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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE



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DECEIT BEHIND TRADE UNION CHIEFS' MOVES

SECRET TALKS WITH TORIES

BY ROYSTON BULL

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Workers Press has repeatedly warned that such plans are afoot, despite all the denials and the cover ups from Victor Feather, Hugh Scanlon, and the Communist Party's newspaper 'Morning Star' that further talks are harmless.

So explosive an issue is this that the talks have been held in the utmost secrecy. The TUC leaders are aware that a massive outburst of working-class anger will sooner or later erupt over this calculated treacherous attack on their standards of living.

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So was Feather lying to the Press conference and to the working class?

The purpose of these talks, which will continue until the trade union movement orders an end to such treacherous dealings, is to make permanent the state control of wages, but under a so-called 'voluntary' system where the TUC leaders police their own members wage increases.

The essence of such a deal must be wage restraint. British capitalism cannot survive the difficulties of trade war and uncontrollable inflation unless more output and more surplus value is produced at the same time as the working class consumes less. This means wage-cutting.

So Phase Three, due in the autumn, is required to impose even greater burdens on the working class than Phase Two's 8 per cent (£1 plus 4 per cent).

The only way the Tories can try to get out of their economic crisis is if pay increases are first banned completely and then wages are reduced by state decree, substituting direct wage cuts for the indirect fall in the standard of living the Phase Two system produces.

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The subsequent steps we have warned of in this complete capitulation to the requirements of British capitalism will also be borne out, if the trade union movement allows it to happen.

The bureaucracy, including the labour 'lefts' Jones and Scanlon, are determined to go through with these plans to help establish a corporate state in Britain.

Their fear and hatred that the class struggle might develop into a revolutionary confrontation in the course of this economic crisis is their main concern.

Being reformists, they will now fight to keep the system going which enables them to be reformists.

Workers Press has already reported how these six top bureaucrats in their smart suits joked and lunched with the main Tory cabinet ministers and leading industrialists right in the

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Security clamp at 'bomb' case

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Three girls and seven men, all with addresses in Northern Ireland, are accused of conspiring together and with others to cause explosions likely to endanger life or seriously damage property.

An application for bail was

made during the 12-minute hearing by solicitor Mr Bernard Simons, representing the ten and was objected to by Chief-Supt Roy Habershon.

Magistrate Mr D. Preece-Jones refused bail and remanded the ten in custody for a further week.

Long before the convoy bringing them to court was in sight, the court house in Renfrew Road, Lambeth, was sealed off by squads of uniformed police and patrolled by a handler with

an Alsatian dog.

A squad of police took up positions on the roof of the court building. Observation was also kept from the police station opposite.

Every inch of the court building was searched before the public was allowed to enter.

Members of the public, defendants and witnesses in other cases, even solicitors and barristers, were searched by policemen and women.

MORE MAY DAY PICTURES AND STORY PAGES 2, 6, 7 & 12

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MORE MAY DAY PICTURES AND STORY PAGES 2, 6, 7 & 12

SLL and YS hold

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AND SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Impressive May Day march



OVER 1,000 London members and supporters of the Socialist Labour League marched on May Day against the trade union leaders' capitulation to the Tory government.

Led by 40 members of the YS carrying red flags and with two magnificently decorated floats, the march hammered home the demand for a General Strike to force the Tory government to resign.

Behind the banner of the London Area Committee of the Socialist Labour League there were branches of the SLL, YS and All Trades Unions Alliance from all over the city.

BY JOHN SPENCER

Contingents of trade unionists joined the march from Decca, Battersea, factory, Lankester's Engineering, Kingston, and members of the Transport and General Workers' Union from the Arndale Centre site.

At St Pancras Town Hall the packed meeting watched a 45-minute film 'The Road To Workers Power', showing episodes from the pageant of labour history performed at Empire Pool, Wembley, on March 11.

The film, professionally made in colour, brought to life the struggles of the British working class to establish its trade unions, the fight for the People's Charter, the formation of the First International by Marx and Engels and the building of the Labour Party.

Maureen Bambrick, national secretary of the Young Socialists, told the meeting that the TUC's capitulation before the Tories had brought millions of ordinary wage workers face to face with the stark reality of the situation.

The international capitalist crisis, taking the form of worldwide inflation, was driving the system towards dictatorship and the preparation of a third imperialist world war, comrade Bambrick said.

'The Young Socialists declare that Britain is now on the threshold of a revolutionary situation because nothing can be settled except by serious confrontation.'

'The pioneers of the labour

movement used to say that capitalism meant hunger and war. We are now moving towards a situation where they will be proved completely correct.'

Tom Thomas, NUPE branch secretary at St Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, said the film had shown that men lost their lives fighting for the benefit of their fellow workers. 'Each of us have got a responsibility and we've got to show that responsibility,' he said.

Tilbury docker Alf Waters, a member of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers, speaking in a personal capacity said the acceptance of Phase Two on the docks was the clearest example of the way the union leaders were collaborating with the Tories.

He added: 'There are layers of dock workers who are seeking new leadership. The only way forward is by building the SLL into a revolutionary party, to get rid of the Conservative government and bring back a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.'

Alan Thornett, deputy senior steward at British-Leyland, Cowley, speaking in a personal capacity, said the almost total strike at Oxford for May Day demonstrated the movement of the working class to the left. The Tory government had failed to settle accounts with workers' strength through the Industrial



Relations Act.

The Tories had come back with the state pay laws, taking away 'at a stroke' the right to free collective bargaining. 'The trade unions have virtually become a rubber stamp for government policy,' he said.

'The question of alternative leadership is now the main pre-occupation of the working class,' comrade Thornett said.

Socialist Labour League national secretary Gerry Healy saluted the millions of trade unionists who had responded to

the May Day strike call, and the tens of thousands of men and women who had come onto the streets against the Tories.

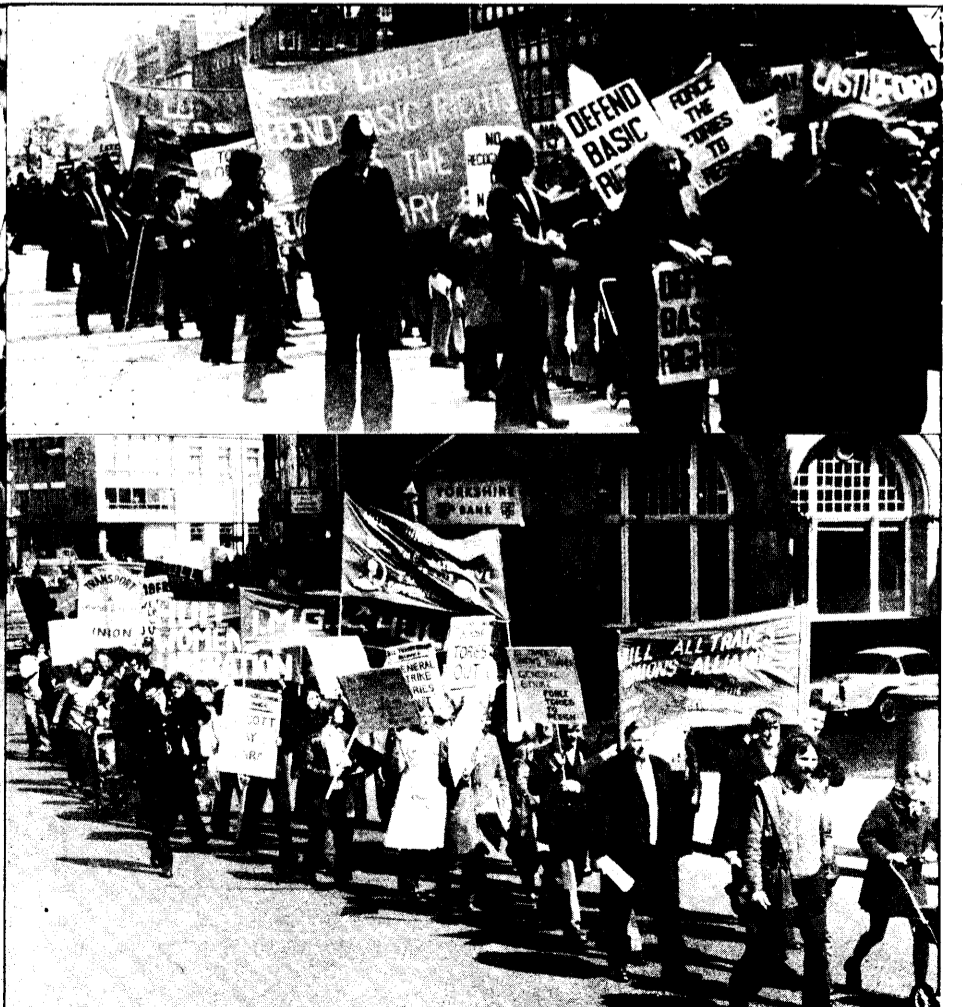
Compared with May Day 1972, this was a shameful day, comrade Healy said. Over the last 12 months the basic right of trade unions to negotiate on behalf of their members had been taken away by law.

Not only had the union chiefs acquiesced in Phase Two, they were about to agree with the Tories on Phase Three. 'They are now the policemen of capital

within the labour movement,' he said.

But the objective crisis of the capitalist system has created the material conditions for the working class to fight and seize the power. The crisis placed the workers of all countries shoulder to shoulder against the common enemy.

Comrade Healy appealed to all the marchers to join the Socialist Labour League. The collection at the meeting raised £315 for the £100,000 party building fund.



Above right: SLL contingents on the Leeds (top) and Hull (bottom) marches.

Cambridge:

Stalinists exclude SLL speaker from May Day platform

STALINISTS and right wingers joined forces to exclude a Socialist Labour League speaker from the May Day rally at Cambridge.

Two weeks ago a move by the Stalinists at the Trades Council to restrict speakers to the Labour and Communist Parties was defeated. Out of a 60-strong meeting only four votes were in favour of excluding other speakers.

The decision was to invite speakers from all political tendencies in the working class.

However, when the organizing committee met last Sunday, it decided to exclude SLL speakers from the panel.

This was challenged by other speakers at the rally and by the audience.

Bill Fakes, the speaker from the International Socialists, said that although he had important differences with the SLL, no one could deny that they had brought a sizeable and important delegation to the demonstration.

Fakes said he could not speak unless the same rights were extended to the SLL.

The microphone was then taken from him and he was ordered by the chairman to leave the platform.

It was then claimed that the SLL had been excluded because of lack of time. This was challenged by Fire Brigades Union members who pointed out that they had only just been asked to speak and had no one who wanted to.

Continued calls for an SLL speaker were greeted with applause from the meeting, but the chair still insisted on the ban.

After the meeting Brian Sheary, secretary of the trades council and one of the people who voted for the exclusion of the SLL, was surrounded by workers from a number of union branches who demanded an explanation.

He tried to claim that the SLL's speaker was opposed to the May Day strike.

A trade unionist pointed out that the League's speaker had been active in organizing the strike in his factory and had organized the first picket ever seen there, resulting in a high turn-out for the strike and the demonstration.

Sheary then said the demonstration was in support of TUC policy and the League speaker had opposed TUC policies.

A worker then asked if the demonstration had been in support of Phase Two and for discussions on Phase Three.

Sheary replied: 'Yes, if that is TUC policy.'

WORKERS from Ford's, Yardley Cosmetics, Gilbarcos, Marconi Electronics and several building sites were among the 1,000-strong crowd at Basildon's May Day meeting.

They were told by Ron Todd, T&GWU official for the Essex area that they had to get rid of the Tories 'or get them to change their policies'.

But a Young Socialist member—a hospital worker—received a warm response when he called for new leaders to replace the TUC capitulators.

SOME 700 dockers, engineers, aircraft workers and timber workers marched through Hull on a May Day march organized by the Trades Council (see picture opposite).

Shop steward John Nolan, a member of the All Trades Unions Alliance, told the meeting:

'We don't have to spend a lot of time saying what the Tories are doing. What we have to do is look at what the Labour and trade union leaders are doing.'

What we think

A day of determination ... and of shame

TUC general secretary Victor Feather is 'highly satisfied' with the May Day protests against the Tories' state pay policies. 'I think the government will be impressed', he says.

But 1.6 million strikers represent no more than 15 per cent of the organized workers in the country.

The response of car workers, transport workers, engineers, dockers, builders, miners and others proves that the working class is determined to fight. It was, however, only good up to a point.

The potential response was slashed by the deliberate design of the TUC leaders and the Stalinists. Almost on the eve of the strike, Feather announced that its purpose was not to fight the Heath government, but to express 'reluctant acquiescence' in the Tory state pay laws. With his blessing, right-wing union leaders and officials, particularly in the EPTU, NUR, UPW and NUT, set out consciously to break the strike.

Engineers' leader Hugh Scanlon complains of the 'low key approach' of some trade union leaders. However, not only has Scanlon refused to fight the right wing, but he himself sounded the call for retreat by telling the AUEW National Committee that the Tories

had 'won the first round' on pay and that high wage claims could not be successful.

And he had earlier publicly declared that an 'amended' Industrial Relations Act would be accepted.

While confining the 'fight' against the Tories to left words and one-day protests, Scanlon and Jack Jones of the T&GWU, together with Feather and other trade union leaders, have been having secret meetings with Heath behind the backs of their members (see page 1).

The Communist Party's 'Morning Star' hailed the protest as a 'powerful May Day rebuff to Heath'. But Communist Party members voted with the right wing against the strike at the recent National Union of Teachers' conference. And some Stalinists at the EPTU conference opposed attempts to raise the matter at all.

At the Trades Union Congress last September, Communist Party members failed to challenge continued talks with the Tory government.

The Stalinists deliberately set out to prevent any movement that would go beyond the limits set down by the trade union leaders. They covered up for Scanlon and systematically opposed any calls to force the TUC leaders to mobilize an indefinite General

Strike to make the government resign.

Yet the 'Morning Star' claims that May Day 'was only a stage in the continuing struggle against Tory policy which was decided on at the special TUC in March.'

This is a cynical lie, designed to head off dissatisfaction and criticism from the Stalinists' own members and supporters. The truth is that no 'continuing struggle' was decided on at the TUC meeting.

There are no plans whatever for any more working-class action as far as the TUC leaders and their Stalinist collaborators are concerned. The 'Morning Star' says nothing about the union leaders' secret talks with Heath, nor do they even mention that these leaders trotted off obediently to a meeting of the NEDC, chaired by Tory Chancellor Anthony Barber, one day after the 'historic' protest.

The Socialist Labour League supported the May Day strike and brought out large contingents on demonstrations. But from the very beginning we warned that a one-day protest was not enough and that it laid the working class open to grave dangers.

Feather's 'hope' that the demonstrations might persuade the Tories to moderate their policies is nonsense. No amount

of protest will divert the political representatives of the ruling class from seeking to solve their economic crisis at the expense of the working class.

The only way to defend living standards and basic rights is to bring the government down and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies. That means a fight to remove the union leaders who stand in the way, and a fight against counter-revolutionary Stalinism and its lies.

The 10,000-plus who marched in London, the 10,000 in Glasgow, 10,000 in Birmingham, 12,000 in Liverpool, 5,000 in Manchester, 5,000 in Cardiff and 2,000 in Nottingham show the potential for struggle in the working class. But it remains potential. May Day was not enough.

It will not become enough until the central question of revolutionary leadership is resolved.

May Day indicated the enormous response that is there for revolutionary policies and leadership.

It underlines more than ever the urgent task of transforming the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party. All those who want a real fight to get rid of the Tories and to establish socialism should join the Socialist Labour League now and help us in that task.

PRICES: Jump expected again in June

INCREASES in a wide range of foods and essential goods are expected in early June. The Tory Prices Commission is at present investigating applications for price rises involving many of Britain's largest firms.

They must normally report within 28 days of an application. Where an employer is able to show his costs have increased rises will be allowed.

A veil of secrecy has been thrown over the firms involved. But in the food sector it is known that firms which process meat, cereals and sugar want increases.

There is also widespread demand from the engineering industry for higher prices after the government-inspired increase in the price of steel.

Little over 170 firms in the country are required to seek permission from the Commission for price increases.

Since there are 80 applications before the Commission, it is safe to assume most leading firms are involved in the prices ramp.

This latest news on prices comes after the Tory decision to accept increases in farm produce in line with other Common Market countries.

EEC policy is to deliberately keep prices of essential foods like meat, cheese, eggs and, butter well above world averages. An intervention price is fixed below which prices in the shops can never fall.

Tory Agriculture Minister, Joseph Godber, has agreed to raise the 'intervention' price of meat by 10.5 per cent, of veal by

7.5 per cent, of pig meat by 4 per cent and cereals by 1 per cent.

This has been hailed as a victory by Tories. In fact it means the housewives will have to pay more to feed their families.

Norton sit-in may spread

STAFF at the Norton-Villiers motorcycle factory in Andover will be meeting today to decide whether they will join a manual workers' sit-in against closure.

The sit-in, which began last Friday, follows the shock announcement earlier last week that the factory is to close on August 4.

Production of the Commando 'super bike' will be transferred to its headquarters factory in Wolverhampton, Norton-Villiers says.

But the closure announcement has led to fears about the future of the Wolverhampton factory.

Andover's Commando was not long ago voted bike of the year for the fifth year in succession. If closure can follow success of this order, workers argue, what

Official IRA in Ulster poll

THE OFFICIAL wing of the IRA has decided to play a role in the election in Ulster on May 30.

The Six County Republican Clubs, a group that has strong links with Official views, said in Belfast yesterday they would be standing candidates on May 30 when a million voters will elect councillors to staff the 26 administrative districts set up in the Tory plan to keep Ireland divided and the north under army rule.

This is further lurch to the right for the Official Republican movement, which has been attempting for some time to gain legal blessing from William

Whitelaw, Tory Minister for Ulster.

The Provisional wing of the IRA, however has called for a complete boycott of the elections.

It said the election is 'nothing more than a smokescreen for military repression upon which Mr Whitelaw has based all his hopes for resistance to his junta'.

The Provo stand has been imitated by two Protestant-loyalist parties of Rev Ian Paisley and William Craig.

Yesterday nominations for the election, which uses the method of proportional representation, were completed.

London beer flows again

WORKERS at the Watney Mann brewery in Whitechapel, east London, returned to work yesterday after a strike which stopped all production for three weeks.

The dispute hit nearly 900

public houses in east London. Many were forced to close through lack of supplies.

A company spokesman said deliveries of draught beer should start today, and by Friday most pubs would be back to normal.

us is that, having brought us down here mostly from London in the first place, with the promise of jobs for life, they're now tossing us on the scrapheap having milked us dry.

'They're saying we must give up our homes and uproot our families just so they can go on squeezing us for the last ounce of profit.'

'Well, we're not accepting it. We want the company to reconsider their decision and we're staying here till they do.'

The Andover factory has been open since August 1969, and most of the workforce came either directly from London or from London via other factories

which had closed down after only a short period in the area. Sit-in strikers say they have seen at least six other factories close down in the area over the last four years. They are determined that this will not happen to them.

Transport costs and the need to centralize production are mentioned as reasons for the firm's rationalization drive.

But as Tony Fordham, spokesman for the 54 sit-in strikers, said yesterday: 'Rationalization can cover anything.'

'What they're really saying to



Left: Child labour in a Hongkong factory—a common feature of the industrial conditions created by the drive for vast profit from slave wages, long hours, high productivity.

CAPITALISM'S FAR EASTERN SWEAT SHOP

FROM ALEX MITCHELL IN THE FAR EAST

We were standing in a street in Kowloon in the centre of the colony's biggest industrial estate. On the corner opposite stands an enormous building of 12 or more storeys.

From the high ventilation windows on each floor emerged the roar of machinery. It reverberated around the streets outside.

Shortly after 1.30 the foot-path becomes jammed with people leaving the building for their lunch break. Almost the first thing you notice is the youngsters. Just like school-children.

The release of getting out of the factory is unmistakable. There is a bit of horseplay as they run zig-zag through the adults to buy a Coke and some sweets for lunch.

If you ask their age they become coy; whatever they reply is probably about two years above their real age. Many of them are 14, 15 or 16.

The older workers are morose their faces and limbs showing the terrible price of a lifetime of labour in the textile industry. The factory has been there for 20 years, a naked and undisguised sweat shop. The workers start at 7 or 8 in the morning and finish at 6 or 7 in the evening. Most of them work seven days a week.

The average salary is about \$600 (Hongkong) a month, which is £12.50 a week. This is not in any sense a basic wage, a fixed minimum rate.

Workers are paid by productivity—by what they can produce. One worker we spoke to explained how his salary is made up:

'I get \$600 a month. For this I work seven days a week and make about 20 car coats a day. Officially we only have to work six days a week, but you have to work seven. If you don't work, you can't live.'

It also emerged in our discussion that workers feel obliged to work the seventh day otherwise the management regards them as 'unreliable' or 'lazy'.

This particular worker lives in a tiny room with his wife and three children. He is not completely happy with this cramped arrangement, but it is better than his last place.

He and his family used to be squatters. They had a sort of cave covered with galvanized iron and boxwood on a nearby hillside. They lived there with about 5,000 other people who could not find homes when they left China during the 1950s. He has now been 'resettled' in one room while his old 'home' has been bulldozed down to make way for a giant office block.

There are estimated to be about 600,000 people who are squatting. Whole hillsides are draped in tiny rough huts which, of course, have no lighting, sanitation, or water.

'Resettled' in tower blocks

Six months ago the people living in one of these congregations had their flimsy dwellings washed away in a heavy monsoon downpour. Half have been 'resettled' in towering blocks—a room to each family—while the remainder have been forced to rebuild their shanty town because there's nowhere else to go.

By virtue of the slave wages, the long hours, the high rate of productivity, the appalling housing and the total absence of any social services, the big textile and clothing magnates have been able to compete abroad with their goods and make a fortune for themselves.

But the industry isn't an island unto itself. It is subject to the international laws of capitalism and these laws are at present exerting themselves

in an unmistakable way.

In his budgetary speech to the Legislative Council of Hongkong in January this year, the Financial Secretary, Mr Phillip Haddon-Cave, made the following points about the industry:

◀ No matter how well other industries perform, it is inescapable that the clothing and textile industries remain the backbone of Hongkong's exports. Any major changes affecting these industries [such as an intensification of restrictive trade policies in overseas markets] must have serious repercussions on the Hongkong economy. In fact, there were three developments in 1972 which hindered clothing and textile exports and played some part in restricting their growth.

First, in October 1971 a bilateral agreement concluded with the US government placed Hongkong's man-made fibre and woollen textile to the US [our largest market for textiles] under a restraint which allowed growth of 7 to 7½ per cent per annum for man-made fibre and only 1 per cent for wool textile.

Before this agreement, only cotton textile exports to the US had been under restraint.

Secondly, in 1972, following consultations with the British government, Hongkong agreed to restrain its exports of polyester/cotton goods to the United Kingdom.

Thirdly, in 1972 the effect began to be felt of the realignment of the world's currencies agreed in December 1971 following the US government's earlier decision to suspend convertibility between the dollar and gold. Apart from the uncertainty involved for traders in the latter part of 1971 the currency changes gave our competitors in Taiwan and South Korea an export price advantage over Hongkong because they devalued their currencies in line with the US dollar.

In addition, the whole export situation has been further

complicated by Britain's entry into the European Economic Community [EEC] which will lead to the loss of all Commonwealth Preference for Hongkong's products in the British market by 1977.

In these few paragraphs from his voluminous report Haddon-Cave spelled out the political land mines which are laid all over this island colony.

Last year there was a loss of 7 per cent in the number of jobs in the industry. Since Haddon-Cave's budget—only a matter of three months—the situation has got worse.

There have been lay-offs in some factories while in others the workers have been told there will be no wage increases despite the soaring cost of living.

On the contrary, one big manager has told his obedient and astonishingly industrious workers that they must work faster, they must produce more, for the same wages.

We had a look inside one of these factories to observe work conditions at first hand. The machines are ear-splitting and cumbersome. The technology suggests the water wheel era of industry.

For those who saw our film on textile-making in Northern Ireland, the scene will be familiar. It's just that in Hongkong the sweat shops are a whole lot larger—three or four times the size.

The workers carry out their skills with quick-silver precision and great concentration. You'll catch an eye every now and then but it won't acknowledge you. My friend said: 'They think you are a British capitalist.'

In a café after work it was possible to talk to the textile workers about their problems.

There is a common theme to their deeply-felt complaints—rising prices, low wages and poor housing. When I said that British workers had their own political parties and trade

unions to fight against these attacks, the response was disinterested. There is little or no union organization. ('Why should I join the union,' said one worker. 'The union doesn't pay me.')

Lack of trade union organization is criminal, particularly when I learnt that the Maoists, members of the Chinese Communist Party, control all the big unions in Hongkong.

One student leader explained the role of the local Maoists in this way:

'They believe in peaceful co-existence with the colonialists. That is Mao's way and it is followed out here. They are always against strikes, although these sometimes spontaneously break out. The Maoists' line is simply to improve relations with the British administration so that they can conduct their trade affairs, their import and export business, more successfully.'

Few of the workers I spoke to were fully aware of the CP strategy. They are Chinese, they feel Chinese, they feel part of China. They have a touching belief that if things get too bad Mao will come to their rescue.

Politics, for them, is in China and many of them fled (about 100,000) in 1962 to escape the harsh rigours of Mao's 'Great Leap Forward'.

They don't want to be drawn into political discussion at all.

They tell you that they don't want anything to do with politics. They simply want better wages, better housing, some decent housing and schooling for their children.

It's in these rapidly catching demands that a showdown will come with the British puppets here and the Heath government in London.

It should be noted that Heath's right-hand military adviser, Field Marshal Sir Michael Carver, recently toured here to discuss strengthening the military garrison. This is not being done to fight the mainland China regime; it is in preparation for putting down internal insurrection.

A hundred shot dead

In 1967 working-class communities in Hongkong and Kowloon erupted in several days of bloody fighting with the authorities. In the full-scale mobilization that followed the official death toll was about 60.

In fact more than a hundred were shot dead.

Instead of organizing through the trade unions and the working class against these savage attacks, the Maoists did nothing. They toed the Peking line which since the early 1950s has been 'peace' with the colonialists.

The summit meeting with Nixon and the stream of Tory Cabinet ministers to Peking have left the working class of Hongkong deeply puzzled. They have had a salutary effect, however. Those who are sincere communists have been able to point to the real counter-revolutionary face of Stalinism and thus educate fellow workers and students.

One worker told me: 'I left China because I felt my freedom was being taken away. I want to be a free man. But in this country I find I have no freedom either. Not really. In this country the rich are very rich and the poor are very poor. And they get poorer every year.'

The older ones don't want a revolution because they say it will end up like Mao. But the young people won't have this. They say it must happen. It is too hard on people under the present system of the British.'

Equity Funding Fall & The Collapse of The Dollar

BY MARTY MORAN

The crash of Equity Funding Corporation has shaken the financial and insurance world as nothing has since the beginning of the postwar boom. Many investment insiders fear that the mutual fund market is irrevocably dead as public confidence can never be restored.

The Wall Street Journal and the Journal of Commerce have run story after story detailing the massive fraud and the hectic dumping of Equity stock once word went around. But they are unable to make any sense out of the manufacturing of over one billion dollars in phony insurance policies.

The Journal reflects the panic and demoralization in the top financial circles, where there is growing understanding that inflation is completely out of control and the economy is plunging toward catastrophe. After 30 years of putting off the economic crisis, they are shocked and amazed when it stares them in the face.

Equity Funding Corporation was built from a \$100,000 company into the fastest growing American insurance company which claimed assets around \$500 million because a man named Stanley Goldblum thought of combining two different pieces of paper, mutual fund shares and insurance policies, into a single deal.

The two were packaged in such a way that an investor could

purchase both with a relatively small initial investment, evading the Security Exchange Commission's 80 percent margin required on all securities transactions since the 1929 crash.

DEVICE

As long as mutual fund shares went up in value, the premiums on the insurance would be paid, the investor would get richer, and Equity would take a hefty cut, all on a shoestring.

Thus, this was a perfect device for the booming stock market of the 1960s, where mutual funds topped the market average 84 percent of the time.

In fact, Equity made so much money selling other peoples' mutual funds and insurance that Goldblum decided to enter those fields himself. Three Equity mutual funds were established, with assets now totalling over \$200 million. On the strength of Equity's reputation as the biggest of boom companies, Goldblum borrowed freely from the big banks to buy up insurance companies, including one which he renamed Equity Funding Life.

At the height of the boom, mutual funds became the plaything of the big speculators. In a few short years, Bernard Cornfeld built up a two billion dollar empire in the international mutual Investors Overseas Services (IOS), drawing in speculators from Europe and America with his slogan "Do you sincerely want to be rich."

Goldblum was on the same



Goldblum's modest California residence.

path. An admiring two page interview in the business magazine Forbes in March 1969 praised him for piling up a personal fortune of \$25 million on an initial \$3500 and concluded "Bernie Cornfeld look out."

Less than a year later, Cornfeld was ousted from the board of IOS, which crashed in what was labelled "the greatest swindle in history." In the mutual fund market as a whole, the bottom was dropping out. In 1968, \$6.8 billion in mutual fund shares were sold and only \$3.8 billion redeemed. By 1972, the plunge was so severe that sales were less than \$5 billion while redemptions shot up to \$6.6 billion.

Equity's own mutual funds skidded 25 percent, and many others did worse. With the market for mutual funds shares shrinking absolutely, companies like Equity which based themselves on a constantly expanding and even accelerating market, were in an impossible position. Premiums had to be paid on insurance, but the dividends and capital gains from the mutual funds were no longer coming in. Equity officers solved their cash problem by creating a fictitious boom in insurance, manufacturing phony policies, then selling them to reinsurers for cash.

In spite of the general recession, Equity continued to have boom-time sales of insurance, doubling its business in 1970 alone. It was the wonder of the industry, continuing to buy up other companies. As late as June 1972, four big banks loaned it \$75 million to acquire Northern Life Insurance of Seattle.

There is no doubt that Equity could have risen to be one of the top 10 or 20 insurance companies in the country by continuing to dummy up masses of new policies. With the financial picture otherwise so bleak, the banks smiled on this child of the boom that had not gone sour.

CONNECTIONS

This confidence existed despite the close connections between Cornfeld's operation and Equity. When Goldblum established Equity Growth Fund as his leading mutual fund, he had

Yura Arkus-Duntov from Dreyfus Fund to run it. Dreyfus was where Cornfeld received his early training.

In 1969, Equity bought one of Cornfeld's key US subsidiaries, Investors Planning Corporation (IPC) for \$12.5 million. Two years later, Cornfeld, Goldblum, and Equity were sued by a stockholder of the Fund of America, another Equity-managed fund, for diverting over seven million dollars from Fund of America into IPC. At the same time, Goldblum was named to the President's Council of the National Association of Securities Dealers, the industry spokesmen. He holds this position today.

Equity has had a whole string of shady dealings that were considered par for the course in the financial world. As early as 1967 the state of Minnesota suspended Equity's license.

NIXON

The state of Pennsylvania concluded in 1971 that Equity was the highest cost insurer in the state and threatened to bar it from business. Equity was represented in this case by the law firm of Mudge, Rose, Guthrie, and Alexander, which Nixon was a partner in before becoming President. A spokesman for the firm admitted they had regularly represented Equity's New York subsidiary.

In August 1971, two former officers of Equity's Southern California real estate subsidiary were indicted for land swindling. Equity sold the company a few months later.

Equity has close connections with a number of the top corporations. Most intriguing are its ties to ICI America, the US subsidiary of the three billion dollar British chemical monopoly for ICI Ltd. Nelson Loud, a director of ICI America, sits on the board both of Equity and Equity Growth Fund. Joining him on Equity Growth Fund is the vice president and treasurer of ICI America, Robert J. Reilly.

Two companies, Loew's Corporation and Fidelity Corporation, are stuck with more than a million shares of Equity stock, one-eighth of the total. Wall Street has seen a vicious game of

hot potato played out over the last two weeks.

Boston Company, a large investment house, unloaded almost a million shares, realizing \$15 million for shares now rated worthless. Loew's, which bought many of these, is refusing to go through with the deal and wants to stick its broker with the stock.

SELLERS

The most interesting sellers of Equity stock have been the company's own officials. Goldblum reportedly placed a sell order for 50,000 shares of stock on the last day of trading. Jeffries and Company, a large broker, has obtained a court order freezing payment on \$500,000 in checks made out to Yura Arkus-Duntov, vice president of the company, who unloaded 25,000 shares to them on the last day. Goldblum had been selling off his stock in small pieces to avoid attracting attention since last August.

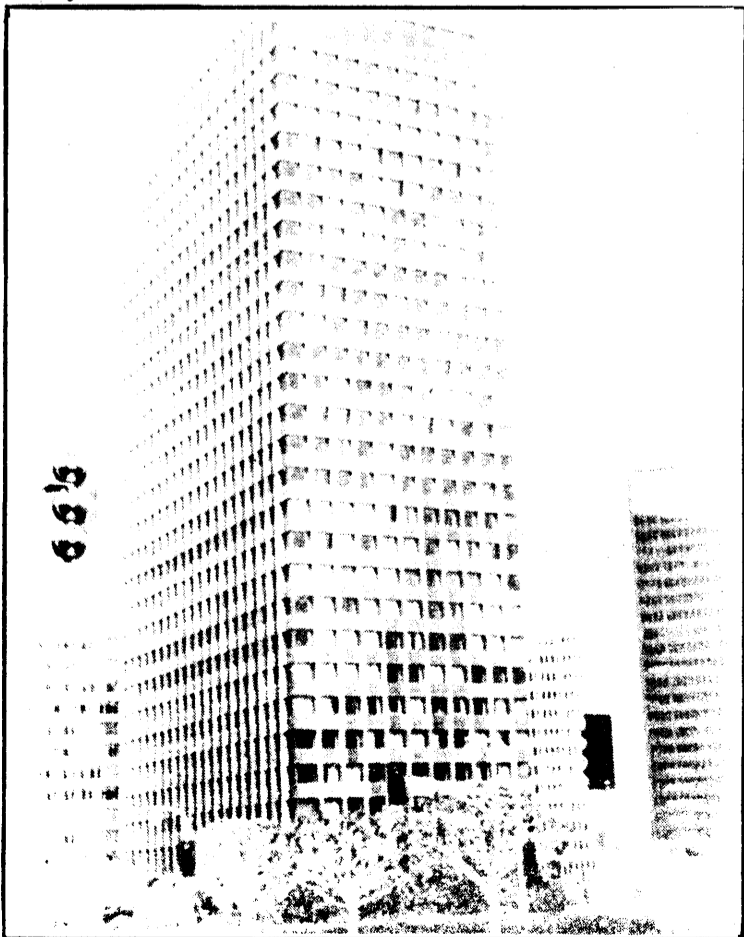
It is characteristic of capitalism in decay that it rewards most lavishly the speculators and financial operators, the men who invent a new piece of paper or a new way of shuffling the old paper around so the books can show a profit.

Everything Goldblum did to build up Equity and to postpone its fall involved the manipulation of paper assets whose foundation is the grossly inflated dollar.

The collapse of the dollar means a decline in credit throughout the economy. Already a high treasury official has warned the major banks that they are in great danger from borrowing heavily on the short term market to lend on the long term. Any contraction will have a swift chain-reaction effect.

The production of the basic necessities which people must have to live will be openly subordinated to the profit requirements of the financial parasites. The Equity crash points the way to wholesale collapses of industrial as well as financial concerns, with mass unemployment and the destruction of the real wealth built up by the sweat of workers over 30 years.

Production must be put in the hands of the working class by the building of a labor party pledged to nationalize the banks and basic industry.



Equity, whose collapse has international ramifications.



MAY DAY 1973

Under the banner of the Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists youth, trade unionists and housewives took part in May Day marches throughout Britain on Tuesday. Their slogan was the defence of basic democratic rights through the building of the revolutionary party. In London (background) YS members head the march of well over 1,000 which took place in the evening. Left top: Liverpool contingent behind the SLL float. Left centre: Southampton contingent. Left bottom: YS members on the Jarrow march. Right: Council of Action banner in Oxford. Far right: SLL banner heads Birmingham contingent.

RATIONALIZATION OF SHOP WORK, SHOPS AND RETAIL TRADE

A series by
Bernard Franks
Part three

A small, but growing method of retailing being introduced in Britain, is the discount store.

Costs are held down and prices cut by using a minimum of staff, equipment and display. Disused churches and cinemas are rented for cheapness and ranges of consumer durables sold straight from the carton.

Some specialize in electrical goods or carpets, furniture and so on. Similar types of shops existed in the 1930s—and in the 1830s—the great danger being that goods were cheap not because of cost-cutting, but because defective stock and brands of specially-made cheap goods were being sold.

Rack-jobbing is a method by which a manufacturer takes rack-space in a supermarket. He guarantees the shop owners a fixed percentage profit, but uses his own staff for supply, pricing, marketing, merchandizing and removal of unsold stock.

Another system which has developed in the United States is the specially-built out-of-town shopping centre. This has anything from 50 to 200 shops with bus transport specially laid on.

In Britain, such shopping complexes have been mainly kept to town centres, though propertymen and financiers are at the moment considering how profitable they could be on out-of-town sites in this country.

Today in a modern store, all pretence that selling is a service is rapidly being dispensed with. Any sales assistant who tries to be helpful to customers is liable to be accused by management of time-wasting.

While one person is being attended to in detail, selling time for ten others may be lost. Even when a method of selling is advantageous to the shopper or the shopworker—and many prefer supermarkets to any other system—this is purely incidental and secondary to the fundamental requirement to make more profit.

A leading retail specialist wrote in 1964:

'It is fairly true to say that the supermarket has been "inflicted" on the purchasing public, in that their views were not the major consideration when the principle was originally conceived. The most important consideration was efficiency and economy of the operation, and of the retail trade as a whole.' ('Self Service Retailing'. Ralph G. Towsey.)

Mechanization has played a major role in reducing the need for staff and streamlining the warehouses and shops in the drive for customers. Some of the main methods are as follows:

- Mechanized warehousing: enormous cuts in the number of warehouse workers needed have been made possible over recent years by the introduction of pallets and the fork-lift truck. At the same time, computers are taking over from manual stock control methods.

Containerization has also greatly simplified the bulk delivery of goods, and now, conveyor-belt systems and turret trucks—more manageable, able to work in narrow gangways and reach higher than the conventional fork-lift—are being introduced.

Many of the retailing companies are constructing huge new warehouses to supply the new 'superstores'. For example, the Woolworth half-a-million sq. ft. distribution centre at Swindon.

Others use the specialized storage and transport firms like Cory Distribution Services, with its seven huge depots, 350 road vehicles and 300 electric trucks.

The trend in mechanized warehousing is certainly not over. Experiments are today being conducted to perfect the automated warehouse, using driverless trucks running on special tracks with all-electronic control.

According to one 'Financial Times' report in January this year: in the shop and distributive trades '... the pressure for techniques which reduce the need for labour have steadily been mounting'.

- Packaging, pricing and so on are more and more being moved away from shops and into special centralized preparation warehouses. A packaging plant being developed by Hall-Thermotank-International, of Dartford, mixes, weighs, packs and cartons products ready for sale.

One company, packaging curtain-track fittings, brought about a massive labour cut when it introduced a new cartoning machine which enabled them to replace 200 workers with two girls.

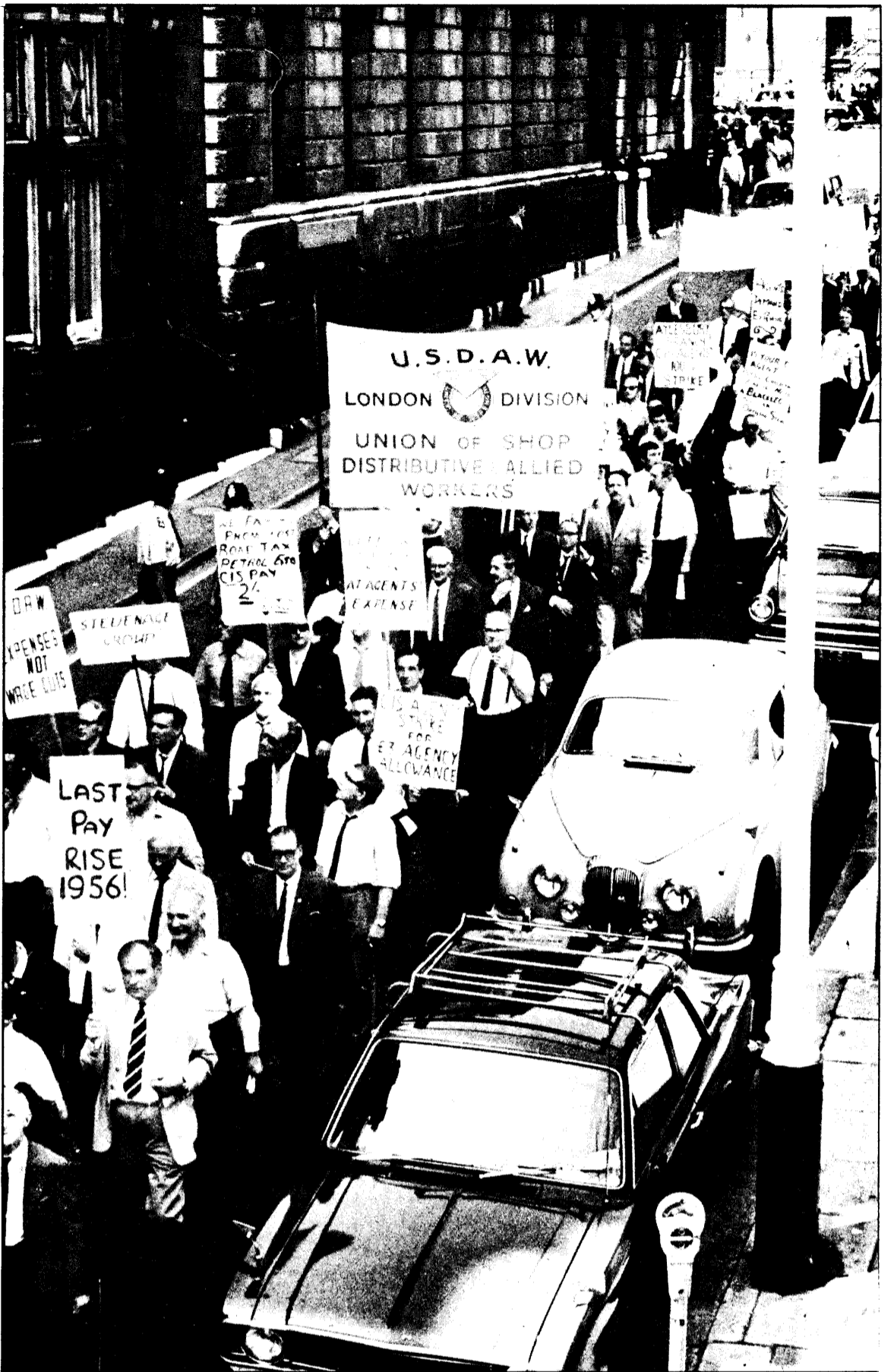
Use of frozen foods and standardization of portions has greatly simplified handling, enabling many more products to be prepared and packaged by machine.

Tescos have already introduced automatic reel-fed vacuum machines for automated cheese and bacon packaging.

'The need for skilled labour has been centralized and reduced,' said a 'Financial Times' report on the system.

- Use of tail-lift lorries cuts the need for manhandling packages from the transport into the shop. Sainsburys claim to have cut unloading time from one hour to 20 minutes per visit in this way.

- Some firms use a form of roll-on, roll-off system of trolleys on which goods are packed at the warehouse and are wheeled by one man from the lorry into the store and then can be used in the shop by the shelf fillers as mobile containers.



- Mobile shelving. Vertical sections of rotating shelves already in use in some European and American shops are being introduced in Britain.

A Swiss department store is said to have increased turnover in its footwear department by 60 per cent, while reducing staff by half when using them.

- Electronic ordering systems. Mac-Fisheries and Sainsburys' supermarkets have both begun trials of an electronic device designed to speed up re-ordering and to cut overstocking.

It is a portable data recorder with which the manager or assistant records on tape the stock position of every line in the shop. He passes along the shelves noting which stocks are low, and presses buttons on the gadget to record the code of the item.

Lines that are held in the shop's own stockroom are cancelled off the tape by more pressing of buttons and the final record is then fed into the shop's data transmission module. This sends the total out-of-stock position via ordinary telephone lines to the company's computer.

Using this system, Mac-Fisheries expects to reduce its backroom stock by as much as 80 per cent. The firm also estimates that the time between order entry and the production of purchase orders will be cut from 48 to six hours.

Although new to Britain, the gadget is used by more than 8,000 supermarkets in the USA and has been adopted

also by the Belgian chain Grand Bazaar.

- The Electronic Cash Register.

The portable ordering system described above is a step towards the automated check-out on which much research is being conducted in the USA.

An even greater advance towards this is the electronic cash register which is virtually a computer terminal at the check-out point.

With this system every sale item in the shop has a printed bar tag giving all its details, including price.

The check-out assistant passes a light-pen (a photo-sensitive scanner) attached to the cash register over the tag. The price is thus recorded and also the fact that stock has been reduced by that item.

The cash register, as well as automatically supplying the customer's bill also supplies a tape record of stock which can be fed to the computer in the same way as with the portable recorder.

Pitney-Bowes and other companies are already manufacturing 100,000 electronic registers a year in the USA. United States' Woolworths are using the system. In Britain, Sainsburys and the John Lewis Partnership are planning trials.

Among other advantages, it is expected to speed-up customer passage time through the checkout point, enabling a cut in the number of cashiers on this work.

- Computers. Stock control, accounting and control of transport fleets

are three wholesale-retail activities which the major companies pass on to their computer departments.

The firms making calculators and computer equipment are expecting a bonanza with the introduction of VAT and are gearing-up their advertising and production in anticipation.

- The use of closed-circuit television 'eyes', two-way mirrors, and systems of ordinary mirrors to watch for goods being stolen and to monitor staff at work.

The well-stocked supermarket represents the poorest paid. Many pensioners are faced with the terrible situation of being given the sight of all they require to maintain a reasonable standard of living and yet only being able to take away the most miserable amounts of goods of the lowest quality, which is all they can afford.

Capitalism has no interest in the welfare of customers, only in their ability to pay. The Courts are used to dealing harshly with anyone who breaks the rules.

For the shop employees, capitalism sees new technology not as a means of assisting the work, but as a way of divesting them of their jobs entirely. For those who must still be employed, the speed and intensity of operation is raised.

Increasingly throughout the distribution industry, the system is one of production-line working for casual-labour wages.

CONTINUED TOMORROW

BY TOM KEMP

One of Stalin's favourite generals, Marshal Semyon Budenny, recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

A sergeant major in the Tsarist army, he fought in the Russo-Japanese war of 1905 and came over to the Bolsheviks after the Revolution of October 1917. He persuaded Leon Trotsky, then Commissar for War, to establish a separate Red Cavalry division of which he became the commander in 1919.

The horsemen harassed the forces of the White generals and played an important part in the Civil War. His exploits made him a hero and he passed into legend.

In the war with Poland in 1920 he became one of Stalin's cronies and his disregard for the overall strategy of the war contributed to the enforced retreat of the Red Army.

In the early stages of the war Budenny's cavalry advanced over 660 miles into enemy territory, opening the way for the advance of the main force led by Mikhail Tukachevsky which reached the gates of Warsaw.

When the Poles counter-attacked Tukachevsky called on the cavalry to come to his assistance. But the order was intercepted by Stalin who, backed by the military commander Kliment Voroshilov, told Budenny to advance on Lwow instead.

Stalin wanted to enter Lwow at the same time as Tukachevsky took Warsaw. As Trotsky said: 'Stalin was waging his own war.' The result was that the Red Army was pushed back on all fronts and when Budenny's forces were switched north it was too late.

In the early 1920s he was one of the adherents of the 'proletarian school of warfare' which included a number of the Red Army commanders who had risen from the ranks. Trotsky strongly opposed their theories. 'To try to formulate a new military doctrine with the help of Marxism,' he wrote, 'is like trying to create with the help of Marxism a new theory of architecture or a new veterinary textbook.'

Budenny was a swashbuckling leader who could not compare with brilliant Red Army commanders like Tukachevsky as a military strategist. Trained as a cavalryman he never grasped the principles of mechanized warfare.

Budenny was one of Stalin's favourite generals as well as being a personal friend. Together with Voroshilov, the trio frequently met at Stalin's home where Budenny played the accordion and the guests joined in a drunken sing-song.

Naturally he was one of Stalin's principal henchmen in the purge of the Red Army in 1938. He was a member of the tribunal which condemned Tukachevsky and seven of the

BUDENNY—THE GENERAL WHO SURVIVED



Marshal Semyon Budenny, one of Stalin's principal henchmen in the purge of the Red Army in 1938 where seven best generals were condemned to be shot on trumped up charges.



Mikhail Tukachevsky, a brilliant military strategist, shot by Stalin in 1938.

Red Army's best generals to be shot on charges which Stalin had trumped up.

Budenny was happy to be able to wipe off old scores and to see more brilliant soldiers, who were his rivals, unjustly condemned and put to death. He was a confirmed Stalinist, without political ideas but personally attached to Stalin with whom he had emptied many a glass.

It was tragic that when the Nazi armies struck in June 1941 Stalin, who had liquidated the best Red Army leaders, entrusted command to mediocrities like Budenny who had no conception of modern warfare.

Budenny was put in charge of the vital southern front which had to meet the heaviest Nazi attacks. The Red Army retreated with enormous losses—nearly 500,000 in prisoners alone.

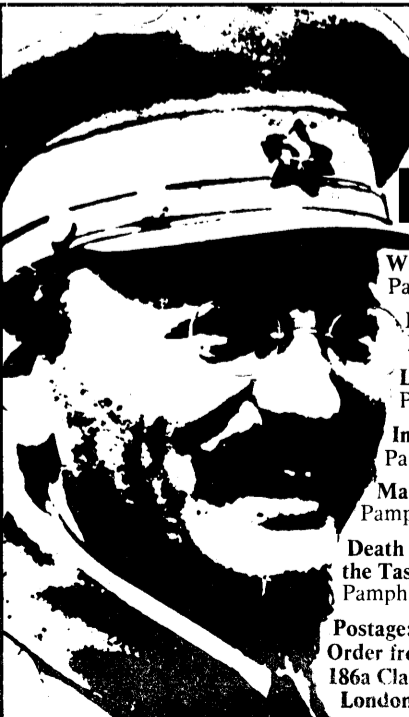
Stalin had no alternative but to remove Budenny—after the disaster. Unlike other Red Army leaders who were shot for their failures, Budenny survived.

The top political commissar on the staff of the southern front was Nikita Khrushchev, then scarcely known outside the Soviet Union. He also apparently had a soft-spot for the back-slapping, hard-living cavalryman who had such a long memory.

But Budenny outlived Khrushchev too and in his memoirs he gave guarded approval to Stalin's role as a war leader, which Khrushchev had denigrated.

Budenny was able to survive by adapting himself to successive changes in the bureaucracy's policy, but there is little doubt that it was Stalin with whom he had most in common.

Now Khrushchev's successors in the Kremlin are happy to fête the 90th birthday of this military relic from the past.



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WORKERS NOTEBOOK

COMPANY

Harold Robbins is writing a new book. His best-known previous effort was 'The Carpetbaggers' and all his writings up to now have been concerned with sex and corruption in high places such as Hollywood, the world of big business and other equally supposedly highly-charged areas.

His next novel will move into a new field. It is about the American trade unions and he has been having discussions with leaders of the United Auto Workers and Teamsters' Unions. He is shortly visiting Chicago to meet members of the Meat Packers' Union, and

then on to Washington for talks with leaders of the Mine Workers' Union.

Apparently, Robbins plans to write his new book along the lines of the previous ones, bringing the unions into the same erotic arena as before—and it would seem that the union bureaucrats who are so willing to 'spill the beans' are rather thrilled to find themselves in such highly-coloured company.

TO SPAIN!

After his exploits in Middlesex which will eventually involve another 900 redundancies, Jim Slater of Slater Walker, is moving to lush new pastures.

He has decided to build a new town in Spain. To house the poor Spanish people?

Not likely. Slater is building a 'resort town' in southern Spain for the benefit of wealthy people who enjoy this fascist country where things are so



cheap because wages are so low.

Slater is already established at Agua Dulce on the Costa Blanca and the new venture may be nearby. The property magnate is also believed to have bought his way into a leading Spanish development company. Through this he will nose around the whole Mediterranean coast for profitable prospects.

We may see hundreds of Slaterilles springing up.

Revolt in print union against leaders

THE LONDON clerical branch of the NATSOPA printing union is in revolt. The trouble is over the conflict between the democratic rights of branches and the power of the executive.

Behind it lie feelings that the fast-growing clerical section of the union is inadequately represented in the power structure. There is talk of forming a breakaway union.

The arguments began when John Lawrence, clerical FoC at the Press Association, was sacked last year after leading an unofficial strike of his 130 members over a house pay dispute. The branch leadership and the union executive council had condemned the strike, and not only allowed Lawrence's dismissal to stand but suspended him from holding union office as well.

When the 12,000-strong London clerical branch tried to discuss this at its quarterly delegate meeting, the full-time branch secretary, John Lewis, acting on instructions from general secretary Richard Briginshaw tried to get the discussion ruled out of order because the Lawrence case was *subjudice*.

The newly-installed branch chairman, Barry Fitzpatrick ('Sunday Times'), said the branch committee thought this ruling was unconstitutional and, when the Lawrence item was reached on the agenda, adjourned the meeting until a satisfactory reply was received from Briginshaw about why the case was *subjudice*.

The meeting ended in uproar, with many of the 250 delegates wanting to discuss the Lawrence item regardless of EC instructions. The previous branch chairman had already resigned over

the Lawrence case. There were resolutions down demanding reinstatement both in his job and his union office.

The EC's concern at the revolt was indicated by the unusual presence of three executive councillors at the branch meeting. Their concern was underlined when Fitzpatrick and five committee members were later hauled before the EC and banned from holding union office for two years.

By this time, the revolt among clerical sections had become a rebellion. The 1,000-strong Manchester branch resolved to stop paying its union dues until the six were reinstated. The 400-strong 'Sunday Times' chapel did the same.

The union headquarters in London was lobbied at the beginning of April, but Briginshaw did not talk to the lobbyists. A week later, a march through central London to the HQ again produced no confrontation.

A 'Sunday Times' emergency motion to the next branch meeting was ruled out of order by Lewis. But Fitzpatrick has not been removed as FoC, because it would create too much stink, it is thought.

The re-convened London branch delegate meeting at the end of April was in uproar from start to finish. There was difficulty in getting someone to take the chair in Fitzpatrick's place and the assistant branch secretary, a full-time official, who was rumoured to be doing it, cried off sick at the last minute.

The 'Daily Express' FoC eventually took the chair. There was an immediate demand for an emergency motion to be discussed condemning the bannings. Lewis said it could not be discussed because it would prejudice the appeals some of the six were making to the EC.



Richard Briginshaw intervening in the May Day clash between dockers and police in London. He was urging workers not to sit down in the street.

About 90 per cent of the delegates immediately stood up to challenge this ruling, but Lewis said this challenge was out of order too. Renewed uproar followed, punctuated by appeals from Lewis and three executive councillors present to 'Hold on, brothers!' and 'Show some respect for our assistant secretary who has been taken to hospital.'

The emergency motion was ignored, but the Lawrence case was opened for discussion following the EC's ruling against Lawrence's appeal for reinstatement at his PA job.

Despite the advice from the platform, the meeting overwhelmingly referred back the secretary's report on the case, meaning a rejection of the actions the union has taken. A motion condemning Lewis's strike-breaking circular at the time of the PA walk-out was ruled out of order and a challenge to this ruling ignored.

Key questions are still troubling members. Why was Lawrence among all the strikers singled out to be banned from union office, especially as he had already been fined by his branch for striking against a branch instruction? And why did the EC let Lawrence be victimized by the Press Association?

Not a single delegate stood up in support of the executive. Dissatisfaction with the last pay deal of 8 per cent, which gave the higher-paid machine men £5 against £2.75 for the clerical sections, on average, still lingers. Clerical members feel the machine men have a dominating influence on the EC and on wages questions.

Younger delegates to the London clerical branch were shouting things like 'Watch out mate, you won't be ruling the roost for long. Things are changing in this union,' during last week's uproar.

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BBC 1

9.42-11.20 Schools. 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 Cinema now. 2.35 Collector's pieces. 2.50 Improving your playgroup. 3.15 Parents and children. 3.40 Heritage in trust. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Blue Peter. 5.15 Robinson Crusoe. 5.40 Hector's house. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 VIRGINIAN. Deadly Past.

8.00 CHAPLIN SUPER CLOWN: 'One a.m.' Charlie struggles heroically to reach his bedroom after a night on the town.

8.30 DOCUMENTARY: 'Sunderland's Pride and Passion.' Sunderland have won their way to the FA Cup final against all odds.

9.00 NEWS. Weather.

9.25 MENACE: 'Deliver Us From Evil.' By Hugh Whitmore. With John Gielgud, Lewis Fiander.

10.40 MIDWEEK. 11.25 NEWS.

11.30 BEFORE THE ARK. The Dinosaur Rush. 11.55 Weather.

REGIONAL TV

CHANNEL: 9.30-12.00 London. 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.20 Lottery. 4.25 Rainbow country. 4.55 Tomfoolery. 5.20 Doctor in charge. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lucy. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'They Rode West.' 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 10.30 Towards the year 2000. 11.02 Scotland yard mysteries. 11.35 European journey. 12.00 News, weather.

WESTWARD: As Channel except: 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 Epilogue.

SOUTHERN: 9.30 London. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 4.15 Merrie melodies. 4.30 London. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.35 Doctor in charge. 7.05 Film: 'The Green Man.' 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.30 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Guideline. 11.15 Name of the game. 12.40 Weather.

HARLECH: 9.30 London. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.25 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Sky's the limit. 7.05 Film: 'Father of the Bride.' 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawaii five-o. 10.00 London. 10.30 See it while you can. 11.00 Spyforce. 12.00 Weather.

ITV

9.30 Schools. 10.30 At your service (London only). 11.00 Schools. 12.00 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 Racing from Newmarket. 4.15 Good afternoon. 4.25 Voyage to the bottom of the sea. 5.20 Barkleys. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.30 CROSSROADS.

6.55 FILM: 'Carlton-Browne of the F.O.' Terry-Thomas, Peter Sellers, Luciana Paluzzi. Comedy about an ambassador sent to a small island to win friends for Britain.

8.30 THIS WEEK.

9.00 LONGSTREET. Field of Honour.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 EUROPEAN JOURNEY. From the Baltic to the Adriatic.

11.00 SOMETHING TO SAY. Crisis in Education.

12.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY.

12.15 EPILOGUE.

BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

6.40 WORKING WITH YOUTH.

7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY. 7.30 NEWS. Weather. 7.35 THEIR WORLD. Impala. 8.00 EUROPA. 8.30 CHERI. 9.15 SCHOOLDAYS. Times remembered by Joyce Grenfell. 9.25 HORIZON. Airport. A month at London's Heathrow Airport.



John Gielgud as a vicar in 'Deliver Us From Evil' in BBC 1's Menace series.

10.15 UP COUNTRY FESTIVAL.

Easter concert from Wembley Pool introduced by Del Reeves. With Ernest Tubb, Diana Trask, Jim Ed Brown, Hank Snow.

10.45 PLAY: Kamikaze in the Coffee Bath. By John Gale. With Michael Bates, Timothy Bateson, Oliver MacGregor.

11.15 NEWS. Weather. 11.45 REAL TIME.

5.20 Doris Day. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Warriors.' 8.30 London. 9.00 Jason King. 10.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.05 European journey. 11.35 Streets of San Francisco. 12.30 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30 London. 12.00 Songs. 12.05 London. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.20 Tarzan. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. Put it in writing. 6.30 Partridge family. 7.00 Film: 'The Bandit of Zhobe.' 8.30 London. 9.00 Hawk. 10.00 London. 11.00 What the papers say. 11.20 Danger man.

TYNE TEES: 9.20 I met them in Ghana. 9.30 London. 4.25 Rovers. 4.55 Stingray. 5.20 F troop. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'The Warriors.' 8.30 London. 9.00 Jason King. 10.00 London. 10.30 Sport. 11.00 Police call. 11.05 European journey. 11.35 News. 11.50 Monty Nash. 12.20 Greatest fights. 12.35 Lectern.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58 London. 2.40 Cartoon. 2.52 News. 3.00 London. 5.20 General hospital. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 Try for ten. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Lydia Smiley.' 8.30 London. 9.00 Persuaders. 10.00 London. 11.00 Name of the game. 12.25 Meditation.

DEATH-TRAP CITY CLAIMS FIVE MORE VICTIMS

THE GLASGOW slum tenements — notorious as fire traps — have claimed five more victims, all of them children.

The children, who were aged five and below, died when fire ripped through the top floor of their tenement in Marystone Street. Three were brothers and the other two—a brother and sister—were their cousins.

Yesterday's deaths bring the

number of people who have been killed in Glasgow fires to more than 17 this year. Two children died in a ground floor tenement in the Govan area of the city last month.

The uncle of the five dead children discovered the blaze

when he returned from night-shift.

'All I could see was smoke coming from the windows. I tried to run upstairs, but firemen pulled me back,' he said.

'It was terrible. The children simply could not get out. Men

ran up and could not get through the door because of the smoke.'

Firemen found three children dead in a bedroom. The other two were carried downstairs unconscious, but were dead on arrival at hospital.

Glasgow's lethal fires are a result of the appalling tenement housing conditions. If fire breaks out in these huge Victorian stone buildings, it is difficult to escape. Recently slum clearance in Glasgow has fallen because of the Tory Housing Finance Act.

NEWS DESK

01-720 2000

CIRCULATION

01-622 7029

Shotton steel plan rejected

THE GOVERNMENT and the British Steel Corporation have rejected a Labour MP's plans for alternative steel-making methods at the closure-threatened Shotton works.

Barry Jones, MP for East Flint, has produced a plan for improving the efficiency of open-hearth steelmaking by using the submerged injection process.

The Department of Trade and Industry concedes that the efficiency of open hearth can be improved.

But Peter Emery, parliamentary secretary at the DTI, has told Jones that this in no way affects the Department's previous view that investment in the plan, simply as an insurance against delay on new plant, could be justified.

Lord Melchett, chairman of the BSC, also rejected the Jones plan.

Melchett told the MP there was a secure future for the cold-rolling, coating and finishing processes which

remained at Shotton and would provide long-term employment for more than 6,000 people.

'To deny this, in my view, causes unnecessary added anxiety to the work force and does a disservice to the community,' Melchett said.

In his reply, Jones said: 'I deeply resent both the implication and your arrogant assumption that you know better than I what is good for the people of East Flintshire.'

The hard-line attitude of the government and the BSC and Jones's petulant reaction, are yet more indications that there is to be no reformist solution to the jobs crisis in steel.

Jones, his colleagues at Westminster and their friends in the union leaderships must be told to stop pussyfooting around with diversions and get on with the job of removing the Tories who are wielding the jobs axe.



Barry Jones (on right in light coat) on a march with steel workers. His reformist report has been rejected.

Lebanon: Pitched battle against Arab guerrillas

BY JOHN SPENCER OUR FOREIGN EDITOR

LEBANESE troops supported by tanks fought a pitched street battle yesterday near a big Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of Beirut.

Eyewitnesses reported a heavy exchange of fire between soldiers crouched in battle positions around the camp and armed men believed to be Palestinian commandos.

Troops took up firing positions around the camp in the streets and on at least one tall building overlooking the scene. Light tanks and armoured cars were brought up to reinforce them.

The attack on the camp—initiated on the pretext that that Palestinians had kidnapped two Lebanese soldiers—culminates several weeks of tension in the capital.

In the past few days the authorities have arrested a number of Palestinians and other armed men during widespread controls and security checks.

Lebanese security forces have also placed extra guards around the American Embassy following Palestinian commando accusations of US involvement in the Israeli raid last month.

Four Palestinians were detained when they failed to stop at a Lebanese checkpoint there on Monday. Judicial sources said a detonator and wireless equipment was found in their car.

On the same day, the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PDFLP) issued a statement saying that the authorities had arrested five of its guerrillas in the city even though they were carrying proper identity papers.

Yesterday army units set up checkpoints outside the sprawling refugee camps located off the

main road to Beirut airport, on the southern approaches to the capital and began checking the papers of everybody going in and out.

Last month three prominent leaders of the Fatah liberation organization were massacred by Israeli commandos in the Lebanese capital. The Lebanon army did nothing to prevent the shootings.

Though they were well aware of the presence of Israeli troops, the Lebanese forces stood by and allowed the Zionists to go about their murderous work.

This was not the first attack against Palestinian refugees in the Lebanon. When Israeli troops stormed across the frontier into southern Lebanon last year the Lebanese army again offered only token resistance.

Their reaction was to hit back not at the Zionists, but at the Palestinians: the commandos were ordered out of the border area known to the Israelis as 'Fatahland' and stringent restrictions were placed on their right to bear arms.

These restrictions, together with the military inaction, sealed the fate of the murdered leaders. They were not able to defend themselves adequately because their followers were forbidden to carry arms in Beirut.

With yesterday's attack, the Lebanese government is trying to regain a situation of 'peaceful co-existence' with Zionism. This—as the Israeli regime has made clear—can be achieved only over a mountain of Palestinian corpses.

The Lebanese government's continued capitulation to Zionist pressure has ended in a massacre of Palestinian refugees. This will no doubt be hailed by the Zionist Press and the government of Israel as another great victory.

In reality it demonstrates the counter-revolutionary character of the Lebanese regime, which like all the Arab capitalist classes, is incapable of waging even the most basic struggle for the elementary national rights of their fellow Arabs in Palestine.

Yesterday's fighting is not the first clash between the Palestinian liberation fighters and Lebanese troops. In the summer of 1969 there was widespread fighting between the army and the commandos.

The tense relations erupted again last December when nine men on both sides were killed in skirmishes resulting from an army clampdown which pre-

vented guerrilla units from entering the battle zone along the Israeli border.

These restrictions were imposed after a large-scale Israeli raid in September last year, which devastated much of Southern Lebanon and in which the army lost 19 men.

The conservative army officers, particularly the Maronite Christians, regard any losses as too heavy and are privately willing to come to terms with Israel over the dead bodies of the Palestinians.

Once the commandos' writ ran in large parts of the Southern Lebanon and many quarters of Beirut but it has been steadily whittled away to the areas immediately surrounding the refugee camps.

All Trades Unions Alliance Public Meetings

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

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 Tit.
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).

SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETINGS

After May Day — What Next?

Liverpool

SUNDAY MAY 6

7.30 p.m.

Mona Hotel

James Street

(Near tube station)

Central London, All Trades Unions Alliance

TRADE UNIONS AND THE TORY GOVERNMENT

Sunday May 6
7.30 p.m.

Shaftesbury Hotel
Monmouth Street

Speakers: Gerry Healy
National Secretary
Socialist Labour League

Stuart Hood
(ACTT in a personal capacity)

All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

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

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

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

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

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Nixon is cracking up

FBI agents roaming all over the White House

PRESIDENT Nixon is under heavy pressure to appoint an independent investigator into the Watergate bugging scandal in which all his closest aides are deeply embroiled.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has put agents into the White House, allegedly to 'protect the presidential files'. But senators and other prominent politicians remain sceptical that a full investigation is being carried out.

The man in charge of the investigation, Elliott Richardson, was appointed head of the Justice Department three days ago by Nixon in succession to Attorney-General Richard Kleindienst, who resigned over the Watergate affair.

West German Chancellor Willy Brandt is in Washington on a state visit and Nixon is trying hard to preserve an image of business as usual. This is proving hard to maintain with the police wandering around the corridors of power.

Nixon's staff at the White House is severely depleted, most of his top advisers having resigned or been forced from office in a purge intended to try and protect the President himself.

More prosecutions are likely and a congressional probe into the affair is set to open on May 15. Worse still, a completely new avenue of scandal has opened up linking the President to efforts to subvert legal process in the Pentagon Papers trial.

The defence in the trial has moved for a mis-trial and dismissal of charges because in 1971 Nixon personally ordered a secret White House investigation of the defendants Dr Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo.

The trial judge has revealed how he was summoned to the White House in the middle of the trial and offered the job of head of the FBI. Further sensational revelations are promised.

In another development during the day, President Nixon met his cabinet to review the implications of the scandal and conferred for an hour with vice-President Spiro Agnew on the future operations of the administration.

Nixon has his back to the wall. He could face impeachment in the next few weeks as his involvement at the centre of the conspiracy becomes increasingly obvious.

He is the chief criminal and it seems he can no longer escape the consequences of his crime.

McGarvey angers Belfast workers

SHOP STEWARDS at the Harland and Wolff shipyard yesterday accused union chief Danny McGarvey of 'duplicitous' in relation to the 11-week steelworkers' dispute there.

The steelworkers imposed a work-to-rule and overtime ban when the management of the Belfast yard refused to make bonus payments on the grounds they would breach the Tory pay control laws.

On Monday McGarvey, president of the boilermakers' society, flew to Belfast and ordered the men back to normal working. He was rebuffed.

A statement from the steelworkers' stewards yesterday said: 'It is a matter of deep concern that democratic decisions appear to be acceptable to Mr McGarvey only when he agrees with them.'

Merthyr marchers led by a band

A 200-strong Socialist Labour League-Young Socialist contingent on the Birmingham march was the largest identifiable political group there.

Their slogans were in marked contrast to the speech of Mr Anthony Wedgwood-Benn who said: 'This is not the beginning of a general strike to force the government out by revolutionary means'.

Strong SLL-YS contingents also participated in the Liverpool, Leeds and Jarrow marches. In

Leeds the SLL-YS section was 200 strong in a march of about 1,000 people.

At a May Day meeting in Bracknell, Berks, a unanimous resolution was passed criticizing the lack of leadership from the TUC and calling for an all-out indefinite strike to get the Tories out. Every factory in Bracknell stopped work.

At the Aerosol factory, which consists almost entirely of women workers, a ballot vote was overwhelmingly for a full

day stoppage, although shop stewards had recommended only a halt for two hours.

At Merthyr Tydfil the Socialist Labour League and Young Socialists organized their own march, headed by a girl-band.

In Glasgow the SLL-YS mobilized 150 demonstrators whom the Stalinists sought unsuccessfully to relegate to the end of the march.

A League and YS contingent also participated in the Hull march.



Political issues pushed to back of EPTU agenda

THERE WAS growing unease among militant delegates at the electricians' union conference yesterday about the way key industrial and political issues were being left until last.

Many wanted to deal with the Tory pay laws, the Industrial Relations Act, 'fair rents' legislation, productivity deals, unemployment and the 35-hour week.

But yesterday after 18 hours of discussion the conference passed the half way mark with only section one of the agenda, dealing with inter-union amalgamations and branch mergers, completed.

The standing orders committee pushed crucial 'political' resolutions in the centre of the agenda to the very end and yesterday's order paper was packed out with items on pensions, education and welfare and pollution.

The morning's proceedings were fore-shortened by a 30-minute speech on pollution by shadow Environment Minister Anthony Crosland.

There is now a serious fear among delegates that vital policy resolutions will be rushed through this afternoon and tomorrow and some not even be taken at all.

These fears are made worse by the knowledge of past conference procedure in which speeches are not timed at the beginning of the

session, but are drastically curtailed towards the end.

All indications from the rank and file of the 420,000-strong EPTU suggested that the debate on branch mergers would be a lively one.

The union's right-wing leadership is abolishing scores of branches and amalgamating them into large unwieldy units with full-time officials and where rank-and-file participation is inevitably low.

Members say the effect of the re-organization is to turn branches into virtually rubber stamps of executive policy.

Although Stalinist speakers joined in the debate they restricted their comments to protests about the manner of the re-organization and conspicuously avoided calling for any opposition to the leadership.

These tactics dovetailed with the attitude of many conservative delegates who approved the executive's re-organization plans, but censured them over lack of consultation.

The executive was charged to bring about better communications between union officials and the rank and file.

SECRET TALKS WITH TORIES

FROM PAGE 1

middle of the TUC's calculated sell-out of the hospital workers.

The Stalinists are just as afraid of a revolutionary situation developing in this country as the rest of the bureaucracy, being just as firmly wedded to a reformist 'peaceful road to socialism'.

It is now becoming daily more clear where reformist policies

must lead to in times of deep crisis in the capitalist system when workers are forced into militant class action against the employers and the Tory government.

The bureaucracy, whether right, 'left' or Stalinists must now make the patching up of the capitalist system their top priority. They have completely betrayed the working class.

£100,000 PARTY BUILDING FUND

MAY DAY gave our Fund a good boost. London meeting £315.30; Jarrow £13.74; Liverpool £24.03; Socialist Labour League branches Oxford £38; Portsmouth £15; Croydon £25; Aberdeen £8.50; Swindon £1; Cambridge £25.26. Total to date £10,493.20.

Keep it coming. Post all donations to:

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

MAY FUND: A GOOD START

IT IS a good start to May. Our post today brought £20.50, which gives us a good beginning. Let's keep it up. Make May a record month.

We could do it. Never before has there been such support for the policies of Workers Press. The enthusiasm shown at our May Day marches and meetings for a principled fight against Phase Two and against the Tory's corporatist measures reflects the determination inside the working class.

Our paper must be used to build a revolutionary leadership to lead the fight against this government and to show the way forward to hundreds of thousands of workers.

So make a start today. Raise as much as you can for our Fund this month. Don't let a day go by. Post all donations immediately to:

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

May Day manhunt in Spain

FASCIST security police staged a huge manhunt in Madrid yesterday after a police inspector was stabbed to death and three others injured in a clash with May Day demonstrators.

The clash—the most serious of its kind in Spain in recent times—came when police moved in to smash up a May Day demonstration staged by a group of about 80 young people waving a red flag near Madrid's Atocha railway station in a working-class area of the city.

The inspector was knocked to the ground in a scuffle and his throat was cut, the police said. The young demonstrators were believed to be members of an outlawed Maoist group called the Revolutionary Front for Popular Action (FRAP).

Police had turned out in force in the area after left-wing clandestine groups, including the FRAP, scattered leaflets calling for mass rallies there on May Day.

The demonstrations were intended as an opposition challenge to the official fascist jamboree at a Madrid football stadium, presided over by head of state General Francisco Franco.

In contrast to previous years the outlawed Communist and Socialist Parties did not join in the call for a May Day demonstration.