' of August 1970 is that of 20-year-old Olga Iofe, accused of 'anti-Soviet activities'. At her trial a Serbsky doctor—Martynenko—declared: 'The absence of symptoms of an illness cannot prove the absence of the illness itself.'

A particularly striking case is that of the bricklayer Vladimir Gershuni. He had first been arrested in 1949 when—at the age of 19—he had been a member of an anti-Stalinist youth group. He was tortured and sent for ten years to the camp which Solzhenitsyn described in 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich'.

In 1969 Gershuni was arrested for distributing leaflets in defence of Grigorenko. He was sent to the mental hospital wing of Butyrka, where he was put in a cell with mentally deranged criminals. He is now in a prison mental hospital in Oryol.

The full total of sane people imprisoned in 'special' psychiatric hospitals for political opposition is not known.

But it is claimed that the Leningrad and Kazan hospital prisons have about 1,000 inmates each.

A letter from a political prisoner in a Leningrad psychiatric hospital prison (in Arsenalnaya St) gives many examples of the humiliation and torment to which the prisoners are subjected by the hospital's prison staff (mostly orderlies recruited from among the criminal inmates), with the connivance, and sometimes the actual participation, of the medical staff. The prisoners are beaten, crippled, sometimes killed; their food is stolen or confiscated; as punishment for their 'misdeeds' they are subjected to cruel and dangerous methods of 'treatment': to 'the warp', the injection of shock-inducing drugs which destroy the mind, etc.

The culprits go unpunished; letters to relatives are confiscated in order to conceal these crimes. The appeal ends with a call to the author's fellow-citizens to demand immediately the investigation of these crimes.

The confinement of the internationally known biologist Zhores Medvedev in 1970 raised a storm both in the Soviet Union and abroad. Alexander Solzhenitsyn denounced it in these words:

'This is how we live: without any arrest warrant or any medical justification four policemen and two doctors come to a healthy man's house. The doctors declare that he is crazy, the police Major shouts: 'We are an ORGAN OF COERCION! Get up!' They twist his arms and drive him off to the madhouse.'

This can happen tomorrow to any one of us. It has just happened to Zhores Medvedev, a geneticist and publicist, a man of subtle, precise and brilliant intellect and of warm heart (I know personally of his disinterested help to unknown, ill and dying people). It is precisely for the DIVERSITY of his fertile gifts that he is charged with abnormality: 'a split personality'! It is precisely his sensitivity to injustice, to stupidity, which is presented as a sick deviation: 'poor adaptation to the social environment'!

Once you think in other

ways than that which is PRESCRIBED—that means you're abnormal! As for well adapted people, they must all think alike. And there is no means of redress: even the appeals of our best scientists and writers bounce back like peas off a wall.

'If only this were the first case! But this devious suppression of people without searching for any guilt, when the real reason is too shameful to state, is becoming a fashion. Some of the victims are widely known, many more are unknown. Servile psychiatrists, breakers of their [Hippocratic] oath, define as 'mental illness': concern about social problems.

It is time to think clearly: the incarceration of free-thinking healthy people in madhouses is SPIRITUAL MURDER, it is a variation on the GAS CHAMBER, but is even more cruel: the torture of the people being killed is more malicious and more prolonged. Like the gas chambers these crimes will NEVER be forgotten, and all those involved in them will be condemned for all time, during their life and after their death.

In lawlessness, in the committing of crimes, the point must be remembered at which a man becomes

AGAINST STALINISM

The Stalinists seek to present all political opposition as anti-Soviet, but this is by no means true. An opposition document circulated at the 24th Party Congress in March 1971 was titled 'Against the rehabilitation and restoration of Stalinism'.

Written under the pseudonym of 'L anti-Brodsky' the pamphlet was a reply to Brodsky's allegations that 'underground' writings were anti-Soviet. The pamphlet argued that anything directed against Stalinism strengthened the Soviet system, but that anything tending towards a rehabilitation of Stalin—like the officially-approved works of Kochetov and Shevtsov—was inimical to the Soviet system.

The author also distinguished the Stalinist terror from that of the Cheka (the original name for the KGB) in the early years of the revolution, which he considered justified and beneficial.

The author defends only those underground writings (Samizdat) which speak from communist positions.

It is this type of opposition that the Kremlin bureaucrats really fear. That is why they train troops to deal with revolts in the labour camps. A military exercise entitled 'The Suppression of a Revolt in a Camp holding 1,300 men'...

Troop-carriers, simulated gas grenades and trained dogs were used in this exercise.

The bureaucracy needs these methods because of its fear of political prisoners like A. Amalrik who defied the court which tried him for political criticism.

He refused to take part in the trial, submitting the following note addressed to the chairman of the court:

'An answer to the question whether I plead guilty. The charges brought against me concern the dissemination by me, verbally and in print, of views which are here called false and slanderous. I do not consider either the interview given by me or my articles and books to be slanderous.'

I also think that the truth or falseness of publicly-expressed views can be ascertained by free and open discussion, but not by a judicial investigation. No criminal court has the moral right to try anyone for the views he has expressed. To oppose ideas—irrespective of whether they are true or false—with a judicial criminal penalty seems to me to be a crime in itself...

I consider that this court is not entitled to try me, and therefore I shall not enter into any discussion of my views with the court, I shall not give any evidence and I shall not answer any of the court's questions. I do not plead guilty to circulating 'falsehood and slanderous fabrications', and I shall not attempt to prove my innocence here, since the very principle of freedom of speech excludes the possibility of my guilt.

If during the trial I wish to add anything to what I have said, I shall avail myself of my right to make a final address.

Amalrik's final address was as follows:

The criminal prosecution of people for their statements or opinions reminds me of the middle ages with their 'witch trials' and indexes of forbidden books. But if the medieval struggle against heretical ideas could be partially explained by religious fanaticism, everything that is happening now is due only to the cowardice of a regime which perceives danger in the dissemination of any thought or any idea alien to the upper strata of the bureaucracy.

These people understand that the collapse of any regime is first preceded by its ideological capitulation. But, while holding forth about an ideological struggle, they can in reality oppose ideas only with the threat of criminal prosecution. Conscious of their ideological helplessness, they clutch fearfully at the criminal code, prisons, camps and psychiatric hospitals.

It is precisely this fear of the thoughts I have expressed, and of the facts I adduce in my books, which forces these people to put me in the dock like a criminal. This fear has reached such proportions that they were even afraid to try me in Moscow and brought me here [Sverdlovsk], calculating that here my trial would attract less attention.

But it is just these manifestations of fear which prove best of all the strength and correctness of my opinions. My books will be none the worse for the abusive epithets with which they have here been described. The opinions I have expressed will not become less correct if I am imprisoned for a few years because of them. On the contrary, this can only impart greater strength to my convictions. The trick which says that people are tried not for their convictions but for circulating them seems to me to be empty sophistry, since convictions which do not manifest themselves in any way are not genuine convictions.

As I have already said, I shall not here enter into a discussion of my opinions, since a court is not the place for that. I wish only to answer the assertion that several of my statements are directed against my people and my country. It seems to me that my country's principal task at present is to throw off the burden of its hard past, for which, above all, it needs criticism and not eulogies. I think I am a better patriot than those who loudly hold forth about love for their country, meaning by that—love for their own privileges.

Neither the 'witch-hunt' conducted by the regime nor this trial—an individual example of it—produces in me that slightest respect, nor even fear. I understand, of course, that trials like this are calculated to intimidate many, and many will be intimidated—but I still think that the process of ideological liberation which has now begun is irreversible.

I have no requests to make of the court.

Amalrik was sentenced to three years in hard-regime corrective labour camps and is now being held in Kamyshevsk prison in the Sverdlovsk region.



BANKERS FEAR CONTROLS ON EURO-CURRENCY

How long can the inflated Euro-currency market continue to provide the finance required by governments, international traders and multi-national firms?

This question is causing alarm in the banking parlours of the City of London in the wake of the monetary upheavals earlier this year.

These upheavals destroyed the last vestiges of the post-war system of 'fixed but adjustable parities' between currencies.

And they demonstrated—not for the first time, be it said—that no country was safe from the movement of currency generated in the Euro-money market.

The banks and institutions which operate in the highly-lucrative, but very unstable Euro-money market are now fighting tooth and nail against the spectre of controls.

They fear that rather than face another currency crisis the 'politicians' may get their hands on the delicate Euro-market mechanism and control it out of existence.

The financial columns of the capitalist Press are full of praise for the 'expertise' and the 'wisdom' of the market operators and the reader is left to draw the moral that the market should be left untouched.

The absence of controls over the Euro-currency market

is precisely the attraction which brings in both borrowers and lenders. So-called Euro-currency is nothing more than paper money (dollars, sterling, francs, etc.) held by non-residents of the issuing country.

For this reason it is free of exchange controls and can be traded without any formalities for paper held by other people in a similar position. Euro-currency is bought and sold, borrowed and loaned and used to buy other forms of inflationary paper such as Euro-bonds.

RESPECTABLE SPECULATORS

The operators fear the imposition of controls could drag down the whole show and demolish the unstable edifice of credit built up over the past 15 years. They have developed a marked hostility to 'politicians' expressed most recently in 'The Times' by S. M. Yassukovich, director of White Weld, investment bankers.

It would be quite wrong, in Yassukovich's opinion, to blame speculators for the Euro-market's problems. These men, he says, are 'often eminently respectable duty-conscious corporate managers seeking only to protect the value of assets entrusted to their husbandry!' The fault, he says, lies with the 'sometimes irresponsible and often con-

flicting economic policies of the major industrial and trading nations.

'One can only hope,' he writes, 'that [the politicians] obsession with the Euro-market and its role in accelerating the present crisis will not lead to measures prompting future historians to say "the operation was a success but the patient died".'

There are any number of reasons for the market operators' concern. For one thing the imposition of controls, particularly in London, would cut deep into the parasitic profits the City has gained from the Euro-currency bonanza.

For another if controls were introduced to have any effect at all in protecting national economies they would almost certainly result in a sharp decline in borrowing and virtual paralysis of turnover between banks.

'Under such circumstances,' writes Mr Yassukovich, 'a noticeable decline in world trade and investment must be counted a strong possibility.' There are even worse skeletons in the cupboard:

'Euro-currency credits have been supplied largely by a banking system relying on its continuing ability to buy deposits in a free, wholesale market not founded on a natural savings base which characteristically supports a national banking system.'

Furthermore, an important proportion of the banks sup-

plying such credit are operating in a currency not their own and without last resort facilities from an official source.' On their home ground, commercial banks can avert bankruptcy if necessary by pledging their long-term paper for cash loans from the central bank.

There is no such mechanism on the Euro-markets, leaving borrowers in constant danger of being 'caught short' without the ready cash to pay interest on their debts. This is especially the case for some of the former colonial and semi-colonial countries which are financing fixed investments with credits at variable rates.

'Such borrowers,' Yassukovich comments, 'are taking colossal gambles on the monetary *status quo*.' If the influx of new funds to the Euro-markets dries up (as a result of controls or for other reasons) they may be unable to borrow the money they need to finance their projects and the result could be a major crash.

DOUBTFUL PRACTICES

Nor is it simply a question of some Ruritanian financing from far-away places. The banks themselves have been indulging in some very questionable practices. 'The reduction in margins and lengthening of maturities

The Finance Ministers of three European countries, Schmidt of Germany (left), Barber of England (top) and Giscard d'Estaing of France (above). The Bankers fear that the 'politicians' may get their hands on the delicate Euro-market mechanism and control it out of existence.

characterizing Euro-currency lending in the past year give rise to some concern about the inherent liquidity of the system now so glibly discussed as an area of major reform in the new monetary compromise under negotiation by politicians.'

And Yassukovich adds portentously: 'Excessive liquidity chasing lending opportunities of declining quality has been a fairly customary danger sign in the past.'

He can certainly say that again! Galbraith in his book 'The Great Crash' talks about how in the 1929 crash 'loans which would have been perfectly good were made perfectly foolish by the collapse of the borrower's prices or the markets for his goods or the value of the collateral he had posted'.

All that can be said is that the bankers of those days were relatively unsophisticated by comparison with some of the Euro-market operators. They have developed a system where the banker no longer has any real guarantee about the security of his loans and may not, in many cases, even know the identity of the borrower.

The French Communist Party has reaffirmed its support for 'national defence' and for a conscript army during the current campaign against the call-up.

It claims that conscription should be retained to prevent the complete professionalization of the army. 'At the present time,' says the Party's paper 'L'Humanité' (April 14), 'when military means still remain an indispensable but limited element in national security, the Communist Party for its part has never ceased to agitate for a real union of the nation and its army.'

While the French army is still composed of conscript soldiers to the extent of two-thirds of the total force, the navy and air force are predominantly professional. Of the armed forces as a whole, there are 305,000 volunteers against 268,000 conscripts. The professional soldiers, particularly the officer corps, occupy key positions in the nuclear striking force and control the most modern arms.

The French Communist Party long ago abandoned the struggle against militarism and revolutionary work inside the armed forces. Now it says: 'As long as the risk of military interference or pressure from outside exists, our people will consider the possession of an apparatus of defence as indispensable for the protection of the integrity of the national soil.'

With this nationalist, class-collaborationist position the Communist Party's criticism of a professional army remains hollow. In practice it supports the army and its protests against the abolition of deferments for conscripts during their studies is hypocritical.

In fact, communist deputies did not oppose the Debré law of 1970 which abolished these deferments. It has had to take part in the campaign which has mobilized hundreds of thousands of high school students and young workers against the call-up in order to keep it under control as far as possible. The Party was desperately afraid of a situation developing like that of May 1968.

It now hides behind the dangers to 'democracy' from a professional army to re-affirm its defencist position and its support for conscription. This enables it to indulge in a little demagogic criticism of the army while showing what a loyal supporter it is of 'the integrity of the national soil'.

Instead of calling for a struggle against the bourgeoisie and its army, it asks humbly for more rights to be accorded to conscripts—such as the right to read 'L'Humanité' in their barracks and votes at 18.

It was Maurice Thorez, the Party's secretary-general who, in 1944-1945, called for 'one police force, one army, one state' and dissolved the partisan

FRENCH CP SUPPORTS A CONSCRIPT ARMY



Marchais, secretary of the Communist Party whose statement says, '(we) have never ceased to agitate for a real union of the nation and its army.'

formations which had played a leading part in clearing the country of the Nazi occupying troops. As a result many Communist Party members were incorporated into the regular army (and the police forces).

When the Indo-China war broke out, it was the same Thorez who ordered Communist Party officers and soldiers sent against the Vietnamese Revolution to remain at their posts.

In 1954 a spontaneous movement of conscripts began against being sent to take part in the Algerian war.

Again the Party opposed this movement and never took any

stand against the war as it had done against the Rif war in Morocco in the 1920s. Although some soldiers, including Communist Party members, went over to the side of the Vietnamese and the Algerians, it was without Party approval.

When the Gaullist regime was threatened by a military coup in 1961, the Party called on the conscripts to oppose their rebel generals, which meant support for the government of the Fifth Republic.

Today, when large masses of youth are arrayed against militarism and the call-up and are looking for a lead, the only reply of the Communist

Party is: democratic rights for the conscript soldiers.

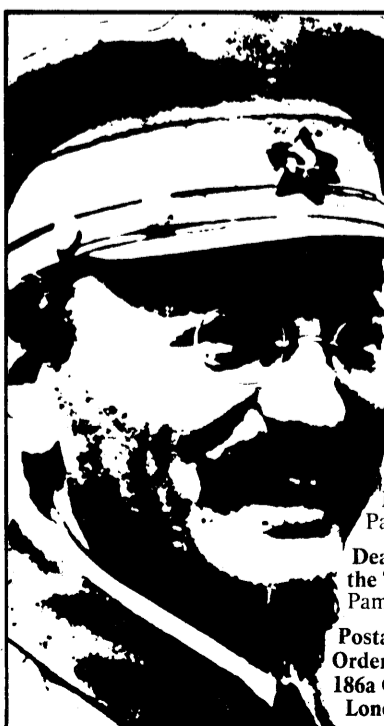
'L'Humanité' even says that many of the officers and NCOs have shown that they do not want to be cut off from the people and also want full citizen rights to be extended to career soldiers. 'The aspiration for real democracy,' it says, 'is growing in all sectors of national life. Why should the army be immune?'

So what the Party wants is 'real democracy' and a 'national army' in line with the other reformist policies of the Communist Programme.

Meanwhile the armed forces, in practice, remain the corps

d'élite of the ruling class, ready for use against the workers. The conscript soldiers, cut off from the outside world as far as possible, sent to isolated camps for training and brainwashing, will, it hopes, be prepared for such a role.

In its early days the Communist International said the task of its constituent sections should be a struggle against militarism and the building of communist cells in the armed forces. The French Communist Party, and all the Stalinist Parties, have long ago abandoned such a principled position in favour of national defence behind their 'own' ruling class.

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WORKERS NOTEBOOK

NO ONE CAME

It's wonderful to be a Chelsea pensioner. These relics of Britain's blood-thirsty imperialist past are in great demand by ex-servicemen everywhere.

They get invited to holiday resorts all over the country—but not Blackpool any more.

The Blackpool ex-service

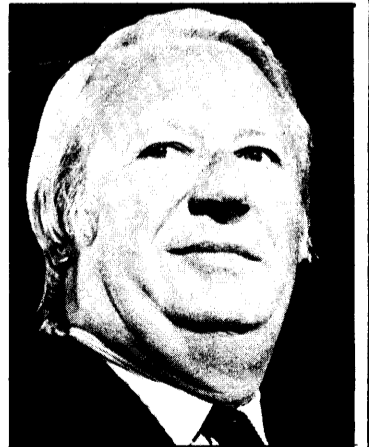
liaison committee has closed ranks and voted unanimously to break the 20-year tradition. It seems the ancient redcoats are getting a little cavalier about their treats.

They get such good treatment wherever they go they tend to complain when things are not perfect. Last year, for instance, the RAF Association at nearby Fleetwood laid on a meal. But not one of the pensioners turned up or sent an apology.

So this year the pensioners will not be invited back. Mr D. M. Ratcliffe, assistant secretary at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, says he is looking into the matter.

SUPPORTER

Surprise, surprise, guess who is one of the earliest supporters of the 'alternative TUC'—that rag bag of organizations registered under the



Industrial Relations Act.

The first well-wisher has been that well-known supporter of trade unions Edward Heath. He has written to the organizer of the 'mini-TUC', which has its headquarters in Coventry, saying he would be pleased to hear the views of unions to seek to make the Industrial Relations Act work.

TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

10.00 Magic roundabout. 10.05 Banana splits. 10.35 Steam horse: iron road. 11.00 Out of school. 11.55 Bugs Bunny. 12.05 The truth about Houdini. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Barnaby. 1.45 Made in Britain. 2.05 Film: 'Island of the Blue Dolphins'. Celia Kaye, Larry Domasin, Rontu. 3.35 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 THE GORDON PETERS SHOW. With Barbara Mitchell. 8.00 COLDITZ. Maximum Security. 8.50 SIX FROM COLDITZ. Airey Neave, MP for Abingdon, was the first British prisoner to escape from Colditz. 9.00 NEWS. Weather. 9.25 SPORTSNIGHT. Pro-Am Junior show jumping relay championships. 10.15 MOIRA IN PERSON. Moira Anderson with Paco Pena. 10.45 MIDWEEK. Featuring Moshe Dayan. 11.30 LATE NIGHT NEWS. 11.35 MAN AT WORK. Down With Drudgery! 12.00 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Yoga. 9.55 Film: 'Tarzan and the She-Devil'. Lex Barker. 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! 3.00 Epsom spring meeting. 4.20 Sooty show. 4.50 Jensen code. 5.20 University challenge. 5.50 News. 6.00 DAVID CASSIDY WEEKEND AT WEMBLEY. 6.35 CROSSROADS. 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 SHUT THAT DOOR! Larry Grayson and guest Des O'Connor. 8.30 THE BEST OF FATHER, DEAR FATHER. Come Back Little Sheba. 9.00 SPECIAL BRANCH. Assault. 10.00 NEWS. 10.30 FOOTBALL. 11.25 ARMCHAIR 30. 'Harry Sebrof's Story'. With Alfred Marks. 11.55 NIGHT GALLERY. 12.50 CHURCHES ARE FOR PEOPLE.

REGIONAL

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Galloping gourmet. 3.00 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Linkup. 6.35 London. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.30 This is your life. 9.00 London. 11.55 Epilogue. News and weather in French. **WESTWARD.** As Channel except: 9.50 Danger man. 10.45 Trade winds to Tahiti. 11.35 Dr. Simon Locke. 12.05 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 11.52 News. 11.55 Faith for life. **SOUTHERN:** 10.00 Paulus. 10.15 Yoga. 10.40 Bluenose shore. 11.05 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. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. Guideline. **HARLECH:** 10.00 Sara and Hoppity. 10.10 Nuts and bones. 10.20 Seaspray. 10.45 Days of our youth. 11.10 Press call. 11.35 Report. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 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. 11.55 European journey. 12.25 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:** 9.40 Police cadet. 10.00 Cartoons. 10.10 Paulus. 10.20 Animated classics. 11.05 Galloping gourmet. 11.35 Joe 90. 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. **ATV MIDLANDS:** 11.00 Mr Piper. 11.10 Acres for profit. 11.30 Survival. 12.00 Programme guide. 12.05 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 London. 8.30 Upper crusts. 9.00 London. 11.55 Baron. Weather. **ULSTER:** 11.35 UTV report. 12.05 London. 1.29 News. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 11.55 You and your golf.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 7.05 HOMES AND THE HOMELESS. The View from City Hall. 7.30 NEWS. Weather. 7.35 LOOK, STRANGER. The Chinese Chaplain in the East End. 8.00 MAN ALIVE. Someone from the Welfare . . . To Do What? Social work. 9.00 FILM: 'BRIGHTON ROCK'. Richard Attenborough. Hermione Baddeley, William Hartnell, Carol Marsh. A vicious gang leader plans to murder a journalist. 10.30 EDITION. The Small World of the Local Weekly. 11.00 NEWS. Weather. **YORKSHIRE:** 10.00 Ed Allen time. 10.20 About Britain. 10.45 Last stand. 11.10 Whicker. 11.35 Rovers. 12.05 London. 2.30 Jobs around the house. 3.00 London. 6.00 Calendar. 6.35 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 12.00 You and your golf. 12.30 Weather. **GRANADA:** 9.30 Enchanted house. 9.45 Time to remember. 10.10 Jackson five. 10.30 Galloping gourmet. 10.55 Cartoon. 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 Newsday. What's on. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 8.30 Anna and the king. 9.00 London. 11.55 Evil touch. **TYNE TEES:** 9.20 Jesus is alive. 9.30 Enchanted house. 9.45 Arthur. 10.10 Felix the cat. 10.20 Dick Van Dyke. 10.45 Pursuit of excellence. 11.35 Report. 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.40 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.35 London. 8.30 Comedians. 9.00 London. 11.25 News. 11.40 Streets of San Francisco. 12.35 Lectern. **SCOTTISH:** 10.00 No easy answer. 10.45 Flipper. 11.10 Press call. 11.35 STV report. 12.05 London. 2.30 Date-line. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Scotland today. 6.30 University challenge. 7.00 London. 11.55 Late call. 12.00 Blue light. **GRAMPIAN:** 11.40 Julia. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 5.15 Wildlife theatre. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Thompson at teatime. 6.35 London. 11.55 Meditation.



Larry Domasin as Ramo in 'Island of the Blue Dolphins' on BBC 1.

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Busmen's pay anger flows into May Day

LONDON'S 23,000 busmen have been stopped by the Tory pay laws from negotiating improved working conditions as part of a deal due for implementation earlier this month.

The deal, which provides for increases of £2 to £2.15 is currently being examined by the Pay Board. A verdict is expected within the next few days.

But even if the increases are allowed to go through—and there seems little reason why they should not be—many crews in the city will stop work on Tuesday of next week in protest against the pay laws.

They will take this action despite what will, in some cases, be big financial penalties.

Under a guaranteed week agreement, some workers could lose up to £14.50 by striking on May 1. This is because they would be missing one of the five guaranteed shifts covered by the agreement.

Principle

Busmen are also well aware that a one-day strike is no more than a protest—and on its own will certainly not defeat the pay laws—but there is strong feeling for the stoppage despite this.

George Payne, a conductor member of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Dalston garage, east London, explained that for him it was a matter of principle.

He estimated that since the Tories had come to power his standard of living had been cut by a third. The pay laws, he said, prevented him from fighting to give his family what they needed.

This had affected the family's diet:

'When we can afford meat at all these days it's chicken, chicken, chicken—nothing else is cheap enough.'

Union representatives at Dalston will be holding two meetings today to discuss May 1, and George and several of his colleagues said they would be voting to come out.

'We should back the union on this one', George said. 'It's a matter of principle. If you're

INTERVIEWS BY DAVID MAUDE



T&GWU delegate at Chalk Farm bus garage, Fred Hobbs.

against the "freeze" you must strike.'

Fred Hobbs, T&GWU delegate at another garage which plans to strike, Chalk Farm, explained that this will be the second year the men and women on the buses will have fallen victim to the Tory pay policy.

Last April, when the Heath government was fighting to limit rises to 8 per cent or lower, they accepted an offer of £1.85 to £2 only to find that soon after London Transport Underground

workers were granted 12½ per cent.

The busmen went back for more—and in November were granted £1 on basic rates plus £1.50 on shift allowances.

But this was conditional on acceptance of changes in schedules and rest-day arrangements.

A bid to impose these unilaterally had already led to industrial action in some parts of London. And there is still lingering resentment in the garages at the way the changes were swung through in November under pressure of the Tory 'freeze'.

This year the union had been hoping to win changes, particularly shorter weekend working.

Said Fred Hobbs: 'They're attempting to take away the trade unionists' right to negotiate better wages and conditions. It's taking people some time to wake up to this, but the message is going home.'

'We had seven weeks out on strike in 1958, and though we didn't win a lot in terms of wages we showed our strength and that's still here if they want to take us on again.'

Right

'Of course a one-day stoppage won't destroy the "freeze" or the Tory government—I've explained to my people that if they strike next week they won't immediately get a £10 rise or something.'

'But it's important to see the big picture. We must retain our right to protest.'

'So far the decision to strike here on May 1 stands.'

Picket 'conspiracy' case adjourned to May 25

BUILDING site pickets who face charges under the 1875 Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act will not now be tried for another four weeks, it was learned yesterday.

Defence lawyers for the 24 men, all of whom were originally due to appear in court today, asked for a second adjournment. It will probably not now be heard until May 25.

Shrewsbury police announced the first adjournment, until May 18, last Friday.

But a number of defendants would have been unable to attend on that day, and in view of both this and the amount of paper involved, the defence approached the prosecution for more time.

The charges—a total of 210 are involved—arise from events during last year's building strike.

When the men were remanded on bail, on March 15, building workers, dockers and steelworkers demonstrated outside the court against the trial.

A massive 800-strong police operation was mounted outside the court and coaches bringing demonstrators into the town from Merseyside and the Midlands were stopped and searched.

Further demonstrations are expected on May 25.



Trade unionists march during the last court hearing.

Speculative dealings fraught with dangers Reflation pushes up ship orders in British yards

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

FASTEST RISE IN GROCERY PRICES DURING APRIL

GROCERY prices have risen during April faster than in any month since the government brought in laws banning wage increases and free collective-bargaining.

The 'Financial Times' grocery price index also reveals that foods have risen 8 per cent since November, when the Tories passed their first laws to control inflation.

This is more proof of the rapid drop in real wages suffered by every working-class family in Britain.

Prices of all but three of the ten categories covered showed

an increase. The worst affected were tomatoes and eggs, which in some cases were 6p more a dozen than last month.

In the non-food sector, which includes goods such as detergents, the price rise was 6 per cent in April alone—an annual rate of 72 per cent. The increases on detergents and soaps are a result of permission by the Department of Trade for price increases.

The 'Financial Times' survey showed that the monthly shopping bill for one family cost £32.38 in March compared with £33.27 in April. Food manufacturers say they expect further increases this month.

THE SHIPBUILDING employers' association (SRNA) have reported a revival in new orders placed with British yards compared to the crisis levels of a year ago. This reflects the reflationary measures being attempted by the UK and other capitalist governments to break out of the economic crisis.

But the situation facing the industry is still fraught with difficulties. Some of the new orders are of a very speculative kind.

The Israeli Maritime Fruit Company will pay for the ships with borrowed capital secured against leasing contracts stretching far into the future.

Other orders are still being taken at prices which, in view of uncontrollable world inflation, may mean eventual losses to the builders, even though escalator clauses are usually included and fixed-price contracts are a rarity.

Reflecting some of these concerns, the Association has commented that the improved order books 'do not alter the problems that British shipbuilders have in competing with foreign yards supported by their governments, either financially or through protective measures'.

The total order book now stands at 243 ships with a gross tonnage of 4,971,000, worth £813m. But the SRNA expressed the hope that the government would not allow the present improved position to obscure long-term problems.

Dockers press for re-call conference

TRANSPORT and General Workers' Union leaders will face strong pressure tomorrow to re-call the union's national docks delegate conference.

The pressure will come mainly from representatives of the northern ports at a meeting of the T&GWU docks trade group committee.

But though Liverpool and Hull

are expected to initiate the demand for a re-call, it is also likely to receive support from representatives of London and a number of smaller ports.

Fears are growing among the T&GWU's 30,000 docker members that their jobs, wages and, particularly, conditions are coming under renewed attack from several quarters.

One issue of great concern is the backing given by Tory Ministers to the increase in the

amount of 'casual', supplementary labour, which now forms almost 7 per cent of the national workforce in the industry.

Unlike dockers registered as permanents under the Dock Labour Scheme, supplementaries can be sacked at a week's notice, either by their immediate employer or the Dock Labour Board.

They can thus be used as a lever for speed-up and the breakdown of established working conditions and union organization.

The way for this attack has been paved by the big shake-out of labour from the docks under the Jones-Aldington special severance scheme.

Almost 10,000 jobs have been lost in the industry as a result of this scheme, on top of the 20,000 which went after the T&GWU accepted Lord Devlin's 'modernization' plan in 1967.

Many docks delegates now say they were 'conned' at the delegate conference last August which accepted Jones-Aldington and called off the national strike.

This feeling has been reinforced by the recent report of the National Ports Council on the unregistered port and wharves lying outside the Dock Labour Scheme.

The report, the promise of which formed part of the final Jones-Aldington package, failed to recommend that these non-Scheme ports be made to register.

Yet it revealed that they are draining away an increasing proportion of trade from the Scheme ports.

On all these points the T&GWU leadership faces a bitter reckoning with dockers if the national delegate conference is re-called.

Ruchell Magee for re-trial

BY WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

RUCHELL MAGEE, one of the remaining Soledad Brothers, is to be re-tried on a charge of 'aggravated kidnap'. He faces a possible life sentence without parole.

Magee, who was originally charged with Angela Davis, is already serving a life term in San Quentin state prison.

His recent 11-week trial ended on April 3 with the jury deadlocked over the murder charge which emerged from the Marin County shoot-out in 1970.

Magee's re-trial has been scheduled to begin on May 29.

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!

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 Barking town hall)

Luton

FRIDAY APRIL 27
8 p.m.

Recreation Centre,
Old Bedford Road

Sheffield

WEDNESDAY MAY 2
7.30 p.m.

'Grapes Inn'
Trippett Lane

Speaker: Cliff Slaughter
(SLL Central Committee)

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

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

TONBRIDGE: Wednesday April 25, 8 p.m. 'The Foresters', Quarry Hill Road. 'Make Scanlon retract. No collaboration with the Pay Board.'

HACKNEY: Wednesday April 25, 8 p.m. Parlour Room, Central Hall, Mare Street. 'Economic Crisis and the Rising Cost of Living'.

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

DERBY: Thursday April 26, 7.30 p.m. Branch Room, National Society of Metal Mechanics, 15 Charnwood Street.

WILLESDEN: Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. Brent Labour and Trade 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'.

MIDDLETON (Manchester): Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. New Inn, Long Street, Market Place, Middleton. 'May Day must begin the General Strike'.

WYTHENSHAW (Manchester): Thursday, April 26, 8 p.m. 'The Happy Man', Portway. 'The May Day Strike'.

GLASGOW (Engineers' and Shipyard Workers' meeting): Saturday April 28, 10 a.m. Room 1, Partick Burgh Hall. 'Make Scanlon retract'.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD: Monday April 30, 8 p.m. Room 2, Adeyfield Hall, Queens Square. 'Defend Basic Democratic Rights'.

EAST LONDON: Monday April 30, 8 p.m. Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, E.3. All out May 1! Force the TUC to call a General Strike!

WANDSWORTH: Monday April 30, 8 p.m. 'Kings Arms', High Street, S.W.18. 'Trotskyism and Stalinism'.

SOUTHALL: Wednesday May 2, 8 p.m. Southall Library, Osterley Park Road. 'Report back from May Day'.

WALTHAMSTOW: Wednesday May 2, 8 p.m. 'The Bell', Hoe Street. 'Report back from May Day'.

WEMBLEY: Wednesday May 2, 8 p.m. Copland School, High Road. 'Report Back from May Day'.

WOOLWICH: Wednesday May 2, 8 p.m. 'The Castle', Powis Street, S.E.18. 'Report back from May Day'.

FELTHAM: Thursday May 3, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes', Feltham High Street, Feltham, Middlesex. 'The Fight against the Tories after May Day'.

BRIXTON: Monday May 7, 8 p.m. Control Room, Brixton Training Centre. 'Report back from May Day'.

LEWISHAM: Monday May 7, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opp. New Cross Station. 'The role of the TUC in the fight against the Tories'.

BATTERSEA: Tuesday May 8, 8 p.m. 'Nags Head', cnr. Wandsworth Road and North Street. 'Report back from May Day'.

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Looking out over Lambeth...tight security net round court



Police look out over Lambeth. They went into action yesterday when the 'Belfast 10' came up for trial charged with causing explosions in London on March 8. Vans were searched. Police with dogs patrolled the streets around the court and a strong police guard escorted the black Maria to the court. From behind the darkened windows several of the accused smiled and waved at people outside.

May chosen as Irish political prisoners' month

THE PRISONERS' Aid Committee has decided that May will be a special 'Prisoners' Month' for Irish political prisoners in England.

At least 40 Irish men and women are now serving sentences or are on remand in England and have been or are likely to be convicted for their political beliefs and activities.

The committee points out that Irish workers in England are

'under constant threat of harassment from the English police... On Friday, April 13, for example, over 100 Irish families were raided and had their homes taken apart though only nine arrests followed. This is a clear case of intimidation'.

'Prisoners' Month' has been named for May as part of a campaign for financial support for regular donations which the committee pays to prisoners' dependants and for travel costs for visits between Ireland and England.

Shipbuilding 'boom' will end sharply say Lloyds

LLOYDS Register of Shipping yesterday warned of a sharp end to the current world shipbuilding 'boom'.

Reporting record tonnage figures for ships being built and a bumper world order book, Lloyd's said:

'It is difficult to foresee a continuation of this extraordinary rate of contracting with order books in the leading shipbuilding countries now extended well into 1977.'

World figures for the quarter ended March 31 show that 2,052 ships of 25,684,748 tons gross are being built—the highest figure ever recorded.

This is 1,334,241 tons more than the last quarter.

There are also a record 2,106 ships on order, totalling 73,498,078 tons gross, which is 11,349,857 more than the last quarter.

The world order book is now only marginally short of 100 million tons gross, the report adds. The figure of 99,182,826 tons is 12,684,098 tons more than the last quarter.

This increase in one quarter is more than the entire world output barely eight years ago.

Japan soaked up more than a third of the rise.

APRIL FUND NOW STANDS AT £708.89 — ONLY 6 DAYS TO GO

THE SITUATION is now very urgent for our Monthly Appeal Fund. At the moment it looks as though we might not reach our £1,750 target. We only have six more days and we have not reached our halfway mark.

We know that you have never let us down and we are confident that with a huge all-out effort immediately, we could still reach our target. We realize that the huge cost of living is biting into your pockets and that this month we are asking for an extra effort to be made with our Party Development Fund. But we do not ask for this

extra sacrifice for ourselves. Everywhere workers are determined to fight back against the Tories and their attacks on our democratic rights. Only Workers Press can provide a clear, political lead today for this fight.

Our Fund therefore is more than vital. Without it we are unable to produce our paper each day. We appeal to you all, dear readers. Let's turn the situation now. Make the biggest effort yet—and we might do it. Rush all your donations to:

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

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AND SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

MAY DAY

DEMONSTRATE TUES. MAY 1ST



DEFEND BASIC DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS
BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

LONDON: Assemble: 6 p.m. Speakers Corner, Marble Arch. Meeting: 8 p.m. St Pancras Assembly Rooms. Speakers: G. HEALY (SLL Nat Sec), MAUREEN BAMBRICK (YS Nat Sec). Premiere showing of Pageant film.

SCOTLAND: Assemble: 10 a.m. Blythwood Square, Glasgow. Meeting: 7.30 p.m. Woodside Halls, St George's Cross. Speakers: MIKE BANDA (SLL Central Committee) GORDON BAILEY (YS Nat Committee). Premiere showing of Pageant film.

NORTH EAST: Assemble: 12.30 p.m. Hebburn Civic Centre. Meeting: 7.30 p.m. Civic Centre, Jarrow. Speakers: CLIFF SLAUGHTER (SLL Central Committee), GARY GURMEET (Editor Keep Left). Premiere showing of Pageant film.

WALES: Assemble: 5.30 p.m. Caedraw School, Merthyr. Meeting: 7.30 p.m. Caedraw School, Merthyr. Speakers: ROY BATTERSBY, KIKI OBERMER (Young Socialists).

NORTH WEST: Assemble 10 a.m. Islington, Liverpool. Meeting: 7.30 p.m. Central Hall, Liverpool. Speakers: CORIN REDGRAVE, SARAH HANNIGAN (Keep Left editorial board). Premiere showing of Pageant film.

YORKSHIRE: Assemble: 12 noon Garden of Rest, near Leeds Town Hall. Meeting: 7.30 p.m. Guildford Hotel, Headrow. Speakers: ROY BULL (Workers Press editorial board), DAVE BIRD (YS National Committee).

MIDLANDS: Assemble 11 a.m. Digbeth, Civic Hall, Birmingham. Meeting: 7.30 p.m. Assembly Hall, Digbeth. Speakers: STEPHEN JOHNS (Workers Press editorial board), JOHN SIMMANCE (Young Socialists).