

TUC OFFICIALLY ACCEPTS 'RELUCTANT ACQUIESCENCE' SAYS FEATHER PHASE TWO

TUC LEADERS openly declared their complete capitulation to the state control of wages yesterday when Victor Feather announced their 'reluctant acquiescence in Phase Two of the government's pay policy'.

This means the trade union bureaucracy's acquiescence in the first steps towards a corporate state in Britain.

The TUC general secretary made this declaration of surrender on the eve of the massive May Day strikes and in a period when the soaring cost of food is making workers consider a declaration of war against government policies.

Feather's announcement is a calculated attempt to defuse the growing anger in the working class against the Tories continuing in office.

Workers have shown in countless bitter struggles over wages, rents, and the cost of living that they want this government out and are prepared to fight it. The local election results confirmed this amply.

Feather, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon have consciously planned to head off any such strike movement to force the government's resignation. They fear such a political development and its consequences as much as the bourgeoisie do themselves.

This was the reason for Feather deliberately playing down next Tuesday's struggle. 'We are leaving this May Day demonstration without any organization from the centre as an expression of grass-roots resentment of policies which they consider unfair.'

Feather is not joining any of the protests on May 1 himself. And he condemned people for calling May Day a General Strike. 'It is not a General Strike, and we have never said so. It is a day of protests and stoppages which can be supplementary, complementary, or exclusive.'

'We have not badgered unions into taking part, or even urged them. We have only invited them to participate,' Feather admitted.

'We have made no round-up to see what decisions unions have taken. We are leaving it as a spontaneous expression of what you could call a resentful, reluctant acquiescence in Phase Two of the government's pay policy under protest, in particular about soaring prices,' he added.

Instead of a determined mobilization of the working class to

BY ROYSTON BULL

route the government, which is what even the 1926 General Strike was meant to be, the 1973 version of the General Strike is being called to commemorate acceptance of the government's policy. And it is being organized in such a way as to try to ensure the feeblest possible protest.

The Communist Party are now clearly getting in right behind the TUC bureaucracy in supporting a corporatist arrangement with the Tory government. This is the explanation for their members' actions at the teachers' conference.

There, the Stalinists accepted a Phase Two pay deal, voted to compromise with the corporatist Pay Board, and acquiesced in the right-wing's rejection of a May Day protest for teachers.

And the 'Morning Star' has been silent about this blatant betrayal of the working-class struggle.

The Stalinists want to sow confusion in the labour and trade union movement. Their noisy 'support' for the May 1 day of protest and stoppage was only to the extent that it remained a reformist gesture.

The Stalinists will not fight to mobilize all the anti-Tory forces for a massive May Day

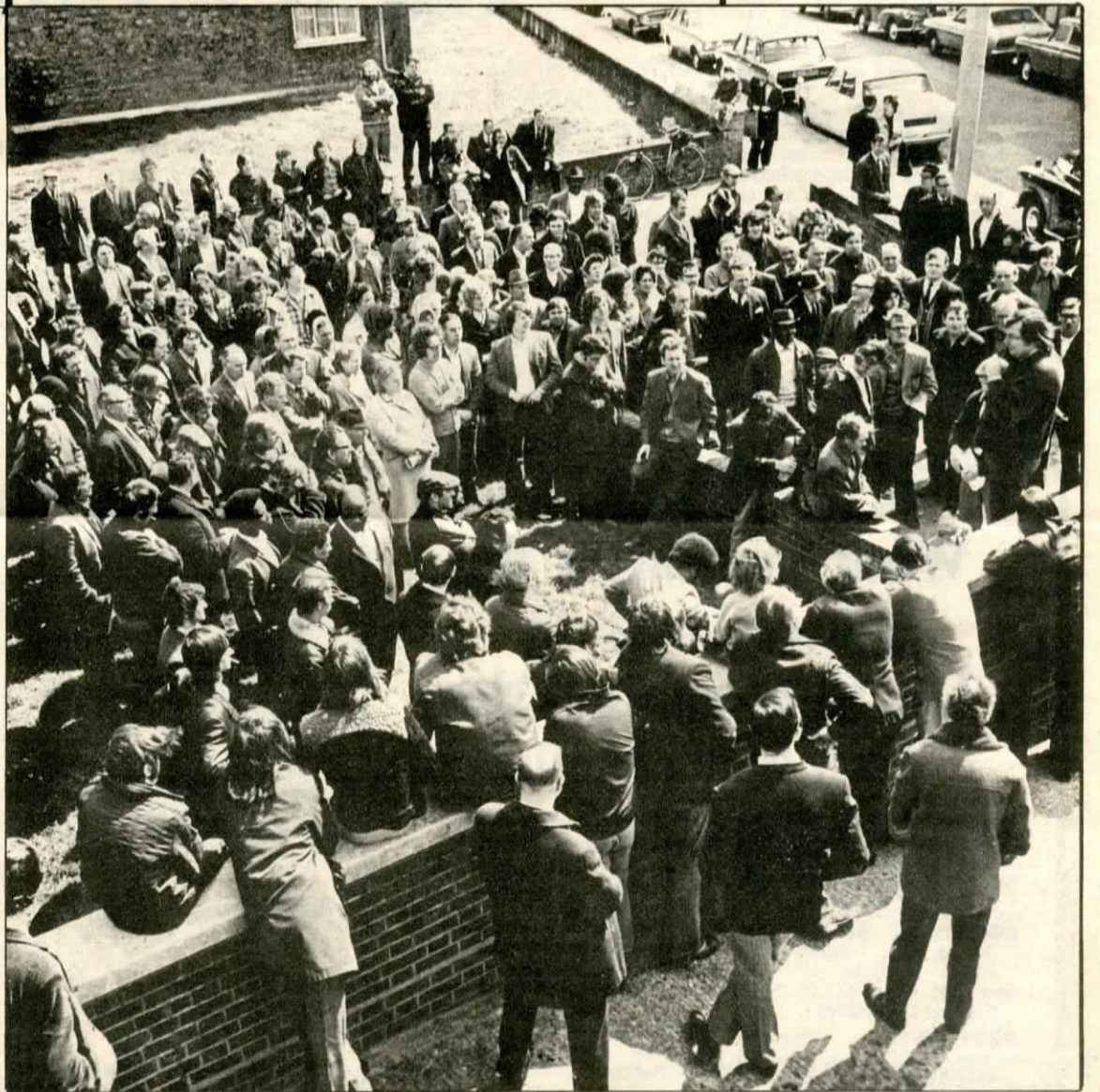
Pay Board's first
victims—beer men
see page 12

£100,000
PARTY
BUILDING
FUND

WE'RE moving — a good post today. Socialist Labour League branches
Southampton £42; Banbury £1; Camberley £1; Oxford £4; Battersea £5; Acton £15; Southwark £5; East London £3; Southall £12.25; Cambridge £122; Lewisham £5.15; Leicester £25.

The total is now £9,489.27. On to £10,000.

Post all donations to:
Party Building Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG



Watney Mann brewery workers hear the verdict on their pay claim yesterday at a meeting in Whitechapel, London.

TURN TO BACK PAGE

workers press

INCORPORATING THE NEWSLETTER ● THURSDAY APRIL 26, 1973 ● No 1057 ● 4p

DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

TUC OFFICIALLY ACCEPTS 'RELUCTANT ACQUIESCENCE' SAYS FEATHER PHASE TWO

TUC LEADERS openly declared their complete capitulation to the state control of wages yesterday when Victor Feather announced their 'reluctant acquiescence in Phase Two of the government's pay policy'.

This means the trade union bureaucracy's acquiescence in the first steps towards a corporate state in Britain.

The TUC general secretary made this declaration of surrender on the eve of the massive May Day strikes and in a period when the soaring cost of food is making workers consider a declaration of war against government policies.

Feather's announcement is a calculated attempt to defuse the growing anger in the working class against the Tories continuing in office.

Workers have shown in countless bitter struggles over wages, rents, and the cost of living that they want this government out and are prepared to fight it. The local election results confirmed this amply.

Feather, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon have consciously planned to head off any such strike movement to force the government's resignation. They fear such a political development and its consequences as much as the bourgeoisie do themselves.

This was the reason for Feather deliberately playing down next Tuesday's struggle. 'We are leaving this May Day demonstration without any organization from the centre as an expression of grass-roots resentment of policies which they consider unfair.'

Feather is not joining any of the protests on May 1 himself. And he condemned people for calling May Day a General Strike. 'It is not a General Strike, and we have never said so. It is a day of protests and stoppages which can be supplementary, complementary, or exclusive.'

'We have not badgered unions into taking part, or even urged them. We have only invited them to participate,' Feather admitted.

'We have made no round-up to see what decisions unions have taken. We are leaving it as a spontaneous expression of what you could call a resentful, reluctant acquiescence in Phase Two of the government's pay policy under protest, in particular about soaring prices,' he added.

Instead of a determined mobilization of the working class to

BY ROYSTON BULL

route the government, which is what even the 1926 General Strike was meant to be, the 1973 version of the General Strike is being called to commemorate acceptance of the government's policy. And it is being organized in such a way as to try to ensure the feeblest possible protest.

The Communist Party are now clearly getting in right behind the TUC bureaucracy in supporting a corporatist arrangement with the Tory government. This is the explanation for their members' actions at the teachers' conference.

There, the Stalinists accepted a Phase Two pay deal, voted to compromise with the corporatist Pay Board, and acquiesced in the right-wing's rejection of a May Day protest for teachers.

And the 'Morning Star' has been silent about this blatant betrayal of the working-class struggle.

The Stalinists want to sow confusion in the labour and trade union movement. Their noisy 'support' for the May 1 day of protest and stoppage was only to the extent that it remained a reformist gesture.

The Stalinists will not fight to mobilize all the anti-Tory forces for a massive May Day

Pay Board's first
victims—beer men
see page 12

**£100,000
PARTY
BUILDING
FUND**

WE'RE moving — a good post today. Socialist Labour League branches
Southampton £42; Banbury £1; Camberley £1; Oxford £4; Battersea £5; Acton £15; Southwark £5; East London £3; Southall £12.25; Cambridge £122; Lewisham £5.15; Leicester £25.

The total is now £9,489.27. On to £10,000.

Post all donations to:
Party Building Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG



Watney Mann brewery workers hear the verdict on their pay claim yesterday at a meeting in Whitechapel, London.

TURN TO BACK PAGE

Stalinists lead NUT conference witch-hunt

COMMUNIST PARTY members yesterday led the fight against the militants on behalf of the right wing in Britain's largest union of teachers.

Delegates at the National Union of Teachers' annual conference at Scarborough voted for an emergency resolution proposed by the executive making it impossible for anyone but them to call for strikes or special general meetings.

Members of the International Socialists and the International Marxist Group in the 235,000-strong union led a rebellion against the Stalinist and right-wing-dominated executive's campaign for a rise in teachers' special London allowance.

Now the Stalinists have collaborated with the right wing to silence them.

Right wing ex-president Mr Harry Allison told the 2,000 delegates the time had come for the union to assert its authority over the rank and file.

Allison charged that decisions had been taken in some Associations on slender votes at poorly-attended meetings and in pursuit of objectives that were 'utterly unrealizable'.

Executive member Mr Peter Kennedy said attempts to impose on sections of the union policies which differed from those agreed by the executive and conference were to be blamed on a minority. 'But there is a danger it may grow,' he said.

Communist Party NUT President Max Morris called only one speaker against the executive's proposal—although more than 60 delegates had submitted cards to speak against it. And the one speaker selected was fellow-Stalinist Joe Finch from Lewisham.

Finch denounced 'maverick ultra-leftists' who, he said, wrecked the Westminster Central Halls meeting at which the executive was forced to flee the platform.

In a speech devoted entirely to an attack on the left, Finch criticized what he called 'irresponsible strike calls' and said he had often had to vote down strike calls.

In a deliberately-created atmosphere of witch-hunt, Finch personally denounced one of the teachers under threat of discipline from the union—Mr Keagan—as 'one of the people who disrupts the union'.

Finch 'opposed' the executive's move only in his last sentence. The NUT executive was, he claimed, 'giving a magnificent lead', but it would be wrong to change the rules because the leadership might change!

Right wing past-president Mr Jack Jones said:

'If this union loses control under its rules, God above knows what could happen to the image of the union.'

After the debate Stalinist president Max Morris declared the executive's resolution overwhelmingly carried.

We could beat them tomorrow—Sihanouk Lon Nol regime loses credibility

Prince Sihanouk—the exiled leader of the liberation fighters—has recently returned to the Ankor region of Cambodia. His forces control huge areas of the country and could take Phnom Penh when they like.

CAMBODIA'S higher state council has begun to fall apart within hours of its formation. The three American stooges whose presence was supposed to broaden the regime's base have started to quarrel with dictator Lon Nol.

The council has been disparagingly dubbed the municipal council of Phnom Penh because its writ runs only as far as suburbs of the capital. It was formed under American pressure as an urgently needed face-lift for the crumbling rulers.

Lon Nol, however, is unwilling to surrender any power to his rivals in the council. He aroused their anger yesterday with a radio broadcast in which he proclaimed himself chairman of the council.

He claimed the right to delegate to—or withhold from—the council all state business.

The other three council members said it had been formed on the understanding that they would have equal status with Lon Nol.

This petty quarrel about the shadow of power is going on while the puppet armies stagger from defeat to catastrophe in a capital completely surrounded by liberation troops.

'The Times' correspondent in Phnom Penh disparaged the formation of the council which he said was 'supposed to initiate peace negotiations with the insurgents and thereby extricate President Nixon from his war in Cambodia.'

'Reports by American diplomats in Phnom Penh will,

no doubt, contain such comforting words as "a broad-based government supported by a popular leader and an able administrator" and other political jargon which might make sense in Washington but are irrelevant to peasants in Cambodia.'

The paper cited one highlight of Lon Nol's presidency: the edict he issued last year 'declaring that any citizen caught selling rabbits would be arrested for treachery.'

'The communists, he announced, had plans to strap bombs to the backs of the beasts and release them near government installations.'

This sort of decree has done little to inspire confidence in the dictatorship.

The credibility of the shaky Phnom Penh regime has hardly been enhanced by the extensive tour of the liberated areas carried out recently by Prince Sihanouk, who visited, among other places, the Ankor Wat temples in the heart of the country.

Many of the troops at



Looking like a certain past political figure in his lederhosen, Lon Nol watches the battles near his capital.

Lon Nol's disposal exist only on paper.

Commanders claim pay and rations for non-existent units in order to pocket the proceeds.

The United States air force is mounting some of the heaviest bomber raids ever known in Indo-China in an attempt to prevent the regime's complete collapse.

Prince Sihanouk, the exiled head of state who leads the liberation armies, has said that Phnom Penh would have fallen long ago had it not been clear that the US would immediately bomb it flat.

And without US air support—at the rate of 60 B52 missions and 250 fighter-bomber strikes every day—the army would be routed tomorrow.



Stalinists weaken Renault fight as strikes spread

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of the two main unions involved in the Renault dispute have again appealed to the Gaullist premier Pierre Messmer to intervene and end the conflict in the state-owned motor combine.

The plea, by leaders of both the CGT and the CFDT, is the second attempt to pressure the government to step in and prevent the strike spreading throughout the combine and

even to other parts of French industry.

At the end of last week Communist Party secretary Georges Marchais wrote an open letter to Messmer urging him in the national interest to step in and end the Renault dispute. The letter was published across the front page of the Party daily 'L'Humanité', but drew no response from the premier.

The latest appeal brings together both the Stalinist-dominated union and the CFDT, which likes to pose as 'leftist'. The CFDT in reality is just as eager as the CGT to bring the Renault dispute rapidly to an end.

Both union leaderships fear that the strike and lock-out at Renault could become the flash-point of another mass action by the working class.

But their hopes that the dispute would die down over Easter weekend have been rudely shattered. On Tuesday the management announced that it would probably be extending the lock-out at the main Boulogne-Billancourt plant outside Paris to another 3,000 workers.

This would bring the total locked-out there to 4,500 with a further 7,000 out on strike demanding full pay for the period when they were laid off during an earlier strike. The factory at Flins is completely closed down with 20,000 workers locked out.

The lock-out has been temporarily lifted at Sandouville, a third plant, but engineers there are on strike and another lock-out of the plant's 10,000 workers is likely. Two-thirds of the fac-

tory at Le Mans, employing 9,000 people, have been placed on short-time.

The management is taking a tough line at Renault, and undoubtedly has the support of the Gaullist government.

There are disputes elsewhere in the car industry.

AT PEUGEOT negotiations are still under way in an attempt to resolve the workers' demand for a basic wage of 1,500 francs a week.

At the company's factory near Lyons, ex-legionnaires on the Peugeot payroll used iron bars to drive sit-in strikers off the premises. The unions are trying to cool down the resulting tense situation, but have been unable to reach agreement so far.

ANOTHER strike in the car industry is at the Saviem components factory, where there has been a lengthy strike for higher wages and up-grading of job classifications. Nor are the strikes confined to the motor industry.

THERE ARE a number of strikes in progress at steelworks both in the Lorraine, where widespread closures are threatened, and at Dunkirk, where the Usinor combine has a large modern plant. Iron miners in the Lorraine are due to strike on Friday for 24 hours.

The steel strikes have been accompanied by walk-outs in textiles, oil refineries and among office workers in the Lorraine, though these have generally been limited to 24-hour or 48-hour token stoppages.

Strikes are also threatened among public sector workers, who are demanding that the government honour its election promise to bring their wages up to the equivalent level in private industry. So far the strikes in this sector have been confined by the union leaders to protest stoppages.

Behind the mounting strike movement in France is the rapid growth of inflation which is cutting deeper and deeper into workers' wage packets.

The Gaullists' victory at the National Assembly election followed many months in which union members were told by their leaders not to rock the boat with wage demands.

Workers who had been encouraged to place their hopes on the election of a Popular Front-style coalition of the Communist, Socialist and Left Radical Parties found the electoral road barred and bolted by the President, Georges Pompidou.

Pompidou declared his intention of ignoring the outcome of the poll if it should go against him—a direct threat to plunge the country into civil war rather than renounce power.

In response to this situation, the most active and militant sections of workers tended to turn back to industrial action as a means of settling accounts with the employers.

At all costs the Stalinists have undertaken to muzzle the French working class in return for government guarantees to co-exist peacefully with Moscow.

Significantly, the Stalinists' policy is threatened by a movement which began among immigrant workers who are less completely under the CP's domination.

All Trades Unions Alliance Public Meetings

What next after the miners' ballot? The fight against the Tory government

SOUTH ELMSALL: Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. The Railway Hotel.
Speaker: Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee).

DONCASTER: Monday April 30, 8 p.m. White Bear Hotel, Hallgate.
Speaker: Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee).

KNOTTINGLEY: Thursday May 3, 7.30 p.m. Railway Hotel, Hilltop.
Speaker: G. Healy (National Secretary SLL).

OLLERTON: Monday May 7, 8 p.m. Blue Tilt.
Speaker: Mike Banda (SLL Central Committee).

BARNESLEY: Thursday May 10, 8 p.m. Masons Arms.
Speaker: Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee).

CASTLEFORD: Thursday May 17, 8 p.m. Sagar St Rooms.

Speaker: G. Healy (National Secretary SLL).

British army executions in Ulster

THE ARMY has been accused of mounting a new wave of terror against civilians in Northern Ireland in a strong statement from the moderate Belfast Central Citizens' Defence Committee.

The claim came from Mr Tom Conaty, about the best-known moderate Catholic on Ulster chief William Whitelaw's advisory committee.

Conaty said complaints against the army were rejected out of hand and 'covering up was the order of

Claim by moderate Catholics

The committee claims that in recent weeks there was prima facie evidence that troops had engaged in execution before either trial or conviction.

The statement went on: 'We are not propagandists for the IRA—neither are we elected representatives of the Social Democratic Labour Party and the Labour Party or other bodies who have commented upon and reported army repression.

'The only people in the community who have no moral basis for complaining about army repression and killings are those extremists on both sides whom the army are now matching in their methods.'

The new wave of repression is almost certainly the result of a desperate last-ditch bid by the Tories to make democracy work in the Six Counties.

They have mounted a new, savage, no-holds-barred offensive against the IRA.

Meanwhile Whitelaw has nevertheless allowed a Provisional Sinn Fein office to open and remain open in the centre of Belfast.

At the same time the British Labour Party has dramatically stepped up its public agitation for Provisional Sinn Fein to be allowed to contest the forthcoming elections to the new Ulster Assembly in June.

While the Labour Party waves a carrot, the Tories are using the big stick on the streets of Ulster to make sure the Provisionals bite.

Last Sunday's 'Observer' reported claims that IRA suspects were being shot on sight by troops.

The Tory gamble is that they will succeed in crushing the 'extremists' before even moderate public opinion turns against them and makes a return to 'democracy' impossible.

There are already rumblings that the Republican movement as a whole may boycott the elections unless the terror stops.

Meanwhile on the Unionists' side Capt John Brooke, chief whip in the last Stormont parliament, has said he will not stand in the election, paving the way for the selection of an anti-White Paper candidate.

Last week the constituency association made it clear it would welcome only Unionists who were opposed to the Tory proposals.

There were sporadic shootings, bombings and riot incidents in Belfast and Londonderry throughout the Easter holiday.



Troops in action in Belfast

the day'. The statement accused the British army of enforcing a new reign of terror in the Catholic minority areas.

The BCCDC said: 'It is degrading for the Secretary of State to issue a statement that the army is not using new rough tactics and that suggestions of this nature are a massive propaganda campaign'.

Fraser still pressing charges against prison officers

THE SISTER of Mr Francis Fraser, the man sentenced to 20 years for his part in the Richardson gang and the 1969 Parkhurst riot, said yesterday even £1m would not stop them pressing for the conviction of prison officers Fraser has accused of malpractice.

After the Parkhurst riot Fraser (47) needed 48 stitches in his head, more stitches over his eye and had a broken nose and injuries to the body.

Fraser is loathed by prison warders and in 1971 a warder at Wakefield prison was given a two-year suspended sentence and removed from the prison for sending abusive letters to one of Fraser's relatives.

Last year, during riots at Gartree prison, Fraser sustained

injuries consistent with having been kicked and beaten.

Fraser is pursuing a civil action against nine prison officers, including an assistant governor, for the injuries he received at Parkhurst.

The Home Office has offered him £250 damages, but Fraser has rejected the money.

His sister, Mrs Eva Brindle, said yesterday: 'Money doesn't come into it. We're not rich. I just live in a council flat. It's principles we're fighting for.'

'It would not make any difference to us if they offered £1m. It does not matter what prison he goes to, there is always somebody there ready to take it out on him.'

'We won't be satisfied until these men are convicted.'

Demo outside explosions case

OVER 250 people demonstrated outside Coventry magistrates court yesterday as the case of six men accused of conspiring to damage property by causing an explosion was resumed.

Cries of 'Free All Irish Political Prisoners' greeted the men—Catholic priest Patrick Miles Hamilton Fell (32); Anthony Roland Lynch (46); Herbert Francis Kelly (27); Thomas Gerald Rush (26); Anthony McCormick (17) and Frank Stagg (31)—as they were brought to the court.

Fifty policemen with six dogs surrounded the court and people entering the public gallery were

searched three times and made to hand in newspapers. The accused were remanded in custody until Monday, April 30. Applications for bail for the prisoners—each one handcuffed singly to a policeman—were refused.

searched three times and made to hand in newspapers.

The accused were remanded in custody until Monday, April 30.

Applications for bail for the prisoners—each one handcuffed singly to a policeman—were refused.

Conspiracy charges were expected to be brought yesterday against two people detained by Manchester Police Special Branch. The arrests followed the results of forensic tests on material seized in the Coventry raids a fortnight ago.

Coal being stockpiled for autumn crisis

COAL STOCKS are being built up ready for possible political crises in the autumn and next winter.

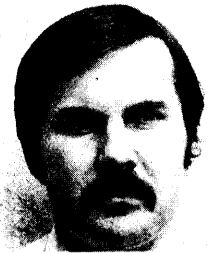
By October the Central Electricity Generating Board is likely to have 18 million tons in stock within its own power station boundaries.

This is 20 per cent above last October's figure and is equivalent to 12 winter weeks supply. A

further 2 million tons has been stockpiled by the South of Scotland board.

Having the coal within CEBG boundary fences is important. During the 1972 miners' strike, one of the turning points in the successful struggle to halt the electricity power stations was the closing by combined miners' and engineers' pickets of the Sattley Coke Depot.

ALEX MITCHELL'S Far-East Diary



Shirley Maclaine... invited

Carving his niche

OUR MAN in Peking is reckoned to be something of a 'with-it' character. He is Sir John Addis who has earned a reputation as a dedicated Sinophile.

He speaks immaculate Chinese and knows an enormous amount about 12th century Oriental carvings and that kind of thing. When the local officials want to label a piece of pottery disgorged from archaeological diggings, they apparently ask his advice.

Addis is also attempting to endear himself to the proletariat. He bicycles around town in a flat-peaked cap.

Recently he saw a small girl playing a peculiar game with a ball in the street. He halted his machine and asked her: 'What are you playing?'

She stared back inscrutably and said: 'A ball game.' Collapse of intelligence operation.

A CORRESPONDENT just back from Peking tells a similar story. On a drive back to his hotel one night he noticed—not for the first time—a large building surrounded by a sinister high wall.

On some evenings it was floodlit.

'What's that?' he asked his interpreter. 'Is it a government building?'

'Yes,' replied the guide. 'It is the Ministry... the Ministry of... the Ministry of Certain Things.'

Everybody's beating the Peking path

SCARCELY a day goes by without some celebrity or other beating a path into China. The local newspapers, the radio and television cover one reception after another as dignitaries come and go having paid their respects to Mao and Chou En-lai.

Last week was particularly busy. Chou was at Peking airport to greet President Luis Echeverria of Mexico. The reports said he was 'feted at a banquet' and talks were held in 'a sincere and friendly atmosphere'.

At the same time Mr Evelyn Rothschild, the chairman of the British Rothschilds bank, emerged over the border to announce

The final visit of the week was made by Shirley Maclaine, the actress. This is how the 'Hong Kong Standard' reported the affair with unconscious cynicism: 'Actress Shirley Maclaine and a delegation of 11 American women are due to arrive here tonight en route for a three-week visit to China.'

'The Chinese government asked me to come and bring a delegation of regular American women to meet regular Chinese women,' Miss Maclaine told reporters in New York.

'They asked for some peasants and working-class women. I'm bringing them housewives, an anthropologist, psychologist, civil rights worker and an electronics engineer,' she said.

They include Unita Blackwell, a civil rights activist; Karen Boutillier, a 12-year-old who organized McGovern's campaign in Concord, California; Pat Branson, an office clerk; Ninibah Crawford, a psychologist and Navajo Indian; and Margaret Whitman, a housewife and conservative Republican.

'The Chinese view our women's liberation with some amusement,' Miss Maclaine said.

The Tory-controlled Press in Hong Kong greets each of these visits with huge enjoyment. But their enthusiasm is only outstripped by—guess who?—the newspapers of the Chinese Communist Party in Hong Kong.

With every issue of their newspapers—they have three publications—there are pages of pictures of Chinese bureaucrats smiling and shaking hands with princes, Tories, shahs, military dictators and imperialists of one description or another.

Its immediate and most devastating impact has been to derail the swelling trade union and working class opposition to the colonial regime which conducts itself in the most 19th century fashion.

The party Press is now wildly proclaiming the benefits of peaceful co-existence and friendly relations, etc. Whatever happened to the running dogs, the imperialist lackeys, the paper tigers, etc.?



Luis Echevarria... feted

UNION CHIEFS TALK OF PRIVATE SCHEME TO 'SAVE' STEEL

Steel union leaders have abandoned any militant resistance against the government's drastic closure programme and are now agitating for a Utopian private steel project.

The new strategy centres on the hoary project for a steel mill at Hunterston on the mouth of the river Clyde in Scotland.

Unions came close to declaring their colours recently with a heavy hint that they were prepared to back a scheme to bring private capital to the area.

Arthur Bell, divisional officer of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation told the Scottish TUC:

'Other people are interested in Hunterston. If we are interested in the Scottish economy, if we are interested in providing jobs, we may well have to encourage these people to come here.'

This is the first public support from the unions for the steel project.

The chances of getting private steel to the area, of course, are extremely slight. Bell is grasping at straws to make up for his own union's near total lack of fighting opposition to the rationalization in Scotland, England and Wales.

A day after his statement the ISTC met behind locked doors at TUC headquarters in London and held its first annual meeting since the war. The debate produced no policy whatsoever to challenge the British Steel Corporation's rationalization plans.

The union is dominated by the policies of its leader Sir Dai Davies, who has already stated that the ISTC is ready to co-operate with the steel cut-back programme.

In his union's journal Davies said there would be a campaign to make sure the government came forward with alternative jobs for steelmen, but he recognized the need for modernization.

'It cannot be denied by anyone familiar with the steel industry that large sections of it need bringing up to date,' he wrote.

He added: 'While it may not be the function of a trade union to promote economic logic, to completely disregard it would be a betrayal of the many thousands of workers who will be employed in the modern steel industry of the future.'

Hunterston is now likely to

be used to divert the attention of the rank and file in the industry from the realities of Tory policy.

The project is in the hands of a development company staffed by some of the biggest names in Scottish business. They are all greedy for the profits development could bring. But the progress of their plans has been a disappointment.

The government, after much deliberately inspired speculation, have finally crushed suggestions that a steel mill, large or small, can be built on the Clyde estuary, though they have given the go-ahead for an iron ore terminal.

The business men soldier on, however, and are now studying the possibility of establishing a company with the help of Korf, a German steel-making combine. In present Common Market conditions the scheme is Utopian, however. Future capacity is limited and the poor location of Hunterston vis-a-vis the big markets make investment remote.

The Tories are neither in favour nor opposed to private investment. It would have the bonus of further undermining the principle of nationalization. But they will not put money into the scheme.

Tom Boardman, the Minister responsible for the industry, holds firmly to this neutral position. He says:

'If there are propositions put to the government for bulk steel-making by someone other than the BSC, they would be assessed on their merits, taking account of the advantages to the area concerned and the economy as a whole. The government would not try to preserve a monopoly for the BSC.'

This is the setting for union support. It comes at a time when the 8,000-plus redundancy programme rolls into action. All Scotland's 34 open-hearth furnaces are to be phased out and four works in the Motherwell-Glasgow area—Dalziel; Clydebridge; Lanarkshire and Clyde Iron—will bear the brunt of the closures.

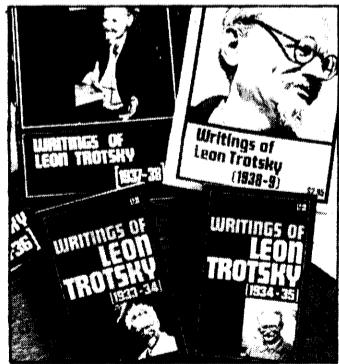
Bell echoes the strategy of many other reformist and Stalinist union leaders in Scotland. They imply that workers and employers can come together to solve the problems of Scotland by attracting more private capital.

The opposite is the case, of course. Areas like Scotland will be hit hardest by the crisis and Scottish employers will strive more than most to deprive trade unionists of their basic rights.

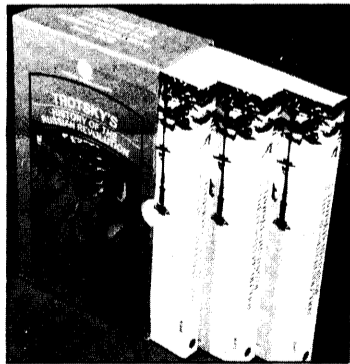


Sir Dai Davies, leader of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation. He has already stated that he would co-operate with the steel cut-back programme and rationalization plans of BSC.

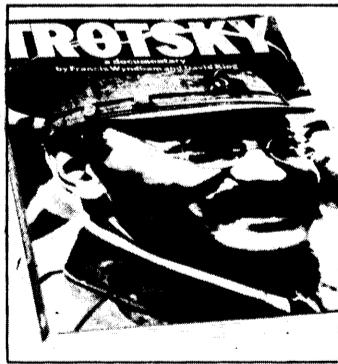
STILL AVAILABLE...



Six volumes of Trotsky's writings during the years 1933-1940 £8.00 including postage



History of Russian Revolution—special gift pack of three volumes £1.70 including postage



Trotsky—a documentary by Francis Wyndham and David King £1.65 including postage

Please tick those you require. Amount enclosed £.....

Name

Address

Complete form and post to:
New Park Publications, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG
A New Park Publications Booklist is available, free, on request.

Casual farm workers reach record level

Casual workers on the land have increased to record levels and the farm workers' union is seriously worried about the possibility of the meagre wages being further undermined.

The numbers of casual workers rose last year to 62,000 an increase of over 10,000 since 1970. This compares with the 322,000 workers on the land altogether.

The seasonal or casual employee tends to work for the big combines and is less concerned with trade unions and condition of pay and work.

This aggravates the considerable problems of organization on the land.

Another developing trend is the halt of the rapid drift of labour towards the towns. This is not a product of better pay—wages on farms remain the lowest in the country—but a result of far higher urban unemployment.

THOUSANDS OF TYRES THAT COULD FALL APART

Thousands of motorists are driving around Britain on tyres that could fall apart at more than 19 miles an hour. They are third-grade tyres, made on the Continent and sold at quayside auctions at Hull and London.

Many bear brand names like Pirelli, Michelin, Uniroyal and Dunlop—but they are supposed to be used only on farms.

The British Rubber Manufacturers' Association says that unscrupulous dealers are buying them and fitting them on cars.

Once the tyres get into the country it is almost impossible to restrict their sale.

They can be picked out by a small marking—'30 KM/H MAX'—but some dealers are 'bulging out' this mark.....

Greece

NO LAW STANDARDS IN GREECE

An American lawyer representing the International Commission of Jurists said in Athens that Greece was a police state.

The lawyer, Mr William Butler, and two other jurists have been investigating whether international standards of law had been observed in the case of six Greek lawyers held incommunicado by military police since their arrest in early March.

Four of them had, a few days earlier, defended in court 11 students detained during recent demonstrations and charged with insulting the Greek authorities.



Greek police arrest students.

Mr Butler told a Press conference: 'Even if they [the lawyers] are accused of actions against the government, they should be brought to trial immediately.'

'It is therefore clear that constitutional provisions, particularly article 10, are not implemented in Greece.'

(Article 10 of the 1968 constitution stipulates that no one can be arrested without a judicial warrant nor detained more than 24 hours without being charged.)

Asked if he thought Greece was a police state, Mr Butler replied: 'Yes, I think it is.'

LESSONS OF UCS

REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE

REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE

REFORMISM ON THE CLYDE
The Story of UCS



'Reformism on the Clyde' the first exposure of Communist Party tactics at the UCS work-in. It shows how a powerful challenge to the Tories degenerated into a reformist protest. It examines the records of the men who led the struggle, James Reid, James Airlie and Sammy Barr.

Price 30p, 128 pages, illustrated.

Available from:
New Park Publications
186a, Clapham High Street
London, SW4 7UG

or the Paperbacks Centre
28 Charlotte Street
London, W1
(Enclose 10p for postage)



No principled politics for Pierre Frank

The April 9 issue of 'Intercontinental Press'—a publication of the revisionist Unified Secretariat of the Fourth International—carries an article entitled 'The Lambertists and the Vargaites Falls Out'.

This is nothing more than a collection of sneers by Pierre Frank occasioned by the publication of differences between the French Organisation Communiste Internationaliste (OCI) and the Ligue des Revolutionnaires Socialistes Hongrois (LRSH).

The Socialist Labour League broke from the Lambert-Varga tendency in August 1971 on principled political issues.

We did not hide then and we do not hide now, the important disagreements with Lambert and Varga which made it impossible for us to continue in the same international organization. We published the four main documents of the split in Workers Press in April last year.

However, the Lambert-Varga organization is by no means as discredited and corrupt as the Unified Secretariat of Messrs Frank, Mandel, Hansen and Maitan.

It has not crossed the dividing line of tolerating collaboration with the international agencies of imperialism.

Our fundamental disagreement with Lambert-Varga is over their rejection of dia-

lectical materialism as a theory of knowledge and their claim that programme, not the conflict between theory and practice, was the basis of the building of parties.

This liquidation of the party into spontaneity and so-called 'objective' processes, in practice led to a failure to penetrate into the French masses who support the Communist Party. It was a long-standing source of conflict between the SLL and the OCI, particularly over their tail-ending of the movement in May-June 1968.

By 1971 the OCI-LRSH had moved openly to uniting with centrists against the Fourth International—as they did at the Essen Youth Rally.

And they seized on the criticisms which the SLL and our American co-thinkers, the Workers League, levelled at the Bolivian POR.

Behind a cover of 'solidarity with the Bolivian Revolution', Lambert-Varga not only avoided an examination of the opportunist politics of the POR, but any discussion of the theoretical and practical questions of building the Fourth International.

We characterized this tendency as a Pabloite tendency not, as Frank sneeringly claims because Pabloism is a 'phantom', but because it represents liquidation of Trotskyism.

We will not withdraw one word of our fight against the OCI and the LRSH—but it must be said that there are no recipients of CIA money inside those organizations. Neither Lambert nor Varga have any record of tolerating

in their organizations, let alone in their highest bodies, men who have accepted trips paid for by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States.

It is the contemptible Pierre Frank who sits alongside a man who co-operated with the CIA. And he sits with him on the International Executive Committee of the Unified Secretariat.

That man is Bala Tampoe, general secretary of the Ceylonese Lanka Sama Samaja Party (Revolutionary), the Ceylonese section of the Unified Secretariat.

Tampoe was unanimously re-elected to Frank's International Executive Committee after their own Commission of Inquiry had reported that in 1967 Tampoe had accepted a trip to the United States paid for by the Asia Foundation, a well-known recipient of CIA funds.

While there he attended seminars given by Robert McNamara, then Defence Secretary in charge of prosecuting the Vietnam war. Tampoe also held private discussions with McNamara.

Among other activities which would merit immediate expulsion from any self-respecting working-class organization—much less one claiming to be Trotskyist—the revisionists' commission found that Tampoe had attended a function in honour of an ex-Nazi, and had organized scabbing by the union of which he was general secretary during the devaluation strikes of 1967.

Above left: Bala Tampoe, who is general secretary of the Unified Secretariat's Ceylonese section, the LSSP(R). Top right: McNamara, then defence secretary, whose seminars Tampoe attended. Centre: Joseph Hansen, of the American SWP. Bottom: Ernest Mandel, leading member of the Unified Secretariat.

We recognize that there is a qualitative difference between people who have serious political differences, however grave, and who spread confusion and misleadership—and those who consciously permit their leading members to collaborate with the CIA.

Nor is it simply a matter of Tampoe as an individual. Had the Unified Secretariat expelled him as a collaborator, it could still have retained some integrity in the workers' movement.

But to do that would have meant an investigation, not only into the LSSP(R) but into the whole record of the Unified Secretariat, including the unprincipled reunification of 1963; and the entry of their Ceylonese section into the Banderanaik government in 1964.

Frank, Hansen, Mandel and their colleagues preferred to cover up for Tampoe rather than open these questions.

Every one of the leaders of the Unified Secretariat is thus tainted with the brush of the CIA collaborator.

Frank represents a corrupt organization which every honest worker and revolutionary would reject.

Soviet Union

CORRUPTION BY COMPUTER

Computers have not stopped fiddling by Soviet book-keepers and cashiers. They simply feed fictitious information into the machine and make false sums of money.

Two book-keepers in Sverdolsk, named as Kalash-

nikova and Siyatova, did this with the accounts of the Novaya Lyalys pulp and paper combine and other factories. They invented numbers for non-existent workers and cashed the wages that an obliging computer worked out for them by arrangement with three cashiers who were in the know. All are now repenting in jail.

In Chimkent three officials of the Building Directorate made a deal to steal timber which was delivered to fictitious sites. The head book-keeper destroyed the real invoices and prepared fictitious ones and the drivers of the trucks which delivered it sold the timber to private house-builders.

This very private enter-

prise was ably assisted by the works superintendent who carried out the necessary paperwork and, by falsifying names, cashed large sums of money. He and his confederates are now doing prison terms.

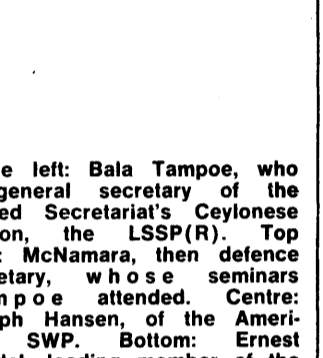
Sentences of 14 years were imposed on the deputy-chairman of a housing co-operative and ten years on its senior book-keeper as a result of a fraud unearthed in Kaliningrad. Together with accomplices, they accepted bribes on a large scale in return for finding flats.

'They took bribes everywhere,' a Moscow broadcast said, 'at board meetings, in corridors, in restaurants and on the street; they accepted anything — articles of gold,

silver or glass; furniture and watches, overcoats and suits, outerwear and furs, food and wines.'

These cases are typical of many others which go unreported. There is now a crackdown on such abuses as the bureaucracy attempts to grapple with serious economic difficulties. But where does the example come for economic crimes and the filching of state property by these small fry if not from the gigantic demands levied by the powerful bureaucrats on the national production?

The result of the present campaign is likely to be anger against the bureaucratic system and its beneficiaries whose malpractices go unpunished.





Left: The mass meeting on March 10 votes to accept the £2.60 wage offer and withdrawal from Clause 12 of the agreement. Above: Les Newman, acting secretary of NASO. Below: Maurice Foley, chairman of the unions' 18-man committee, with Peter Shea, London docks secretary of the T&GWU at the March 10 meeting.



WHAT NEXT FOR DOCK WORKERS?

Part one of a statement by the All Trades Unions Alliance docks section

The rejection by the dockers' mass meeting of the recommendation submitted by union officials on Friday April 6, shows that neither the 18-man negotiating committee nor the stewards' leadership warrants the confidence of London dockers.

This is an unprecedented step which brings to an end an era of non-political reformist trade unionism in the docks and opens up new opportunities for the development of Marxist leadership.

The capitalist Press in particular gloats over the dockers', miners' and gasworkers' retreat in the belief that these militant workers have accepted Heath's policies and the prospect of a corporate state.

The Press is supplemented by the arguments of revisionist and Communist Party stewards and union officials who say that the leadership is not worthy of its followers. Two stewards in the Royals have already resigned because they have no confidence in the workers.

If the Press maligns the working class and distorts the real causes of the retreat, it does so because it hates the working class. If the revisionists, Stalinists and officials do so, it is because they fear the resurgence of this class more than they do the capitalists.

The All Trades Unions Alliance docks section unequivocally rejects these slanders on the working class.

If the dockers accepted the pay norm of the Heath government and rejected the appeal to devalue the Green Book

then this decision was profoundly influenced by the wholesale retreat of the union leaders from every political challenge by the Tory government.

Dockers' union leaders have consistently broken their own mandate and recognized the National Industrial Relations Court. They have failed utterly to defend the basic rights of dockers to a job by accepting the principle of severance pay and, with it, the introduction of the supplementary register and the erosion of the scheme.

Above all, they have refused to fight for the nationalization of the ports industry under workers' control and, instead, have collaborated with the plans of the monopolists to increase profitability and efficiency while real wages have either stagnated or gone down in some ports.

The report of the National

Ports Council has shown with absolute clarity that the growth of inflation and the monetary crisis of capitalism which has forced interest rates to fantastic levels has led to a tremendous growth of indebtedness of every major Dock Labour Scheme port.

SOURCE OF CONFUSION

This, in turn, has led to the growth of unregistered ports and an intensification of the drive for greater productivity and discipline in the scheme ports.

This situation demands imperatively a campaign to force the Tories to resign and the election of a Labour government which will nationalize the ports. But this the leadership refuses to do.

The actions of the union leaders are not the only source of confusion and uncertainty in the docks. The consciousness of dockers has also been affected by the continued refusal of the TUC not only to lead any struggle against the government's dictatorial laws, but even to give adequate support to the dockers, miners, railmen, gasmen, hospital workers and other sections who have been forced to fight isolated sectional struggles against the combined strength of government and employers in the last three years.

This bankrupt policy was revealed at the special TUC on March 5 when general secretary Victor Feather and the right wing—with the help of the Communist Party leaders—blocked any move towards a General Strike against the Tories and substituted for it the inadequate one-day national

protest on May 1.

This retreat has now turned into a rout with engineers' president Hugh Scanlon's cringing statement offering co-operation with the Tory government in its attempts to solve the economic crisis, and the deliberate cover-up conducted by the CP and the 'Morning Star'.

As a result of the Pentonville Five and rail ballot experiences of 1972, the Tories have revamped their tactics. Instead of resorting to the NIRC on every major industrial issue they have deliberately kept the court in reserve while resorting to massive inflation supplemented by an overt collaboration with the union leaders through the Pay Boards, regular secret talks at Chequers and at 10 Downing Street and vicious police intimidation of pickets.

In this way they avoid a

frontal confrontation with the unions, use the union leaders to police the militants and tackle the working class in a piece-meal fashion. It is not as dramatic as the court, but it is more insidious and demoralizing.

This is the sinister set-up which Scanlon and the Stalinists defend when they talk about amending the Industrial Relations Act.

What Scanlon is saying is that there are more ways than one to create the basis for the corporate state.

These statements and decisions are calculated to demoralize and confuse the working class.

Far from inspiring dockers to fight the Tories they only induce a feeling of deep scepticism and bitterness towards reformist leaders and a desire to conserve their strength, take what is offered and wait for

the next round of struggle.

It is for these reasons that dockers will not easily forget the equivocal and thoroughly unprincipled role of the 18-man committee in the farcical opposition to the employers' wage offer.

To these reformist and revisionist sceptics who like to blame the dockers for the consequences of their own reformist strategy we should like to address the following questions:

ACCEPTED PAY BOARD

(1) Why did the 18-man committee accept and recommend the contemptible offer of £2.60? Was this not complicity with Tory government policy and acceptance of the Pay Board?

(2) Why did the union officials enthusiastically accept Clause 12 and the Green Book under Phase Two of Devlin in 1970 if they are so reluctant to implement it today? Does this constitute principled leadership?

(3) If the employers had accepted the devaluation of the flexibility rule would that have improved the wage offer by a single penny? And is it not a gratuitous insult to dockworkers' intelligence to demand sacrifices which bring no reward?

(4) Is it not reformist light-mindedness to begin a struggle to increase the permanent register (by demanding an increase in manning) without securing the unity of the scheme ports in a national struggle against the Jones-Aldington report?

(5) How can the economic blackmail of employers in the enclosed docks be defeated without the unity of dockers and lorry drivers? Was this not the lesson of Thames 65?

(6) What right have officials and stewards to blame dockers when they helped to sell the Devlin Plan and failed, in strike after strike, to implement a strategy capable of defeating the employer-government offensive and frustrating the union leaders' manoeuvres?

Instead of an all-out strike we had a lock-out in which the initiative was with the employers.

Instead of a categorical rejection of Phase Two we were asked to accept the corporatist norm of the government. Instead of a campaign of political preparation with dock-gate meetings, we were hustled half-cocked into a stunt which was doomed to defeat.

Instead of a docks delegates conference, where the question of a national wage claim could be tied to the question of the supplementary register and the defence of the scheme, we were forced to fight the employers separately and without a unified strategy.

So, because of the political bankruptcy of the stewards, delegates and officials, we were deprived of the opportunity to make a united stand against the Tory government and its pay laws. Instead dockers were forced to make a confused retreat.

This situation was caused entirely by the fact that the 18-man committee tried to face both ways, accepting the £2.60 norm while rejecting Clause 12 in the belief that they could avoid the Pay Board and cover their retreat by securing a modest concession on manning.

The employers, having tasted blood in the dispute over the meat trade in the Royal Docks in January, were not impressed by these opportunist tactics and the April 6 vote has shown that dockers were not convinced either.

We understand well that rapid technological change and political upheaval have created confusion in the minds of many dockers, but that this confusion can be cleared up by a politically-conscious and revolutionary leadership. What cannot be re-educated or clarified, however, is the present leadership whose reformist outlook is an incitement to further government - employer attacks.

From the beginning they sought by every possible means to avoid a struggle with the government's Counter-Inflation Act. This deliberate evasion is clearly revealed in the report of the first mass meeting of T&GWU and National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers members called by the 18-man committee in March to decide on the £2.60 offer. (See the 'Port' magazine, March 15, 1973, No 157.)

Here are the relevant extracts:

"The meeting opened by London docks secretary of the Transport Union, Mr Peter Shea, who said they had been

told by the employers that there could be no increases until April 1, and that it had also been made clear that there would be no advance on the offer of £2.60 plus 4 per cent on differential payments.

"The employers insist they cannot pay any more than this without going against the government which they are not prepared to do," said Mr Shea. (Emphasis in original.)

... Mr Shea said they had pressed the men's case most firmly with the employers, but they were up against the government's current wage policies.

"There was no getting away from the fact that the freeze would extend to the autumn when Phase Three would come in and then it would go on for at least another three years [sic]."

In other words the union leaders thought that it was going to be a common, ordinary or port affair involving the employers and the unions, but when they discovered to their horror that the government was involved on the bosses' side and the strike was a political strike they were prepared to accept £2.60 and three years of Phase Three as well!

Shea's defeatism was followed by a plea from Mr Les Newman, acting secretary of the NASD, who showed how union leaders could reduce a £9 wage demand into a £2 one at the crack of Heath's whip.

Said Newman: "We thought on cost of living alone an increase of £8 to £9 was the right amount, but the employers would not hear of this".

NO STRATEGY

"What was wanted was for the employers to 'have a go at the government' [!] but they were not going to do this either [!]."

"The employers are hiding behind the Act and we are the ones who are having to suffer because of this. . . ."

After Newman came Maurice Foley, chairman of the 18-man committee. He did not doubt the probability of a lock-out if the dockers devalued the Green Book.

But like Newman he could not even suggest a counter-strategy and made no attempt to warn dockers of the intervention of the Pay Board.

The political bankruptcy of the committee was vividly expressed by Foley when challenged by a Socialist Labour League supporter to define the committee's attitude to the Phase Two policy.

"Mr Foley stressed that at no time 'have the Committee received any reference to take action against the government's pay policies'." ('Port', March 18, 1973.)

It was this policy which failed to inspire dockers on Friday.

Where do dockers stand now? In an extremely precarious position. Pay for the enclosed docks—thanks to the union leaders' retreat on the basic wage claim in 1970—has risen by only £2.25 over two and a half years.

And this at a time when productivity and the cost of living have increased at a faster rate than at any time since the war.

Now we face even more savage cuts in our standard of living and the prospect of further redundancies and the introduction of casual labour as the currency crisis and trade war deepens.

But the union leaders' retreat on Phase Two will not prevent the deepening of the crisis. It will only aid the Tories to prepare more adequately for the coming period of stormy struggles.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

REVISIONISTS SLANDER HISTORY OF BRITISH WORKING CLASS

BY PETER JEFFRIES

Last month's Empire Pool Rally, attended by 10,000 workers, youth and intellectuals, indicated the considerable interest which now exists about historical questions inside the working class movement.

For Marxists, the growth of this interest in a period such as this comes as no surprise. For it arises from the nature of the political crisis which the working class now faces.

As Workers Press and the Socialist Labour League alone have insisted, the Heath government is by no means merely attacking the immediate living standards of millions of workers. The Tories are engaged on a programme designed to strip the working class of every fundamental right it has won in the last 200 years of bitter struggle against the employers and their governments.

It is the growing recognition of this fact which is forcing those in the front ranks of the fight against the Tory government today to turn back to the experiences of history. They are driven to do this in order to find the theoretical and practical lessons to bring the fight against the Tory government, and the crisis-ridden capitalist system it represents, to a decisive and final conclusion.

It is now the great responsibility of the Socialist Labour League and its growing number of supporters in the working-class movement to encourage and develop this study of history which the Empire Pool rally did so much to stimulate.

For us this has always been a **revolutionary** duty. The task of extracting from history its real lessons can only be done by those engaged in the day-by-day struggle to establish a revolutionary leadership for the working class. The attitude of the revisionists and reformists to historical questions is quite the opposite.

Any attention which these people pay to history has always one purpose in view: to distort, obscure and deny the revolutionary content of the history of the British working class. Because they believe implicitly in the stability of the capitalist system and its capacity to withstand any crisis, they must, in turn, be driven to denigrate and belittle the historical struggle for Marxism inside the working-class movement.

This is clearly the case with an article in the current issue of 'International', the 'theoretical' journal of the International Marxist Group, 'The Origins of British reformism' by one A. Jones.

The International Marxist Group are the political descendants of those who broke from Trotskyism in 1953 on the grounds that revolutionary parties were no longer required to lead the working class

power. The Stalinist movement could be forced to the left and made to carry out this historical task, they said.

This counter-revolutionary standpoint, and in particular the capitulation to Stalinism which this split involved, are writ large over Jones' 'analysis' of the history of the British working-class movement.

And because his purpose is to 'explain' the non-revolutionary nature of the British working class, he inevitably starts from the crudest form of idealism. He writes what might be called the 'If Only' theory of history. 'If only' British history had been more like that of the French... 'if only' the Marxist movement had been composed of men of the calibre of A. Jones... then we would long ago have had a socialist revolution.

Like all middle-class renegades from Marxism, he is utterly unable to face up to the **contradictory** development of the working class in Britain, a contradictory development which had a real, historical and material foundation. He cannot begin in this way precisely because the task of revolutionary Marxism now consists in resolving in **practice** these contradictions.

This in turn involves summoning up all the historical forces which are contained in the revolutionary traditions of the British working class, traditions which stretch back to Chartism and beyond.

This is clear from his discussion of the Labour Party, with which his article begins. 'For some time now a series of articles in the "Red Mole" [paper of the IMG] have been trying to spell out an analysis of the British Labour Party. The essence of this position is that the ideology of social democracy in its Labourite version... represents a whole series of organizations which correspond to or "embody" a particular consciousness and that these organizations fundamentally determine the entire **character** of the British working-class movement.'

And, as if to emphasize the point, he tells us on the next page: '... the structure of the Labour Party... determines the structure of the entire working-class movement.'

IDEALIST

As an idealist, Jones here actually manages to turn the historical process on its head. As anybody with even an elementary knowledge of British working-class history knows, the Labour Party did not **determine** the character of the British working class, but was on the contrary a **reflection** of the level reached by the class struggle at the end of the last century.

It is this same idealist method which pervades his entire excursion into the past of the British working class. In discussing the relationship between 'economic' and 'poli-

tical' struggle, for example, he tells us: 'One of the founding principles of Bolshevism was that although it saw a big difference between trade union and political **consciousness**, it saw no difference between the political and economic struggle with regard to where they were carried out. Whether a strike was political or not was determined by the consciousness of the people involved, not by the fact that it was a "trade union" affair.'

Here Jones, at a stroke, dismisses entirely the materialist theory of knowledge in favour of the purest idealism. Whether a strike is political or not he informs us, is determined by the consciousness of the people involved! So existence is determined by consciousness! At the very foundation of Marx's doctrine was the understanding that the class struggle existed independently of the consciousness of those involved in it and that it developed through its own, internal, dialectical logic, in times of crisis reaching not merely political, but revolutionary proportions.

All strikes against the Tory government are directly political, not because the majority of people realize that they are, which is Jones' idealistic criterion, but because the economic crisis has forced the Tories to intervene directly into the trade union movement. In so doing they transformed all wages struggles into political ones concerning government and power.

Jones' aim throughout is clear: he wishes to present the British working class as a helpless tool of the Labour and trade union bureaucracy who have established a 'perfect' division of labour between themselves whereby the Labour leaders never interfere in trade union matters and the trade union leaders never meddle in political questions.

It is this division of labour which 'determines' 'the entire character of the British working class'. Thus he tells us: 'A virtually perfect situation of frustration and powerlessness is created for the militant supporters of socialism. The complete ideological hold of a senile reformist party over the working class has been perfectly maintained by this interrelation of roles.'

What the ill-read revisionist 'forgets', of course, is that it was the great changes which took place in the unions from the 1880s onwards which laid the basis for great political changes which eventually brought the creation of the Labour Representation Committee (1900), and the Labour Party (1906). And they were indeed 'great changes'; for the first time the working class broke decisively from the Liberal Party and formed its own independent party. And whatever limitations this party had, which were inevitable, Engels and those Marxists around him had been in the forefront of those fighting to establish such a party.

It is vital that all workers now taking a serious interest in historical questions reject the IMG's idealist rubbish. Like all great political and organizational changes in the working class, the creation of the Labour Party would have been impossible without the fundamental **economic** changes which the transition from capitalism to imperialism involved.

And so it is today. It is the insoluble international economic crisis which is driving the working class forward into revolutionary struggles and preparing for its break from social democracy and the trade union bureaucracy. Of course, Marxists know that this break does not happen automatically or spontaneously; but as materialists they also know that without the great objective changes in the class struggle, which the economic crisis is creating, such a break would be impossible.

It is because all the revisionist groups, the IMG among them, seek to tie the working class to its present level of consciousness and organization that they must distort the real nature of the history of the British working class, in this case the historical significance of the Labour Party.

It is no accident that the IMG has been in the leadership which has sought at all stages, particularly since the election of the Conservative government in 1970, to turn the struggle of the working class away from one directed at the trade union leaders towards the most vulgar form of 'rank and file-ism'.

In the same way they have failed consistently to call for the removal of the Tory government and its replacement by a Labour government pledged to a socialist programme. For what they dread above all is that the working class will, in the process of struggle, expose and defeat the traitors in its leadership.

For the revisionist Jones, the source of all the 'problems' now afflicting the British working class are to be found in its period of origin, the period of the French revolution.

CRAFT LINES

Because of the early development of capitalism, trade unionism tended to grow along craft lines. This has had 'fatal' consequences for the whole subsequent development of the working class, thinks Jones. For the essence of the early trade union/friendly societies was that they were class-collaborationist he tells us. They were concerned with supporting members' families, assisting unemployed members etc:

'In performing this type of function, such organizations were performing a purely **sectional** and not a **class** role, which in essence does not differ from that of any "self help" organization of the bourgeoisie. Worse still, from the point of view of class solidarity, one of the main aims of these organizations, the regulation of apprentice-

ships, could only be successful if carried on with the employers against other workers.'

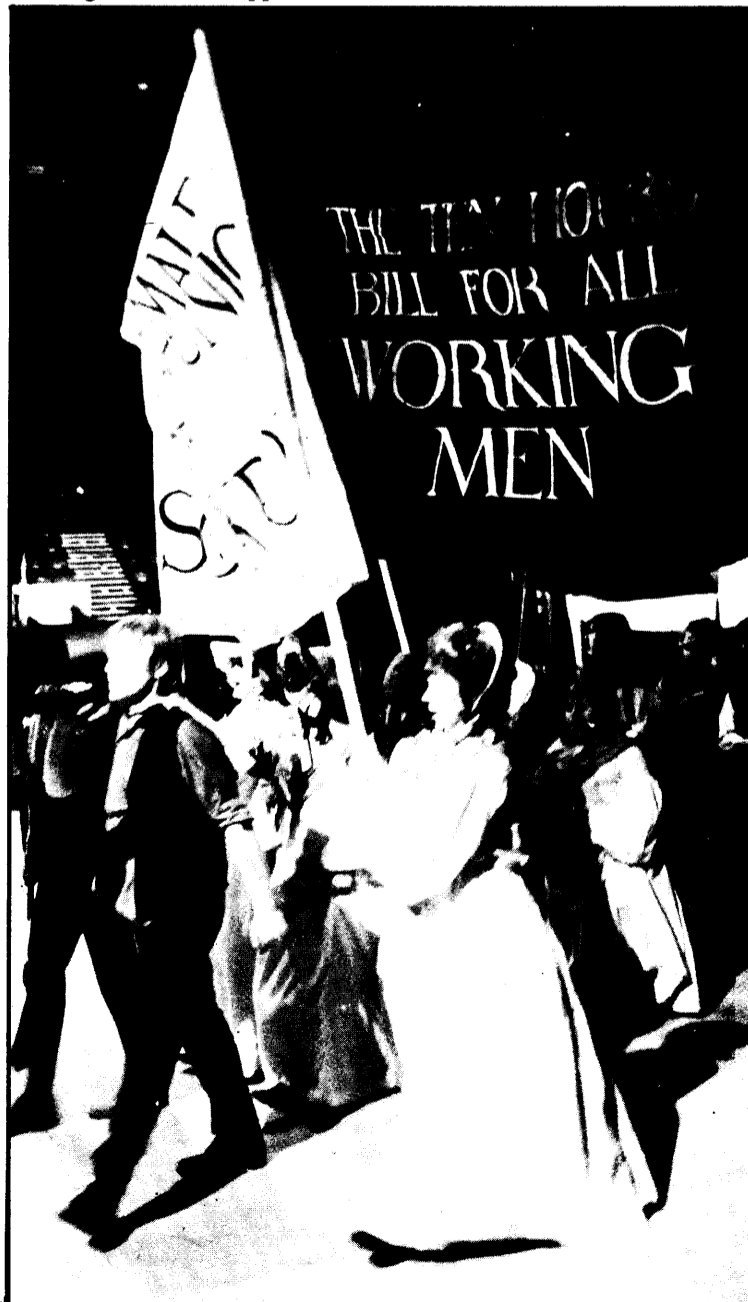
Here Jones slanders all those generations of workers, who, inspired by the French revolution, sought to build the early trade union movement against the most vicious and violent persecution of Pitt and the state. And for their efforts, the trade unions were driven underground by the 1799-1800 Combination Laws; they had to endure over a quarter of a century of illegality and terror, learning to deal with spies and *agents provocateurs* of all descriptions.

Jones feels obliged to explain none of these facts. Every serious worker today will reject with contempt these impudent attacks on the early trade union movement. The British trade union movement was born under conditions of illegality and it must now fight for its life and future against the threat of illegality.

Of course the early unions tended to be confined to the more conservative, craft, sections of workers. This was inevitable, given the early development of capitalism in Britain. And because different layers of workers were affected at different periods by the onset of the industrial revolution, this inevitably produced an unevenness in the growth of trade union organization, as between skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers as well as workers in different industries.

Instead of studying this as a real material process, Jones sees it only as an insurmountable weakness. '... any disunity along craft lines is almost certain to have fatal consequences.' He thus seeks to ignore the fact that the 'chaotic' structure of the trade union movement, a structure which has evolved since the beginning of the 19th century, now presents the employers with considerable challenge. For to begin even to deal with the economic crisis they are forced to smash trade unionism, along with all the privileges, customs and procedures which have emerged alongside it over this long period.

CONTINUED TOMORROW



The Chartist movement portrayed at the Socialist Labour League's Pageant of working class history at Empire Pool, last March.

'MIDWEEK': Wednesday April 18
BBC-1 10.45 p.m.

On 'Midweek' we saw what they called 'the comeback of Jimmy Hoffa'. The tired clichés of a tired television news programme were injected into a brief survey of the wretched career of what the commentary said was a man 'who made himself a millionaire and ran a hoodlum empire wielding incalculable power'.

A sensational account in the most reactionary terms of Hoffa's disastrous life and times designed as a piece of right-wing, anti-union (in BBC terms leadership and trade unionists are in the same box) propaganda.

Naturally Jimmy Hoffa lends himself to this stuff with alacrity. Ludovic Kennedy and his team wasted no time in indicating that Hoffa was jailed in 1967 for embezzling \$750,000 of the union's Pension Fund; that he was given a sentence of 13 years, that his ultimate philosophy is violence and brutality 'we don't need hoodlums' to handle our problems 'we got our own boys' and that he is without scruples when it comes to reaching for power and the biggest and best of everything that's going.

But Hoffa stands for infinitely more than this sort of Edward G. Robinson life-style.

In the 1930s Hoffa, like many others, waged a great struggle for the American unions and the American working class for decent living wages and conditions.

He was first trained, in fact, by the Trotskyists in the Teamsters in Minneapolis. He rose to become President of the Teamsters' 2 million strong union, the largest and most powerful of large and powerful unions in the world's most formidable capitalist nation.

In the programme Hoffa said: 'I don't allow nothing to change me—nothing changes me unless I decide it first.' In one sense his life bears this out.

He soon established himself as anti-politics and a 'pure and simple union' man and in 1943-1944 had no qualms in turning over the Trotskyists, who had first educated him, to the union leadership for their rapid removal from the scene.

But in the 1950s and 1960s, despite, or because of the brutal methods and underworld style of his practice as a leader (hardly unexpected in face of the savage pressures of American capitalist employers, bent on fighting the unions with all they had), the Teamsters came to be seen and feared as the most aggressive of them all.

They posed a serious threat

THE UNION MAN THEY WANTED OUT OF THE WAY



Hoffa entering Lewisburg Penitentiary with a coat over his handcuffs. He was jailed on a frame-up charge of misuse of union funds and jury tampering. Above: Hoffa (left) with his successor, the submissive Frank Fitzsimmons.

to the government and an up-and-coming ambitious young attorney-general named Bobby Kennedy used the situation to grab Hoffa and throw him into an investigation and subsequently a prison sentence on a frame-up charge of misuse of union funds and jury tampering.

With Hoffa put away and forced finally to resign in 1971 from his presidency of the Teamsters, Nixon could install the submissive Frank Fitzsimmons in his stead.

It was a fine example of American legal blackmail and collaboration and the Teamsters were rendered impotent: in their leadership at least.

As the attacks on the working class and its unions have increased as the wage freeze consolidated and unemployment increased to unprecedented heights, Nixon had manoeuvred to establish a secure hold over the Teamsters' Union, just as he had done with all the other corrupt union leaderships—M e a n y, Bridges and the like.

In face of this security he

was able, in collaboration with the Teamsters' leadership, to permit the release of Hoffa in June 1971 on condition that he had no part of the Teamsters' affairs until 1980.

The naked corruption may titilate its bourgeois audience when played up as it was by the 'Midweek' team. But the real issue is that Hoffa and others have opened the doors to reaction and exposed the American working class on all fronts, allowing Nixon's government to prepare themselves with confidence and persistence to smash every right that the class has won in its harsh struggles over the last century.

The workers of the United States are faced now with the bitter fruits of the treachery and betrayals of their leadership, Hoffa included, which have accumulated over the last 20 years.

Only the building of an American Labour Party which can fight back and restore the rights of the working class, can hope to put a stop to Nixon's plans.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

TEN YEAR DRINK

Thirsty Soviet citizens will soon be able to obtain the American soft drink, Pepsi-Cola, as a result of an agreement signed in Moscow last Thursday.

The Soviet Union will purchase concentrate for making the drink on a ten-year contract in return for which the giant PepsiCo Corporation will market Soviet vodka and wines in the United States. Pepsi-Cola is already obtainable in Poland and Hungary.

Ironically, in the 1950s the Stalinist parties carried out a campaign in western Europe against 'Cocacolonization', a reference to the growing pub-

MONEY CRISIS

Business magnate John Ferguson gunned his Jensen down the motorway. The speed crept up—60 mph, 70 - 80 - 90. But John took no notice—his mind was far away.

Eventually the police patrol swept past and brought the car to a screeching halt. John was arrested for speeding. His solicitors came to Whitminster court, Gloucester, to plea for mercy.

They read out a letter from the apologetic capitalist and explained that the international monetary crisis caused his lapse.

'He was churning over in his mind the money problems which that particular crisis would mean for him and his company,' they said. A sad case—John was fined £40.

BIG BUSINESS

Mr William Rees-Davies, Conservative MP for the Isle of Thanet, has discovered the source of pornography. Like strikes, it's all caused by anarchists, and foreign ones at that.

Dash it, sir, no English anarchist would do such things!) Bestial pornography was being manufactured and flown in from America, Holland and Germany, Mr Rees-Davies said, by foreign anarchists who were 'trying to break down Britain's society'.

'Horrible acts' it appears, 'are being promoted for anarchic purposes, the purpose being to try to break down all the decencies of human society.'

In fact, of course, the purpose of producing pornography is to make money out of it. It is big business.

As such, the people behind it are sure to be consistent Tory voters.

BOOKS BY TROTSKY

Where is Britain Going? Paperback 37½p

Problems of the British Revolution. Paperback 35p

Lessons of October Paperback 60p

In Defence of the October Revolution Pamphlet 15p

Marxism and the Trade Unions Pamphlet 25p

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

Postage: 10p per book, 5p per pamphlet.
Order from: NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS
186a Clapham High Street,
London SW4 7UG

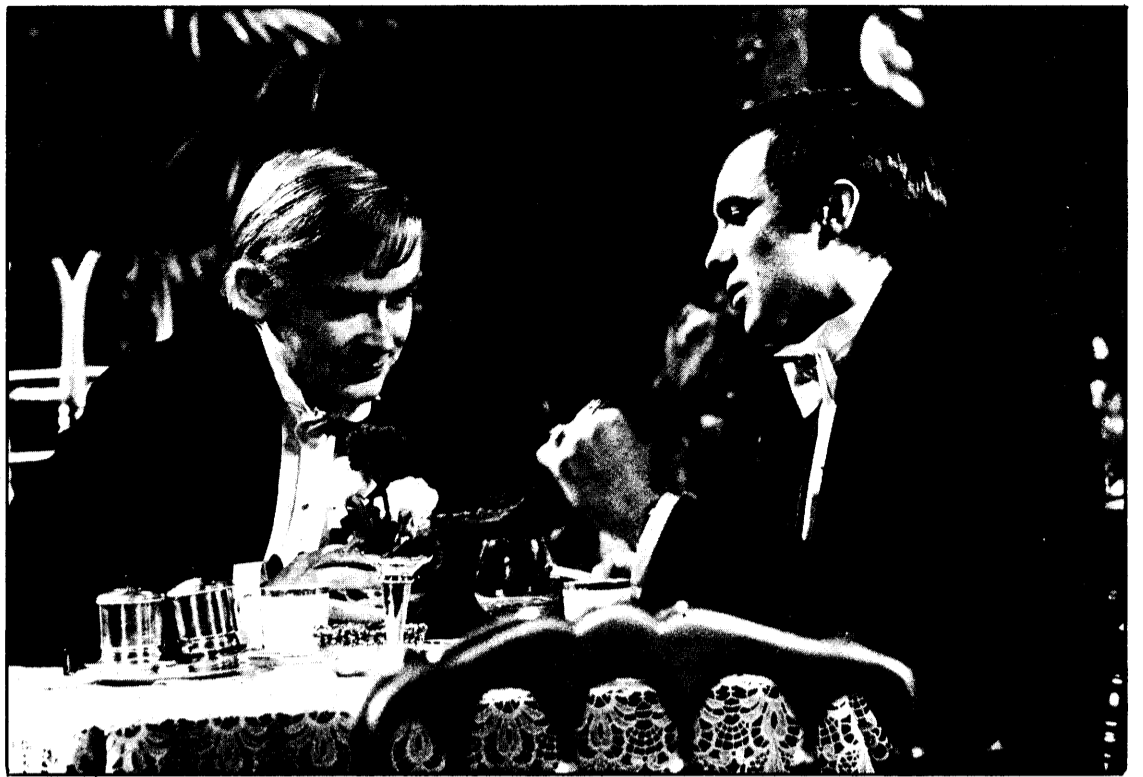
TODAY'S TV

BBC 1

10.00 Magic roundabout. 10.05 Banana splits. 10.35 Steamhorse: iron road.
 11.00 Out of school. 12.05 Look, stranger. 12.25 Disc a dawn. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Mr. Benn. 1.45 Fanny Craddock invites . . . 2.05 Openline. 3.10 Parents and children. 3.35 Canal General.
 4.00 Huckleberry hound. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Brady-kids. 5.40 Hector's house. 5.45 News. Weather.
 6.00 NATIONWIDE.
 6.45 THE VIRGINIAN. The Reckoning.
 8.00 CHAPLIN SUPERCLOWN: 'THE VAGABOND'. Charlie Chaplin as a shy musician.
 8.30 THAT MONDAY MORNING FEELING. The Chefs.
 9.00 NEWS. Weather.
 9.25 MENACE: 'Tom'. By Ray Jenkins. With John Thaw, Rowena Cooper, Aubrey Woods, Beth Ellis.
 10.40 MIDWEEK. 11.25 NEWS.
 11.30 BEFORE THE ARK. Digging up a Dinosaur. 11.55 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Gilbert and Sullivan. 10.20 Cartoon. 10.35 Skippy. 11.00 Wild life theatre. 11.25 Galloping gourmet. 11.50 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Magic fountain. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Indoor league. 1.30 Crown court. 2.00 General hospital. 2.30 Good afternoon. 3.00 Racing from Epsom. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Barkleys. 5.50 News.
 6.00 NANNY AND THE PROFESSOR. Separate Rooms.
 6.30 CROSSROADS.
 6.55 FILM: 'The Karate Killers'. Robert Vaughn, David McCallum, Joan Crawford. UNCLE.
 8.30 THIS WEEK.
 9.00 LONGSTREET. Sad Songs and other Conversations.
 10.00 NEWS AT TEN.
 10.30 A EUROPEAN JOURNEY. From the Baltic to the Adriatic.
 11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY. The New Capitalism. Dr William McCarthy, adviser to the Labour Party on industrial relations policy, talks with Peter Walker, trade and industry secretary of state.
 12.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.
 12.15 EPILOGUE



David Wood as Desmond and Scott Anthony as Cheri in Episode 2 of Colette's 'Cheri' on BBC 2.

REGIONAL

CHANNEL: 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 One coat Wilkie. 3.00 London. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.55 Tomfoolery. 5.20 Doctor in charge. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lucy show. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'King Kong vs Godzilla'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Towards the year 2000. 11.02 Scotland Yard mysteries. 11.35 European journey. 12.00 News, weather.
 WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.50 Danger man. 10.45 Birth of the bomb. 11.35 Dr Simon Locke. 12.05 London. 12.37 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 10.30 Report. 10.59 News. 12.00 Faith for life.
 SOUTHERN: 10.00 Paulus. 10.15 Yoga. 10.40 Film: 'Disorderly Orderly'. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 Day by day. 6.35 Doctor in charge. 7.05 Film: 'Happy is the Bride'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 11.00 Nws. 11.10 Guideeline. 11.15 Name of the game. 12.35 Weather.
 HARLECH: 10.00 Sara and Hoppity. 10.10 Nuts and bones. 10.20 Woobinda. 10.45 Potter's art. 11.10 Opportunist. 11.35 Come out Alan Browning. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.05 Film: 'All My Darling Daughters'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 10.30 See it while you can. 11.00 Spyforce. 12.00 Weather.
 HTV Cymru/Wales as above except 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 4.50-5.20 Rovers.
 HTV West as above except: 6.18-6.35 Sport West.
 ANGLIA: 9.40 Oil search. 10.10 Paulus. 10.20 Animated classics. 11.05 Galloping gourmet. 11.35 Joe 90. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Let's face it. 3.00 London. 4.25 Romper room. 4.50 Merrie melodies. 5.20 Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film:

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.
 6.40 WORKING WITH YOUTH.
 7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.
 7.30 NEWS SUMMARY. Weather.
 7.35 THEIR WORLD. The Specialist. Oystercatchers.
 8.00 EUROPA. Now Only Hope Remains. Farmers in the Common Market.
 8.30 CHERI. By Colette. With Yvonne Mitchell.
 9.15 BELOW STAIRS. Times Remembered by Mary Rogerson, housekeeper to Beatrix Potter.
 'Information Received'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Bygones. 11.05 European journey. 11.35 Baron.
 ULSTER: 11.35 Come out Alan Browning. 12.05 London. 1.29 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 Primus. 4.50 Joe 90. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Happy is the Bride'. 8.30 London. 9.00 FBI. 10.00 London. 11.00 What's it all about. 11.20 Avengers.
 ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00 Film: 'Double Exposure'. 12.00 Guide. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Elephant boy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Cartoon. 7.05 McCloud. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 10.00 London. 11.00 Angling. 11.30 Spyforce. Weather.
 YORKSHIRE: 9.45 Ed Allen. 10.05 Tennis. 10.30 Whicker's orient. 11.10 We need each other. 12.05 London. 4.25 Houndcats. 4.50 Skippy. 5.20 Doris Day. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Father of the Bride'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 European journey. 11.35 San Francisco. 12.30 Weather.
 GRANADA: 9.30 Enchanted house. 9.45 Wildlife theatre. 10.10 Film: 'The Day Will Dawn'. 11.40 Pete Smith. 11.50 Hammy Hamster. 12.05 London. 4.20 Thunderbirds. 5.15 Nature's win-

9.25 HORIZON. Lumbered . . . with back-ache!
 10.10 UP COUNTRY FESTIVAL. The Fifth International Festival of Country Music. With George Hamilton IV, 'The New Strangers', Jeannie C. Riley, Mac Wiseman, Tompall and the Glaser Brothers.
 10.40 PLAY: 'The Baby's Name Being Kitchener'. By Peter Everett. With Leonard Rossiter, Margaret Courtenay, Beth Porter, Imogen Bain.
 11.10 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.
 11.40 REAL TIME.
 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Partridge family. 7.00 Film: 'They Rode West'. 8.30 London. 11.00 What the papers say. 11.20 Danger man.
 TYNE TEES: 9.20 Religion. 9.30 Enchanted house. 9.45 Arthur. 10.10 Leonardo da Vinci. 11.00 Gilbert and Sullivan. 11.35 Come out Alan Browning. 12.05 London. 2.30 News. 2.31 Place in the country. 3.00 London. 4.25 Rovers. 4.55 Stingray. 5.20 F troop. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Father of the Bride'. 8.30 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 European journey. 11.35 News. 11.50 Monty Nash. 12.20 Greatest fights.
 SCOTTISH: 11.00 Seven seas. 10.50 Flipper. 11.15 Pebbles and bamm bamm. 11.35 Come out Alan Browning. 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 4.25 Land of giants. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.30 Partners. 7.00 Film: 'Father of the Bride'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Strange report. 10.00 London. 11.00 Angling. 11.30 Late call. 11.35 Edgar Wallace.
 GRAMPIAN: 11.15 Strange report. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.00 Skippy. 2.30 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Hills Run Red'. 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 9.55 Police News. 10.00 London. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.25 Meditation.

Subscribe now!



Do you get **WORKERS PRESS** regularly? If not, why not take out a subscription now?

£20.28 for 12 months (312 issues)
 £10.14 for 6 months (156 issues)
 £5.07 for 3 months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates are:

£1.56 for 3 months (24 issues)
 £6.24 for 12 months (96 issues)

Fill in the form below **NOW** and send to:

Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London SW4 7UG.

I would like to take out a subscription to Workers Press.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Days required (Please tick) | MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Or
 Full subscription (six days) formonths.

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Amount enclosed £

BSA closing down its research department

UNCERTAINTY about job prospects is rife throughout the BSA group and has been intensified by the management decision to close its research centre at Kitts Green, Birmingham.

The white-collar union ASTMS in the Birmingham area has expressed concern that the move may involve more redundancies, above the 60 employees at the research centre, among the old BSA group — now Manganese Bronze-BSA-Triumph.

Trade unionists are not reassured by the claim of Mr Brian Eustace, chief BSA executive, that the closure was planned before the merger with Manganese Bronze because 'we do not need anything like the volume of research we have needed in the past'.

BSA-Triumph is also to sell Umberslade Hall, a 17th-century mansion standing in 17 acres of ground at Hockley Heath, near Birmingham. Recently modernized at a cost of thousands of pounds, Umberslade Hall had

Union fears even more redundancies

been a divisional motor-cycle research and development centre.

Mr Henry Child, BSA group director of research, has said that there must be redundancies among research staff, that facilities have to be diversified and based on existing sites, and that the research team must move to existing divisions.

This rationalization proves that no amount of government multi-million pound aid, trade union deputations or pleas to the Tory government can save the jobs of BSA-Triumph workers.

A further offensive on jobs is likely in the very near future when Manganese Bronze announces its plans for the formation of

the new company which will carry on the motor-cycle interests of the merged groups.

The new company will be known as Norton-Villiers-Triumph and will begin operations in June.

The recent £197m trade deficit shows that the ability of British capitalism to compete on the world market is diminishing rapidly. Nowhere is this more acute than in the motor cycle industry, where the Japanese are sweeping the world.

Take-overs, rationalizations and government aid to individual firms can only be temporary solutions at best.

Wage-cutting, speed-up and sackings face all major industries as British capitalism seeks to solve its crisis in the only way open to it—at the expense of the working class.

The workers' worst fears can be ended only by forcing their union leaders to develop a campaign to make the Tory government resign and to elect a Labour government pledged to nationalize such companies as Norton-Villiers-Triumph without compensation and under workers' control.

I would like information about

THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Fill in the form below and send to **NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186a CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON SW4 7UG.**

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Selling glass plant for land value

ROCKWARE GLASS have admitted they are closing their Greenford, Middlesex, factory in order to lay hands on cash from the sale of the 35 valuable acres of land which the plant occupies.

The company, now a quarter owned by Jim Slater, of Slater Walker,

plans to spend £14m streamlining their glass container operations.

Chairman Mr Peter Parker commented on the Greenford closure:

'The technology at the disposal of an enterprising management has forced us inevitably to the conclusion that we can fulfil our marketing plans with four not five plants.'



Inside the Rockware plant at Greenford

Higher NUJ subs form strike fund

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

DELEGATES at the National Union of Journalists annual conference at Newcastle decided yesterday that 75 per cent of the £37,000 to be raised from higher union dues will be earmarked for strike benefit.

Moving an emergency motion Mr Peter Dodson, Teesside, said: 'Our negotiators can talk until they are blue in the face, but if the employers are not convinced we have provision to back our claims with adequate dispute benefit we are wasting our time.'

In the voting 145 members were in favour of the move and 143 against.

A second emergency resolution sent renewed protests to the Tory government and to Mr Ian Smith in Rhodesia over the imprisonment of freelance journalist Peter Niesewand.

The 25,000-strong union also set up an action committee to 'study and put into effect as soon as possible, every practical means of pressure the union can bring to bear upon the Rhodesian government'.

A telegram to the Rhodesian prime minister said: 'Annual conference National Union of Journalists reiterates disgust and horror at persecution of Niesewand and secrecy of so-called trial. Demands immediate release.'

Another, to Edward Heath and the Foreign Secretary, called on the Tory government to protect her subjects in Rhodesia from the activities of the 'illegal regime'.

Cables sit-in wins wide union support

IN A large picket yesterday the 180 General and Municipal Workers Union members in their third week of sit-in at Aberdare Cables, Glamorgan, were joined by workers from Helliwell's Engineering, Girling Brakes and the CWS Creamery

Their picket was a response to the management's instruction to workers who had not joined the sit-in to turn up at the factory at 8.30 a.m. yesterday.

The few who arrived were told by personnel manager Anthony Hunt to go home and come back at 3 p.m. today to collect their wages.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

John Jenkins, shop steward and chairman of the G&MWU branch at the factory told Workers Press that the average cuts resulting from management attacks on bonus rates and shift work were £5 a week, but some men were earning £9 a week less than this time last year.

Mr Jenkins said that support was growing from trade unionists in the valleys. A meeting of the Neath, Aberdare and Swansea joint unions held in Glynneath last Tuesday heard a delegate from Aberdare Cables and decided to appeal to individual

union branches for financial backing.

The three National Union of Mineworkers' branches represented at the meeting are to write to the South Wales NUM executive for clarification on the blacking of Aberdare Cables products.

Aberdare Cables is part of the Pirelli combine and the South Wales workers are contacting the Southampton Pirelli factories for support.

They are also writing to Jack Jones because the Southampton factories are organized by the T&GWU.

Scunthorpe steel stocks exhausted

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation's stocks of steel at Scunthorpe are now practically exhausted because of the three-week-old blastfurnacemen's pay dispute which has halted all production at the town's Appleby Frodingham plant.

The number of men on strike or laid off rose this week by a further 2,000 to 7,000. The remaining manual labour force, about 1,500 including maintenance engineers, is likely to be sent home before the end of the week.

The 600 blastfurnacemen are demanding £2 a week more than the undisclosed offer made by BSC. An estimated 125,000 tons of steel has been lost so far.

THE EDITORIAL board of Workers Press sends its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Tommy Atkins whose funeral takes place today.

Tommy died of cancer on Wednesday, April 18, in St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, west London. He was 55.

He will always be remembered for his lively, cheerful and extremely generous nature.

Delegates and visitors to the All Trades Unions Alliance conference in October last year will recollect Tommy's speech on the issues which confronted him and his fellow transport workers' union members in the fight against the new Brocklehurst Company which had taken over transport control at the Manbré Sugar Company in Hammer-smith.

He had worked at Manbré for 16 years and was instrumental in the fight to build a strong union organization at the refinery. For many years he was a leading shop steward.

For over six months Tom

had been in and out of hospital suffering from extremely bad stomach pains yet he took an active and leading part in the dispute which followed the Brocklehurst take-over.

I first met Tommy Atkins on Friday August 18 last year. He had been trying for a number of days to win publicity for the dispute and rang Workers Press while in fact trying to contact another newspaper. Although he had just come out of hospital, he was a tireless worker throughout the strike.

When the men returned to work, he kept his arduous job doing the extremely long runs which he had been used to as a liquid vehicle driver for Manbré.

He did this because he became convinced that a fight must be waged for a new leadership inside the union.

After the strike, he became a regular Workers Press reader and joined the All Trades Unions Alliance. He gave unstintingly of his time in helping with the campaign for the ATUA conference on October 22, 1972.

Tommy later decided to join the Socialist Labour League. Only severe ill health, which forced him to return to hospital just before Christmas, prevented him from doing so.

The Clapham branch of the SLL have asked Workers Press to express their deepest sympathies to Tommy's relatives.

Tommy did not make his political development easily. For the greater part of his life he had no political affiliations whatsoever.

But his experiences with the T&GWU transport section leadership during the Manbré-Brocklehurst fight convinced him of the necessity to build an alternative leadership to the reformist bureaucracy.

Once he had made the decision, however, he went forward with his characteristic determination. Even while recuperating after operations in hospital, he took a keen interest in the Workers Press and the struggles of every section of workers against the Tory government.

His death is a sad blow for the workers' movement. SARAH HANNIGAN

TOMMY ATKINS



Tommy speaking at the ATUA conference

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

- 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 Trades Hall, Willesden High Road, N.W.10. 'Build Councils of Action'.
- HOLLOWAY:** Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'The economic crisis and the rising cost of living'.
- 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'.
- BIRKENHEAD:** Sunday April 29, 3 p.m. 'Chester Arms', Hamilton Street (near tunnel entrance).
- 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'.

BSC will not foot the bill

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation has refused to foot the bill for a deputation from Shotton action committee to go to Czechoslovakia.

Flintshire Labour MP Mr Barry Jones said he was 'very disappointed'.

Three men went to Ostrava last month to inspect tandem furnaces which they claim could be installed at Shotton thereby producing a higher output from the works and saving the jobs of 6,500 men threatened with the sack under Tory modernization plans.

NEWS DESK
01-720 2000

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!

Luton
FRIDAY APRIL 27
8 p.m.
Recreation Centre, Old Bedford Road

East London
SUNDAY APRIL 29
7.30 p.m.
Abbey Hall, Axe Street (Behind Barking town hall)

Sheffield
WEDNESDAY MAY 2
7.30 p.m.
'Grapes Inn' Trippett Lane
Speaker: Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee)

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Printed by Plough Press Ltd. (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG. Newsdesk: 01-720 2000. Circulation: 01-622 7029.

100,000 expected to join Scottish May Day action

FROM STEPHEN JOHNS

ORGANIZERS of the May Day strike in the West of Scotland estimate that over 100,000 workers will come out against the government's pay laws next Tuesday.

But action is being strictly curbed within the TUC's limits of feeble protest.

At a meeting of about 500 shop stewards in Glasgow yesterday Scottish TUC general secretary James Jack said the demonstration would be one of 'silence not of noise'.

Other platform speakers attacked a delegate who condemned union leaders for talking with the government and called for a General Strike to bring the Tories down.

The Glasgow district secretary of the engineers' union, Alex Ferry, challenged the General Strike demand.

'Now look,' he told delegates, 'the TUC and the trade union officials and the union executives concerned, they are none of them afraid of a General Strike. But we are afraid of calling for a General Strike and seeing no one respond.'

'The failure to have a more positive type of action is not because trade union executives are not more angry than we are here, but because they have a responsibility to assess the response to how they act,' he said.

Ferry was speaking after delegates, including James Airlie of Govan shipbuilders, had pointed out that many of the men who voted against one-day action did so because they felt it was not enough.

The delegate who raised the General Strike issue was Gordon

Baillie, a committee member of Babcock and Wilcox apprentices.

He said everyone should come out on May Day, but workers should be conscious of the enormous dangers facing the trade union movement.

'We see Scanlon, Jones and Feather going to talk with the Tory government and organizing what is a sell out.'

'Delegates must remember that the central issue is what should we be coming out for on May Day. We must go forward to make the trade union leaders call a General Strike to remove this government,' he added.

Despite some splits, the west of Scotland will be badly hit on May 1. The shipyards will be out, though boilermakers at a mass meeting at Govan Shipbuilders voted to reject a strike call. Departmental meetings will now be held to change that decision.

The Scottish miners will be out and some big factories will join them. There will be a strike at the Polaris submarine bases, Weirs Pumps and Marathon Manufacturers at Clydebank.

Maintenance workers for Glasgow Corporation will also be out.

Other places which will be shut or severely disrupted are Albion Motors, Singers sewing machine factory at Clydebank, the Chrysler plant at Renfrew, and Yarrow shipbuilders.

ORSETT Hospital ancillary staffs, mainly women in domestic sub-catering, yesterday voted to come out on May 1.

Pay Board's first victims - beer men

THE PAY BOARD has struck its first blow against a wage increase. Strikers at three Watney's breweries in London were told yesterday that a £2.40 increase due for implementation from April 1 had been 'disallowed' by the Board, the policeman of the Tories' state pay laws.

In the face of this the strikers' leaders have dropped their demand for payment of the rise and recommended a new claim for five hours' guaranteed overtime a week for all 800 brewery workers taking part in the action.

'We've no alternative', negotiating committee member Brian Watkinson said after a stormy mass meeting at Whitechapel. 'The miners, the dockers, the Post Office workers have accepted Phase Two—we can't hope to defeat it with the forces we have here. But we've got to try and get some money for our members.'

News of the Pay Board's move came during seven hours of talks between union officials and the company on Tuesday.

Ten days earlier Watney's had asked the board for advice on whether it could pay the £2.40, an across-the-board increase in settlement of a shiftwork agreement reached last July. The company claimed yesterday it wanted to pay.

But the Board replied that since the brewery workers had received substantial increases under a job-evaluation deal, also reached in July 1972, any further increase would exceed the limits allowed by Phase Two.

This advice reached Watney's on Tuesday.

● Yesterday, afternoon a mass meeting of Mortlake and Isleworth strikers voted to stay out until their leaders have reported back on talks with the company, expected within the next two days.

APRIL FUND STANDS AT £830.71 WITH 5 DAYS LEFT

IT IS getting better—but still a long way from our target of £1,750. We now have five days left to complete our total. It is still going to be a fight all the way for us to reach that amount.

We know you will do your best. This month, more than ever, we must complete our total and keep Workers Press fighting out in front. Never before has the issue of leadership been so decisive.

As the reformist and Stalinist trade union leaders accept the corporate measures of the Tories and now prepare to cooperate with the Pay Board, only Workers Press provides a clear alternative.

We will not bow down before this Tory government. Instead our paper must be used to build a revolutionary leadership to mobilize the working class and to force this Tory government to resign.

There must not, therefore, be any retreat in the campaign to raise our Monthly Appeal Fund. Help us step up the fight immediately. Raise extra amounts, give all you can. Let's make sure we make our £1,750 target by this weekend. Rush every donation to:

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

JOIN THE SLL NOW!

The TUC decision to accept Phase Two and the capitulation by the Communist Party at the teachers' conference exposes completely the bankruptcy of reformist politics.

They have thrown in the towel because of the extreme seriousness of the economic crisis and in order to avoid an open confrontation with the Tory government.

It is a cowardly decision and will be judged by the working class as such.

No longer can the Stalinists proclaim the unity of the left as their policy. It has been super-

seded by unity with the Tory government.

Shortly the CP will again cover up for Jones and Scanlon as these 'lefts' scurry along to Downing Street to complete the betrayal of the working class in a deal for the corporatist state pay control under Phase Three.

Trade unionists can now see clearly that without a new leadership, there can be no fight against the further attacks on the working-class standard of living and basic democratic rights which the Tories must launch as the crisis deepens.

The policy demands which the Socialist Labour League has been putting forward for the last ten

years and more are now proved absolutely correct.

The demand for the nationalization of all basic industries without a penny compensation and under workers' control must be taken up by the working class and become a material reality.

All workers should now join this fight, participate in the work of the SLL and the Workers Press, and help build a new leadership which can take the working class to power.

We urge all workers to fill out the form on page 10 and take part in the struggle to transform the SLL into a revolutionary party.

THE TUC OFFICIALLY ACCEPTS PHASE TWO

FROM PAGE 1

strike and from there on to a campaign for the General Strike because they are hostile to anything that disturbs the peaceful road to socialism and peaceful co-existence between imperialism and the Soviet bureaucracy.

In this fear of a revolutionary crisis, they are indistinguishable from the TUC bureaucracy.

The treachery of the Communist Party, in providing a cover for Jones and Scanlon

while these 'lefts' have misled the opposition to the pay laws into blind alleys, has created confusion and indecision in the working class.

The gasworkers, hospital workers, Ford workers, miners, and hundreds of thousands more, who would end this government and its pay laws, if given the opportunity to fight, have been held back by the deliberate trade union bureaucracy tactics of fragmentation, division, useless protests and single issue fights.

The confusion sown by these tactics is affecting the response of sections of the trade union movement to the May 1 strike call.

Only the policies of the Socialist Labour League and the All Trades Unions Alliance can guide the way through this confusion and give a decisive lead to the whole working class to expose the TUC bureaucracy and the Stalinists and prepare for the coming battles with the Tory government.

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). Première 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). Première 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). Première 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). Première 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).